

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

July 10, 2012

4:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Judge B. Helms, Chairman; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Roger P. Milton; 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. Eric F. Hinson was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Judge B. Helms, at 4:00 p.m.

2. BUDGET OVERVIEW FOR 2012 – 2013 FY

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board the budget overview for the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year. She stated that the district's current financial status for the 2011 – 2012 year was a dubbed year of financial "falling off the cliff"; district successfully completed year with required fund balance; and in spite of decreases in the general fund revenue of \$3,406,865 and federal funds revenue of \$3,692,577 totaling \$7,099,442. She stated that the preliminary overview of the 2012 – 2013 budget for the general fund balance was \$2,601,156 projected fund balance as of 06/30/12. She stated that there was a difference of \$1,510,818 for the general fund revenue for the 2012 – 2013 budget. She stated that the district needs to reduce costs in the 2012 -2013 fiscal year. She stated that other issues affecting the district's financial condition included: Federal sequestering affecting entitlement budgets up to 9%; FLDOE requiring districts to budget amounts in special function and object; and IDEA and Title I included in sequestering requirement. She stated that additional budget requirements included: extended day for reading instruction at Greensboro Elementary School; training costs associated with new student software, and maintenance/repair costs for making smart boards operable. She stated that the district's financial challenges are maintaining an adequate fund balance; retaining the number of positions at 700 in the general fund; and addressing programmatic changes and initiatives.

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, and made comments during the budget overview for the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year. Board members thanked Mrs. Wood for providing the budgetary information.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the district has reduced its number of employees from 1100 to approximately 700 to assist with maintaining the fund balance. He stated that school grades were scheduled to be released tomorrow (July 11th). He stated that he was projecting no “F” schools.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost thanked Mrs. Wood for the budgetary presentation. He stated that the Board is a Master Board.

Mr. Simmons thanked the Superintendent and staff for a meaningful workshop. He stated that the sentiment and tone of the meeting was very good. He stated that it takes everyone to make it work. He stated that he wants the Board to be more critical, argumentative, and more engaged. He stated that Gadsden County has a great school district.

Mr. Helms thanked everyone for being at the workshop. He announced the following upcoming meetings: 1) July 17th at 6:00 p.m. - Special Board Meeting; and 2) July 31st at 4:30 p.m. – Board Workshop; 6:00 p.m. – Tentative Budget Hearing; and immediately following the Tentative Budget Hearing - Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. James invited the Board members to the District’s Leadership Summit at the Doubletree Hotel in Tallahassee beginning Wednesday, July 11th and Thursday, July 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

5. The workshop adjourned at 6:30 p.m.