

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

August 31, 2021

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; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; 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 Terrance Milton of Bear Creek Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Key recognized the principals and staff for a safe and smooth school opening. He thanked the Board members for visiting schools.

Mr. Scott thanked the maintenance staff and everyone involved with relocating Gadsden Elementary Magnet School to West Gadsden Middle School.

Mrs. Dudley acknowledged the parents, guardians, and students for recognizing the importance of wearing masks.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES – **SEE ATTACHMENT**

- a. July 27, 2021, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. July 27, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Tentative Budget Hearing
- c. July 27, 2021, Immediately following Tentative Budget Hearing at 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- d. July 29, 2021, 5:30 p.m. – Tentative Budget Hearing

- e. August 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- f. August 12, 2021, 3:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item 5a – f. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

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

- a. Personnel 2020 – 2021

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Personnel 2021 – 2022

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Collaborative Agreement Between Capital City Youth Services – Stop Now and Plan (CCYS – SNAP) Program and Chattahoochee Elementary School (CES)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Collaborative Agreement Between Capital City Youth Services – Stop Now and Plan (CCYS – SNAP) Program and Havana Magnet School (HMS)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Agreement Between the School Board of Gadsden County and Soliant Health/Blazer Works

Fund Source: FEFP Dollars
Amount: \$58.00 - \$62.00 per hour

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Contractual Agreement Between the School Board of Gadsden County and Talk of the Town Speech Therapy, LLC.

Fund Source: FEFP Dollars
Amount: \$55.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Memorandum of Understanding Between Elder Care Services and the Gadsden County School Board
 Fund Source: IDEA Grant
 Amount: \$3,700.00 / month
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Memorandum of Understanding Between the School Board of Gadsden County and Healing Hearts Music Therapy
 Fund Source: IDEA Grant
 Amount: \$25,000.00 (not to exceed)
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- g. Memorandum of Understanding Between the School Board of Gadsden County and Disaster Rebound & Recovery Project – Center for Study and Promotion of Communities, Families and Children (CFC)
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- h. Contractual Agreement Between the School Board of Gadsden County and Advanced Medical Personnel Services, Inc.
 Fund Source: Mental Health Allocation
 Amount: \$61.00 hourly
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- j. The Youth Mental Health Awareness Training (YMHAT) Plan and Mental Health Assistance Allocation (MHAA) Plan
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- k. Head Start 2021 – 2022 Refunding Application and Program Improvement Plan
 Fund Source: Head Start
 Amount: \$2,351,145.00
 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 moved to the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

***7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS**

- i. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Gadsden County School Board and North Florida Medical Centers, Inc.

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Ms. Betty Kabel, representative with North Florida Medical Centers, Inc., addressed the Board to share an update on the Dental Outreach Program. She introduced Ms. Denise Fletcher and Ms. Karen Watson dentists with the program. She stated that the dental program has been in the schools since mid-July and has served over 600 children. She stated that the Dental Outreach Program can be a resource for others in the community.

Ms. Watson complimented the Board members and Mr. Key for the outstanding work they are doing with the mask requirements and their leadership.

Mr. McMillan stated that he was aware of the dental service a specific student received. He thanked the representatives of North Florida Medical Centers, Inc. for the services they are providing to students.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. APPOINT BOARD MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD

Mr. Scott explained the purpose of the Value Adjustment Board. He stated that the purpose of serving on the Value Adjustment Board is for members to meet with property owners to appeal their property value or a denial of an exemption, classification, or tax deferral.

Ms. Johnson volunteered to serve on the Value Adjustment Board as the representative for the School Board, and Mr. Frost would serve as the alternate.

9. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that the district only accepted one school grade from the previous school year and that was Chattahoochee Elementary School because of their improvement. He stated that the projected school grade for Chattahoochee Elementary School this year is a "B". He stated that COVID 19 – numbers have risen in the last few weeks. He stated that the district had another 10 positive cases within the last week for a total of 44 cases since the beginning of school. He stated that there are daily updates on the district's website. He stated that he is considering sending emails to parents when there are positive cases on a school campus. He stated that principals are encouraged to stay on top of cleaning and maintain social distance, serve lunch in different ways, and for students to not hang around in the cafeteria. He stated that the district is doing everything it can to make sure the positive COVID cases remain low.

10. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that he appreciates how smoothly the school year started and how the students are trying to do the right thing. He also stated that he appreciates the Superintendent and staff for their hard work.

Ms. Johnson stated that she enjoyed orientation at Havana Magnet School. She stated that she loved seeing the PreK students on the first day of school at Havana Magnet School.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she represents the district on the Planning and Zoning Committee with county. She stated that businesses want to know what the schools are offering when they are considering to move to the county. She stated that she is trying to build a partnership with the county because it is not just the school board's responsibility to educate students. She stated that it takes everyone working together to educate students. She recognized Ms. Valencia Denson as the Head Start PreK Director.

Mrs. Linda Sherman Oliver addressed the Board and stated that she was speaking on behalf of parents that want the option to have remote learning. She stated that her husband works with the district and her grandson graduated last year from Gadsden County High School. She stated that she loves Gadsden County and want parents to have the option for remote learning.

Mr. Key stated that based on conversations with the Chancellor remote learning is not an option in Florida. He stated that if the district had to close down due to positive COVID cases, the days missed would have to be made up.

Mr. McMillan thanked Mrs. Oliver for addressing the Board with her concern.

Ms. Lafayette Sims addressed the Board regarding school uniforms. She stated that she has two children that attend Havana Magnet School. She stated that it is hard for her to keep up with the uniform colors and which color to wear daily. She stated that she was concerned about getting her children off to school safely with a mask on. She stated that it is hard to keep up and always check that her children are in the right color of uniform clothing or shoes. She stated that she was also concerned about Havana Magnet School having only one certified teacher for 3rd grade, when the other grades have certified teachers.

Mr. Key thanked Ms. Sims for addressing the Board. He stated that the district's focus is to educate students and not uniform colors and shoes. He stated that at the beginning of the school year, four teachers resigned from Havana Magnet School. He stated that the issue is being addressed to fill vacant teaching positions.

11. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.