

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

April 26, 2022

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; and Mr. Charlie D. Frost. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, 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. Leroy McMillan, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Pastor Doug Stephens of Fellowship of Midway Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Key and Board members applauded Treyvious Copeland, Gadsden County High School Junior, for earning his AA degree from Tallahassee Community College on April 30th. He stated that starting this summer, Treyvious will enroll in FAMU's dual enrollment program to begin earning credits toward a degree in pharmacy. He stated that Treyvious' GPA is a 4.8. Mr. Key and the Board members presented Treyvious with a certificate of academic achievement.

Mr. Frost recognized Ms. McNeal, School Safety Guardian at Gadsden Technical College for doing her job with requiring him to wear his identification badge.

Mrs. Dudley recognized Mrs. Maresha Alexander for being a wonderful guidance counselor at the high school.

Ms. Allysun Davis, Principal of Gadsden Elementary School, shared with the Board highlights of the school. She stated that Gadsden Elementary Magnet School is a hidden GEM serving 128 academically talented students in PreK – 8th grade. She stated that the students are exposed to a variety of educational experiences that require non-traditional approaches to learning. She stated that assessment data indicates the greatest need for improvement is in the area of reading and math learning gains for students in grades 4 and 8. She stated that GEMS staff is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment while simultaneously maintaining continuous progress towards high student achievement. She stated that this is accomplished by conducting monthly drills, maintaining open communication with the SRO/Guardian and the school's safety team. She stated that every child is a GEM! She stated that business partners for GEMS include Piggly Wiggly, Flookah's, Winn Dixie and CJ's Interior & Exterior. She stated

that the students used M&M's to demonstrate the effects of natural selection. She stated that students answered questions relating to speed, velocity and acceleration to find clues to the mystery.

Ms. Zola Akins, Assistant Principal of Greensboro Elementary School and Ms. Sallie Murphy, 3rd grade teacher and School Teacher-Of-Year for 2020, shared with the Board highlights of the school. Ms. Akins stated that instructional highlights included the following, all instructional positions filled with certified teacher; 80% of teachers are reading endorsed; 80% of teachers are ESOL endorsed; monthly data chats with teachers and students; classroom walk-through; school based professional development provided; i-Ready; STAR; HMH Reading; BEST/FSA standards; small group instruction, intervention phonics for reading, KPALS; I Do Modeling Chart; and fluency notebooks.

Ms. Murphy stated that motivating students included the following: top readers of the month accelerated reader; "Ducks in a Row" i-Ready recognition; AR ice cream social; game room/incentive room; quarterly awards day; and principal's pizza parties. She stated that student activities included 110 days of school; Christmas Program and Parade; cheerleaders; literacy week; kindergarten reading mentors; rocket challenge; and GES basketball.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Key added an addendum to item #6a & b personnel – additional individuals that were hired after Board information was prepared.

Mr. McMillan 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.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. March 22, 2022, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. March 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2021 – 2022

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Personnel 2022 – 2023

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. 2022 – 2023 School Year Calendars

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #67-2122-0052

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- b. Out-of-State Fieldtrip Request – James A. Shanks Middle School

Fund Source: Parents and IDEA (for applicable transportation)
Amount: \$68.00 per student

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Approval of Job Description

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.

*7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Academic Support Contract

Fund Source: ESSER II
Amount: Not to exceed \$13,500.00

Mrs. Dudley asked for clarity as to which students the services are being offered.

Mr. Key stated that many schools have decided to go with after-school programs. He stated that GEMS decided on the Push-In Model Contract. He stated that the contract provides remediation, intervention and or enrichment instruction and support to address learning loss in the core academic subject areas. He stated that the contract is funded through ESSER II funds.

Following discussion, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7a. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key asked if he has authorization to approve contracts under the \$15,000 as long as policy guidelines are followed. In response to Mr. Key's request to Board regarding how they wish to handle contracts under \$15,000, the Board agreed to have all contracts as part of the agenda packet. He stated that it is very important to have security as top priority. He stated that metal detectors are placed in all secondary schools and safety check with book bags. He stated that security has been heightened to ensure school campuses are safe for students and staff.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mrs. Dudley's question regarding the process of letting employees know why they are not being recommended back and what they need to do for professional growth, Mr. Key stated that the evaluation process would address this problem, and the employee should speak with their supervisor.

Mr. McMillan stated that it is very important that principals follow the evaluation process.

Ms. Judith Mandela, President of GCCTA, addressed the Board with the following questions: Are there any professional development plans for this summer? Is there a plan for summer school? Is the American Rescue Plan on the district webpage? Is there a plan to clean James A. Shanks Middle School?

Mr. McMillan stated that Ms. Mandela's questions will be researched and information will be shared with her.

13. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.