

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

October 26, 2021

6:00 P.M.

This 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; and Ms. Cathy S. Johnson. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost was absent.

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 Dr. Ronald McCloud, Pastor of St. John Church of God in Christ.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Scott recognized the parents, students and staff for wearing a mask and taking the necessary precautions to fight the coronavirus.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. September 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- b. September 28, 2021, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. September 28, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- d. October 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #5a – d. 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 Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

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.

7. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. University of Florida / Florida Department of Education Flamingo Literacy Matrix

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. PAEC Professional Learning Catalog 2021 - 2022

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Level II School Principal Preparation Program 2021 - 2022

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Chelsea Franklin shared with the Board and update on Gadsden County High School. She stated that Gadsden County High School in partnership with community stakeholders, will provide world class customer service, a safe environment and positive school culture. She stated that the core curriculum will be diverse, standards aligned and relevant, considering the various learning styles of all students. She stated that the school’s guiding principle is “Restoring Academic Excellence and Pride.” She stated that Gadsden County High School empowers all students to succeed by pursuing early college, armed forces, or technical education opportunities by providing standards-aligned, and engaging instruction. She stated that the journey ahead included the following: implementation of a progress monitoring system, Performance Matters; assessment tracking tools; increased professional development opportunities; teacher and paraprofessional recruitment campaign; substitute recruitment; rethinking the Math Coach 2+ years vacancy – instructional coach; budget transparency; a standard traditional clock system in every classroom; African American History curriculum; teacher supplies i.e. staplers and classroom clocks; and Jaguar store supplies.

Ms. Camry Floyd shared with the Board and update on the first 45 days of school at Chattahoochee Elementary School. She stated that the school year at Chattahoochee Elementary School started with an enrollment of 120 students. She stated that the school has many community partners who have provided school supplies, spirit shirts, planning support, school pantry, a school face lift, and landscaping. She stated that the school has the following programs and partnerships: Established volunteer partnership with Florida State Hospital employees; Awarded CAPIT Grant for 1st grade phonics curriculum; Doughnuts for Dads – 60 participants; Established Reading Room – National Hookup of Black Women, Gadsden Chapter; Accelerated Reader (AR) Kickoff – Reading Roundup; Royal Butterflies – Service for Girls; and Florida State Mag Lab. She stated that Tutor Tuesdays with approved volunteers will push into classrooms at every grade level; and Raising Readers scheduled on December 10th and March 10th. She stated that Chattahoochee Elementary School is where STARS are born.

Mr. Key and the Board thanked Mrs. Franklin and Ms. Floyd for sharing updates on Gadsden County High School and Chattahoochee Elementary School. He thanked the district staff for all their help. He recognized Ms. Lisa Robinson as the Director of Elementary Education and Ms. Juliette Fisher Jackson as the Director of Secondary Education. He stated that at the last Board meeting, Mr. McMillan made a statement about the new school. He stated that Mr. McMillan used the word deplorable which covers most of the schools we are talking about closing. He stated that Mr. McMillan was referring to getting students and staff out of the schools that are in deplorable conditions. He stated that the district's goal is to get students in a new school. He stated that upgrades to the schools are coming. He stated that monies have to be used for its intended purpose. He mentioned the Facebook post regarding statements about the Board meeting last month. He acknowledged that he mentioned his wife working for the district and not Mr. McMillan. He stated that everyone has to be careful about what they say and write. He stated that everyone needs to be professional at all times. He thanked Pastor McCloud for praying for peace within the school district. He stated that the school system cannot turn around by itself. He stated that it will take all of us to move the district forward and to make Gadsden County a better place.

9. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Johnson thanked Mrs. Franklin for her service, enthusiasm, and commitment to the students. She stated that when she visits the school again she will wear flats. She also thanked Ms. Floyd for her dedication and stated that she is looking for great things to come from Chattahoochee Elementary School.

Mr. Scott thanked both administrators (Mrs. Franklin and Ms. Floyd) for their hard work. He stated that Gadsden is not the only district having staffing problems. He suggested that the retired teachers could help in the classrooms, but there is an obstacle in the Board policy that retired teachers return back at the beginning teacher salary. He stated that policy needed to be reviewed.

Mrs. Dudley thanked Mrs. Franklin for remembering the humanity of teachers and staff. She stated that support was needed not only in academics but behavior. She thanked Ms. Floyd for her hard work and stated that she will visit Chattahoochee Elementary School on December 10th. She became emotional and stated that she puts her heart and soul into teaching. She stated that she was crying out for teachers, students and staff. She stated that the Superintendent made a great choice with hiring Mrs. Franklin and Ms. Floyd. She stated that she will keep advocating for teachers, staff and students. She stated that the district need a new school. She stated that she wants everyone to work together. She quoted from Former President Barack Obama “be the change you want to see”. She asked everyone to advocate for the schools, teachers and staff. She stated that we are a team.

Mr. McMillan requested an update on the Chattahoochee High School status of payments at the next Board meeting.

The Board scheduled an organization meeting on Tuesday, November 16th at 5:30 p.m., workshop at 4:30 p.m. and the regular November meeting at 6:00 p.m.

In response to Mr. McMillan's statement that the district need a progress monitoring system, Mr. Key stated that the district has Unify, but it has not been used. He stated that he is trying to minimize current programs and start using what the district currently have.

Mr. McMillan stated that he had the privilege to attend the Florida School Boards Insurance Trust (FSBIT) meeting last week and good information was provided. He stated that the trainer really expounded on workman's compensation claims. He stated that FSBIT will consider an offer to provide health insurance to the district for employees. He stated that a lot of positive things were said at this Board meeting. He stated that we are a team at the Gadsden County School District.

10. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.