

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MAX D. WALKER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
35 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.
QUINCY, FLORIDA

January 27, 2015

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, Chairwoman; Mr. Isaac Simmons; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Roger P. Milton; and Mr. Steve Scott. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey Lewis, at 6:10 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Rev. Shirlean Thomas.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Scott thanked the Superintendent and staff for their hard work.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Milton recognized Mr. Simmons for receiving a Certificate of Participation on Community Mentoring Day at Chattahoochee Elementary School.

Mrs. Lewis congratulated the district's Teacher-of-Year, Ms. Melissa Brown-Horton, Havana Middle School; School Related Employee of the Year, Ms. Lakeysa Perkins East Gadsden High School; and Rookie-Teacher-of-the Year, Ms. Danielle Anderson, East Gadsden High School.

The Superintendent and Board recognized the district's Sunshine State Scholars: Brandon O'Neal, Runner-up - East Gadsden High School; and Jeremiah Sapp, Winner - East Gadsden High School.

Mr. James recognized all the "A" schools for all their hard work and receiving School Recognition Monies. He also recognized Carter Parramore Academy for receiving School Recognition Monies.

Mrs. Dorothy Inman Crews addressed the Board to request their support in securing funds for a school in Midway. She stated that the City of Midway has the population to support a PreK through 5 school. She requested the Board partner with the City of Midway to present data to DOE showing their support for a school in Midway.

Mr. Simmons requested a workshop to further discuss the issue of a school in Midway.

Dr. Sally Search, TCC Vice President of Student Affairs, addressed the Board to request approval of the Collegiate High School Agreement. She stated that Florida Statutes (10007.23(3) require school district's to negotiate a Collegiate High School Agreement with a post-secondary agency. She stated that the Collegiate High School Agreement expands college courses for students.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Lewis added to the agenda item #8f – Collegiate High School Agreement. She entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Roger P. Milton, seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. December 16, 2014, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. December 16, 2014, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. January 6, 2015, 4:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- d. January 6, 2015, 5:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Internal Accounts Audit

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$27,500.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Cash Management

Fund Source: N/A – Operational/Procedural Item
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- b. A Better Body, US – REAL (Relationship Education and Leadership) Essentials Teaching the Skills and Strategies of Developing Healthy Relationships and Healthy Lives

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Dykes vs. Gadsden County School Board

Fund Source: General
Amount: \$47,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- f. Collegiate High School

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. New Heating Boiler for James A. Shanks Middle School

Fund Source: 340 / 379
Amount: \$30,945.50

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Resolution to Sell Property

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items preceded by an asterisk (*) were removed from the CONSENT agenda at the beginning of the meeting and acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

- *6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

- a. Personnel 2014 – 2015

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding the clarity of the position Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, Mrs. Smith stated that the Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction will be in charge of all the PreK through 12 curriculum instruction. She stated that the Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction will work in correlation with the PreK and Head Start Program, and serves as Director of Secondary Education.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- *8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Federal Programs Purchase Orders

Fund Source: Federal
Amount: \$20,000.00

In response to Mr. Simmons' question of how the federal programs were being evaluated, Mrs. Raynak stated that federal programs are evaluated as 21st Century Programs through Performance Matters. She stated that all after-school programs will be monitored.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Renewal of Backup/Disaster Recovery Services

Fund Source: 110

Amount: \$163,835.00 (Paid In Increments of \$56,612.02 Yearly)

Mr. Simmons requested an overview of the renewal disaster recovery service.

Mr. Thomas stated that the renewal disaster recovery service was a better service at a lower price. He stated that the renewal service ensures continuity.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Healthy Districts Project 2014 - 2015

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: \$9,500.00 provided

In response to Mr. Simmons' request regarding an overview of the Healthy Districts Project, Mrs. Raynak stated that the State of Florida Department of Health received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) award "State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Heart Disease, Obesity and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health" to support school health and wellness using a coordinated school health approach. She stated that the DOH is partnering with the district to provide these services to students and employees.

Following discussion, Mr. Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8d. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

c. (RFP) Energy Conservation Consulting Services

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Milton stated that he was concerned about the length of the contract and the number of schools in the future.

Mr. Shepard stated that the contract with Energy Conservation Consulting Services was a five year contract. He stated that models could be used to determine the base usage. He stated that monitoring will be done on a yearly basis.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #9c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

a. Approval of 2014-15 SAC Rosters

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mrs. Lewis added Gadsden Technical Institute's Advisory Roster. She requested all schools, including Gadsden Technical Institute, submit their SAC Rosters' sign-in sheets, agenda and minutes. She thanked parent services for their hard work in securing the SAC Rosters from the individual schools.

Following discussion, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

a. Approval of School Board Policy 5410 (Student Progression Plan)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

In response to Mr. Scott's concern regarding the quarterly grades, Mrs. Smith stated that quarterly grading was an administrative procedure.

Mr. Scott stated that Florida Statute (1003.436) requires that a credit (1) for high school graduation is defined as a minimum of 135 hours (or 120 hours in a flexible/block schedule) of bona fide instruction in a designated course which contains student performance standards. He stated that credit will also be awarded to students who demonstrate mastery of course content and student performance standards through alternative instructional delivery models such as performance-based instruction, extended school year programs, and flexible/block scheduling.

Mr. Rick Soskus addressed the Board to request altering the district's grading scale to allow students to do work above 70% to help reach graduation requirement.

Mr. Bill Stinson addressed the Board to request their consideration in having students maintain a 2.0 to progress to the next grade. He stated that he supports the concept of students doing better.

During the discussion of the district's grading scale, Mr. Simmons and Mr. Frost expressed their concerns regarding the concept of having students maintain a 2.0 to progress to the next grade level. They both stated that there were other options available to assist students with reaching graduation requirements.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she believes in high expectations for all students.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that a contract for sale of the Havana Elementary School Property had been received for \$760,000 by R. Nelson Properties, LLC.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding whether the Collegiate High Schools Agreement will be open to other colleges and universities, Mr. James stated that Collegiate High Schools are open to all colleges and universities.

Mr. Frost stated that the district needed to ensure that all policies and procedures are followed regarding leave forms. He stated that he visit schools often and he know what students are going through.

Mr. Scott stated that he wanted to ensure the district was ready to administer the upcoming Florida Statewide Assessment Test to students.

Ms. Melissa McGriff and Ms. Kimberly Sailor addressed the Board in regards to Havana Elementary School not having enough computers and headphones for students. They were also concerned about Havana Middle School receiving proceeds from the merger with Havana Elementary School, and the PreK Headstart Program at Havana Middle School.

Mrs. Smith stated that planning has begun to work toward the PreK Headstart Program at Havana Middle School.

Mr. James requested Ms. McGriff and Ms. Sailor schedule an appointment with him to further discuss their concerns and issues regarding Havana Elementary School and Havana Middle School.

14. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The Board convened in an executive session at 8:30 p.m.; and adjourned at 9:30 p.m.