

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

May 27, 2014

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Ms. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. 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 Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 6:08 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Minister Juliette Horne, Pastor of Mayflower African Methodist Episcopal Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Frost recognized the custodial staff at each of the high schools. He thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the district.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Milton entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Judge B. Helms, seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. April 22, 2014, 2:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. April 22, 2014, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. April 22, 2014, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- d. May 14, 2014, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)
 - a. Personnel 2013 – 2014
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS
 - a. Budget Amendment Number Twelve
 Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
 Amount: \$535,579.38
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - b. Crossroad Charter School’s Third Quarter Financial Statements
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS
 - a. School Food Service Membership POWER Buying Group
 Fund Source: School Food Service
 Amount: Estimated \$3,400.00 in dues payable by August 31, 2014 due date.
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - e. Summer Cleaning Supplies
 Fund Source: General Fund 110
 Amount: \$8,972.50
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - f. Insurance Renewal/Applications for 2014-15
 Fund Source: General Fund
 Amount: Pending renewal rates after the application has been processed by FMIT. We will bring back to the Board for approval when we issue the 2014-15 purchase order to encumber the funds
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
9. STUDENT MATTERS
 - b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
 Case #64-1314-0051
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #68-1314-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Approval of Emergency Repairs for HVAC

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$3,242.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Inservice Program for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Add-On Endorsement

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Florida Association of District School Superintendent's Membership Dues for 2014-2015

Fund Source: General

Amount: \$11,031.00

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)

- b. Personnel 2014 – 2015

In response to Mr. Helms' concern regarding whether any of the employees were in the DROP, Dr Hightower stated yes.

In response to Ms. Lewis' concern regarding evaluations being completed, Dr. Hightower stated yes. He stated that Senate Bill 736 must be followed if improvement was needed for employees with professional service status.

Mr. Frost requested a list of employee non recommendations. He stated that he wanted to ensure the district follows Senate Bill 736.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Milton deviated from the norm and addressed agenda item #9a, 9c, and 9e.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #63-1314-0051

The parent of student #63-1314-0051 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9a until a hearing could be held on Tuesday, June 3rd at 4:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #67-1314-0231

Mrs. Erika Frisby-Moore, Case Manager with Boys Town North Florida, addressed the Board to request a hearing for student #67-1314-0231.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9c until a hearing could be held on Tuesday, June 3rd at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #69-1314-0211

Student #69-1314-0211 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9e until a hearing could be held on Tuesday, June 3rd at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- b. Agreement Amendment Between The Department of Corrections and Gadsden County School Board

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned whether there was any reimbursement for transportation cost and any other cost to the district.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to defer action on agenda item #8b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Dual Enrollment & Career Pathways Articulation Agreement Between Florida A & M University and Gadsden County Schools 2014 – 2015

Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: N/A

In response to Mr. Helms' concern whether all colleges will be offered Dual Enrollment, Mr. James stated that FAMU and TCC offered to do dual enrollment with the district, while there has been no contact with FSU.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8c. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Updated Proposal for Rate Increase for School Bus Usage

Fund Source: Outside Parties Reimbursing the General Fund
Amount: Varies depending on mileage and hours of bus usage

Mr. Helms asked when the last rate increase for school bus usage was.

Mrs. Ferree stated that the last rate increase for school bus usage was eight years ago.

Mr. Rocky Pace stated that the unions are in the process of negotiating specific language to be included in the contracts.

Mr. Helms stated that he was concern about the rate increase of \$1.00 versus .50 per mile.

Mrs. Ferree stated that the rate increase for school bus usage was competitive with other districts. She stated that the proposed rate increase for school bus usage is less than the average cost of the DOE survey.

Mr. Helms requested the Board consider raising the school bus usage rate by .50 instead of \$1.00.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to defer action on agenda item #8d. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

g. Charter School Capital Outlay Plans

Fund Source: General Funds pass through from FDOE for the 2014-15 fiscal year (next fiscal year)

Amount: Undeterminable from application. The 2013-14 (Current Fiscal Year) the amount that we have distributed through the end of May 2014 has been \$137,275 and the projected final amount should be around \$150,775. The projected capital outlay flow through for Galloway Academy Charter School would be zero since they did not submit a plan to FDOE by May 15, 2014.

Mr. Helms asked whether Galloway Academy Charter School will be allowed to present their budget to FDOE.

Mrs. Ferree stated that Galloway Academy Charter School will not receive any PECO dollars.

Mrs. Minnis stated that the Board did not approve the actual charter agreement for Galloway Academy Charter School. She stated that the Board only approved the charter application.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

h. E-Rate Contracts for Funding Year 2014 – 2015

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested an overview of the E-Rate Contracts for funding year 2014 – 2015.

Ms. Wiggins stated that the E-Rate contracts for funding year 2014 – 2015 were based on Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). She stated that the selected bids for E-Rate vendors and information was presented, discussed, and approved for contract agreement, by the School Board and Superintendent, during the March 2014 workshop and Board meeting. She stated that \$1 million was approved for the upcoming year and \$1 million for the previous years.

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern regarding whether the district will file E-Rate funding for charter schools, Ms. Wiggins stated the district will only file E-Rate funding for the public school sector.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8h. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

b. Annual Maintenance of Fire Extinguishers District Wide

Fund Source: 110

Amount: \$6,998.75

Mr. Helms asked why George Munroe Elementary School and Chattahoochee Elementary School each have five fire extinguishers.

Mr. Shepard stated that George Munroe Elementary School and Chattahoochee Elementary School each have fire extinguishers in all classrooms. He stated that the other schools do not have fire extinguishers in all the classrooms. He stated that it is not a requirement to have fire extinguishers in all the classrooms.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Request to Delete from Capital Assets and Sale to Highest Bidder

Fund Source: Applicable Funds

Amount: \$448,208.00

Mr. Helms stated that the district has one of the finest bus fleets. He stated that more than 100,000 miles could be put on the buses.

Mr. Simmons stated that upon review of the buses, he found that most of the buses have no seats and parts have been taken away. He stated that the district has gotten the maximum use of the buses and are basically worn out.

Mr. Frost stated that he wanted to ensure that the mechanics work on repairing the buses before the warranty expires.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Victor Muhammad addressed the Board to request presenting a proposal to the Board to provide services to students for truancy and learning disabilities.

Mr. Milton stated that he would meet with the Superintendent to review the proposal by Mr. Victor Muhammad.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that most of the third grade test scores were positive. He stated that the district's third graders performed very well and exceeded the state performance averages. He stated that the test scores for other grades are forthcoming in a couple of weeks. He stated that Chattahoochee Elementary School students scored amazingly well with 60% in reading and 80% in math.

Ms. Lewis requested the Board receive test scores when they become available.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Helms announced that the Operation Hope presentation was scheduled on Wednesday, May 28th @ 3:30 p.m. at the Gadsden Arts Center. He stated that the elementary schools did very well on the FCAT. He stated that teachers can be compared to those who are not teaching to teachers who teach by performance.

Mr. James stated that the district's reading program has been changed to be in line with Florida standards.

In response to Mr. Milton's concern whether there was a study done when programs are implemented into the schools and its success, Mr. James responded yes, an audit was done a few years ago. He stated that some of the district's reading programs have been eliminated.

Mr. Frost requested the Superintendent check all sport schedules for gender and equity. He stated that he want students to compete in sports all season long.

Mr. James stated that he would have a thorough review of all sports.

Mr. Helms stated that coaches need to be supportive of each other in their respective sports.

Mr. Milton stated that students need more athletic training, and they also need to be more competitive.

Mr. Simmons stated that a customer service module was needed during the district's Summer Institute.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.