

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

February 4, 2014

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Ms. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. 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. Roger P. Milton, at 4:30 p.m.

2. GADSDEN LAW ACADEMY

Mr. Milton welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the workshop. He stated that the purpose of the workshop was to share updated information on the Gadsden Law Academy,

Dr. Kimblin Nesmith and Ms. Debra Rackley shared with the Board updated information on the Gadsden Law Academy. Dr. Nesmith stated that training must occur at certified training schools. He stated that no statewide minimum age is required for attendance; however, an individual must be at least 19 to become an officer. 943.13, F.S. He stated that furnishing weapons to minors less than 18 years of age or persons of unsound mind, and furnishing firearms to minors less than 18 years of age is prohibited. 790.17, F.S.

Mr. James stated that the Board was supportive of the Gadsden Law Academy Program. He stated that an invitation will be extended to Tallahassee Community College's President (Dr. Murdaugh); or a representative to share information with the Board.

Mr. Simmons requested that the Superintendent and Chairman meet with Dr. Murdaugh and share the district's concerns; and the Superintendent follow-up with Dr. Murdaugh and share with the Board. He stated that a contingency plan was needed.

Dr. Nesmith shared the following options with the Board to address the issue of the Gadsden Law Academy: 1) Students could train as adults and pay \$2,300 upon graduation; or 2) the district apply for their own CJSTC School to offer every program.

Mr. Simmons stated that the only option for the current class was to communicate with Dr. Murdaugh to continue the partnership.

Board members expressed their concerns and questioned how the district got to this point with the Gadsden Law Academy. The Board assured everyone that they were supportive of the Gadsden Law Academy Program.

The following individuals from the audience expressed their concerns and support for the Gadsden Law Academy Program: Ms. Brenda Holt, Chief Gerald McSwain, Mr. Emmanuel Sapp, Dr. Anthony Viegbeise, Mr. Will Rogers, Cadet Stone Franklin, Cadet Ashley McSwain, and Cadet Deshayla Graham.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:35 p.m.