

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

January 24, 2017

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, 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. Isaac Simmons, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Rev. Charles Flowers, Pastor at Fountain Head African Methodist Episcopal Church

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Milton recognized Mrs. Cynthia Davis-Holloway who invited Board members to participate on the upcoming STEM Day April 8th at the FAMU Research Center.

Dr. Sylvia Jackson, Director of Gadsden Technical Institute, shared with the Board information on the Groundbreaking Ceremony for Freightliner, the new business in Midway, Florida.

Dr. Maria Pouncey, ELL Coordinator, shared with the Board an update of the Panhandle Area Consortium Educational Services with the district.

Mr. Corker and Mr. Findley with the Division of Forestry presented the Board with a check in the amount of \$4,417.40. Mr. Corker stated that this amount was for the districts share of the Lake Talquin State Forest receipts for fiscal year 2015-2016 in accordance with Section 589, Florida Statutes.

Mr. Scott commended the finance department for their presentation of the district's financial reports.

Mr. Milton recognized the Teacher-of-the Year, Mrs. Judith Mandela, teacher at James A. Shanks Middle School.

Mr. Simmons entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. December 13, 2016, 1:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. December 20, 2016, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. December 20, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- d. January 10, 2017, 1:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- e. January 11, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – School Board Retreat

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2016 – 2017

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Budget Amendment No. 4

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. PSTB Consulting, LLC Contractual Agreement

Fund Source: 110
Amount: \$28,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Career Dual Enrollment Agreement

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Ashmore & Ashmore Engagement Letter for Internal Audits

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #26-1617-0071

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Chattahoochee Elementary HVAC Unit – Emergency Purchase Order Request

Fund Source: 110

Amount: \$13,190.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Code Compliance – Simplex Grinnell (Fire Alarms)

Fund Source: 110

Amount: \$24,002.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Annual Certification of Facilities Data

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. School Field Trip Requests (Out-of-State) Stewart Street Elementary School

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. School Field Trip Requests (Out-of-State) Gadsden Technical Institute

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. School Field Trip Requests (Out-of-State) West Gadsden High School

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. School Field Trip Requests (Out of State) East Gadsden High School

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 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. Employee #020-12-0582 To Address The Board

Employee #020-12-0582 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

The Board agreed to have a hearing for employee #020-12-0582 on Tuesday, January 31st at 1:00 p.m.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

d. English Language Learners (ELL) Award

Fund Source: Federal
Amount: \$70,000.00

Mr. Simmons requested an overview of the English Language Learners (ELL) Award.

Mrs. Maria Pouncey stated that the ELL Award was an amendment to the previously approved contract between PAEC and Gadsden County Schools to facilitate and implement the federal award for English Language Learners. She stated that this amendment would be in addition to the \$70,000 previously approved for facilitating the ELL entitlement award. She stated that it would raise the total of the contract to PAEC for the combined project goals to include teacher training and student support to \$140,000. She stated that in addition, these new strategies will make the Board efforts to support ELL students, teachers and their families a success and sustainable.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8d. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Contract for Sale on Havana Elementary Property

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons commended Mr. Hunter for taking the lead on efforts to sell the Havana Elementary School property. He recognized Bishop Jerome Showers for his assistance with the realtors to sell the Havana Elementary School property.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she agreed to have the merger to move students to Havana Magnet School. She thanked Mr. Hunter for his leadership. She stated that this was an example of community involvement. She also thanked Bishop Jerome Showers.

Following discussion, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8e. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter stated that during spring break work will continuously be done to resolve the district's HVAC issues.

Mr. Emanuel Sapp addressed the Board to state that he was elated on the sale of the Havana Elementary School property. He requested the Board have community meetings to share information on the proposal for school reconfiguration. He shared his sentiments regarding the school reconfiguration proposal.

Mr. Elijah Key addressed the Board with the concern of whether the Board had followed state statute regarding an employee at James A. Shanks Middle School. He stated that Florida Statute 1001.51 requires districts to report such allegations acted upon by the employee at James A. Shanks Middle School to be reported to the Department of Education.

Mr. Milton assured Mr. Key that the district will follow statutes as required, and that the employee's allegations have been reported to DOE.

Mr. Smith stated that he is learning that there are procedures and policies that must be followed. He stated that he does not interfere with the day to day operations of the district. He stated that he will work for the community.

Ms. Barbara Brown addressed the Board to express her concerns regarding the proposed school reconfiguration. She stated that she did not think it would be good to close any schools. She stated that city schools mean a lot to the community. She stated that she understands that overcrowded classes cause safety issues.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Board has not made any decisions to close any schools. He stated that community meetings will be scheduled to receive input from the community.

In response to Mrs. Angela Price's concern regarding the lease of the Southside Building in Chattahoochee, the Board requested she meet with the Superintendent to further discuss.

Mrs. Frances Brown addressed the Board to share her sentiments regarding the school reconfiguration proposal. She stated that she was against the consolidation of schools. She requested the Board listen to the community input before making a decision to close schools.

Ms. Pamela Medley addressed the Board share input on the school closings. She stated that Chattahoochee is trying to grow its community. She stated that the community must have a great school in order to grow. She suggested the Board have various community meetings to gather community input on school closings.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that individuals who do not live in the district agrees with the proposal to reconfigure schools. He shared his sentiments with the Board regarding his dismay to consolidate schools.

Mr. Smith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting to voice their concerns. He encouraged everyone to be educated on why consolidation of schools is important. He stated that community support is needed on a regular basis. He welcomed everyone to SACS and PTA meetings. He stated that the best decision is an informed decision.

Mrs. Lewis stated that SAC participation is needed in the schools. She stated that volunteers are also needed. She invited everyone to the parent involvement meeting scheduled on Tuesday, January 31st, 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room.

Mr. Simmons stated that community forums will take place before the Board makes a decision on the school reconfiguration proposal.

The Board scheduled a workshop on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. to continue the discussion of the school reconfiguration proposal.

Mr. Elijah Key commended Gadsden County for taking the initiative to have discussions on school reconfigurations. He stated that Gadsden County was not like Jefferson County who has wasteful spending.

Mr. Simmons stated that he had received a request from the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to have a joint meeting to discuss needs of the district.

The Board scheduled a joint meeting with the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners on Thursday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m. The meeting with the Board of County Commissioners will be held at the School Board's Meeting Room.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.