

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

July 27, 2010

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Roger P. Milton; and Mr. Judge B. Helms. Mr. Eric F. Hinson arrived at 5:30 p.m. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, 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 workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 4:35 p.m.

2. FINANCIAL DATA REPORT

Mrs. Wood asked Mr. Bruce James to share with the Board an update on the School Food Service new universal breakfast program for five of the elementary schools. He stated that two of the elementary schools had site problems which caused them to not have the universal breakfast program. He stated that the universal breakfast program offers free breakfast to all students in elementary schools. He stated that the key is having children eat nutritionally, and an enhancement for students to eat breakfast. He stated that the Department of Education allows the staff to serve breakfast in the classrooms.

During the discussion, the Board shared their concerns about two of the elementary schools not serving free breakfast to all students. The Board requested the Superintendent seek funding to provide free breakfast to the students at the two elementary schools who were not approved for the universal breakfast program.

Mr. Bruce James also shared with the Board information on the implementation of a new fresh fruit and vegetable program. He stated that the district will provide fresh fruit and vegetables to all students in elementary schools. He stated that the district will contract with local vendors. He stated that the program was spearheaded by the Pre-K program. He stated that staff will be allowed to participate in the program along with the students. He stated that reimbursement will be based on the number of student participants.

Mrs. Wood stated that the Food Service Management Team is data driven. She stated that they are working with the Health Department to develop life long healthy eating habits. She stated that the assessed rates are a 2.3% decrease from last year. She stated that the roll back millage rate was a 2.06 decrease over the rate for last year.

Mrs. Melanie King shared with the Board information on the Assessed Tax Valuation. She stated that the assessed tax valuations showed a decrease across the Board.

Mrs. Wood stated that the rates are not an increase. She stated that there must be a super majority vote on the 0.25 millage rate to levy the millage for critical operating needs of the district for the 2011 – 2012 year. She shared with the Board the following budget status summary report: 1) 110 – General Fund – Encumbered \$241,041.52; 2) 300 – Capital Projects Fund – Encumbered \$634,383.81; 3) 410 – Food Service Fund – Encumbered \$0.00; 4) 420 – Contracted Projected Funds - \$365,553.30; 5) 431 – State Fiscal Stabilization Funds – Encumbered \$0.00; 6) 432 – Targeted ARRA Stimulus Funds – Encumbered \$2,064.00; and 7) 433 – Other ARRA Stimulus Grants – Encumbered \$5,977.69.

The Superintendent and Board commended the Food Service Management Team for their hard work.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that he had received a call for the Quincy City Manager in reference to a homework hotline, and building a partnership with the Leaf Theatre to offer movies to students on the weekends. He stated that because of some anomalies with the 5th grade test scores, the school grades were delayed. He stated that the Gadsden Leadership Law Academy Graduation was scheduled for Monday, July 26th at 7:00 p.m. He stated that the district will try to duplicate the Gadsden Leadership Law Academy Program by having an IT Program at West Gadsden High School to help students transition from school to work. He announced that the “Back to School Rally” was scheduled for Tuesday, August 17th beginning 9:00 a.m. at East Gadsden High School.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Milton stated that the issue with potholes at the bus circle located on King Street needed to be addressed.

Mr. Helms stated that he wanted to ensure that the IT Program at West Gadsden High School would include students at both high schools.

In response to Mr. Hinson’s concern about funding for the IT Program, Mr. James stated that the IT Program would be funded by the Florida Great Northwest Grant.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:40 p.m.