

## REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

February 28, 2017

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, 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. Isaac Simmons, at 6:02 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Pastor JaHazel Dawkins of Bostic Temple Christian Center.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

The Superintendent and Board along with Dr. Sylvia Jackson recognized the following individuals for their performance in Industry Certification (Career and Technical Education): 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Ms. Miranda Cole – Crossroad Academy; Ms. Kimberly Grant – Havana Magnet; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Mr. James Bradwell – East Gadsden High School; Ms. Alesia Grimley – East Gadsden High School; Mr. Jamaal Holt – East Gadsden High School; Ms. Renae Presha – East Gadsden High School; Ms. Latasha Tanner – East Gadsden High School; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Mr. Cornelius Pace – James A. Shanks Middle School; Ms. Erica Lightfoot – West Gadsden High School; and Ms. Cynthia Reynolds – West Gadsden High School. Each of the teachers received a certificate, and the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners also received a plaque.

Mr. Milton stated that the Department of Education recognized 10 High Impact Teachers from the district. He stated that he and the Board will recognize the district's high impact teachers at their individual schools.

Mr. Frost recognized Ms. Jackie Estrada for her hard work and dedication to the district. He thanked her for attending the community meetings and translating words to the Board from the Hispanics.

Mr. Smith recognized Mr. Don Gibson and his cosmetology class for their work at Gadsden Technical Institute. He stated that he received a certificate of appreciation for supporting the cosmetology class on a recent trip.

Mrs. Lewis thanked the Superintendent and Board for organizing the community meetings.

Mr. Scott recognized the West Gadsden High School Boys Basketball Team for a winning season. He stated that the team is scheduled to play for the State championship game in Lakeland.

Mr. Simmons recognized Mrs. Frances Brown from the audience who recognized Dr. Sheantika Wiggins-Milton for her hard work and dedication to the district.

Mr. Simmons stated that leaders have to support staff. He stated that he admired Mr. Milton for going down to Lakeland to support the West Gadsden High School Boys Basketball Team.

### ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Simmons added to the agenda item #8h - Herring vs. GCSB. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

#### 5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. January 24, 2017, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. January 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- c. February 2, 2017, 5:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- d. February 13, 2017, 6:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- e. February 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- f. February 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2016 – 2017

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. 2017- 2018 Calendars

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Budget Amendment No. 5

Fund Source: 110  
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #31-1617-0071

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #33-1617-0071

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #34-1617-0091

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #35-1617-0071

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #37-1617-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #39-1617-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Annual Comprehensive Safety Inspection

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. School Field Trip Requests (Out-of-State) West Gadsden High School

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items preceded by an (\*) asterisk were removed from the CONSENT agenda and acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

\*8. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #30-1617-0051

The parent of student #30-1617-0051 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to defer action on agenda item #8a until a hearing could be held on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

\*11. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

- a. Approval of Job Descriptions

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mrs. Lewis requested that the school food service staff report to the Director of Finance.

Following discussion, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to add the school food service staff to the Director of Finance job description for reporting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Ronte Harris, President of GCCTA, addressed the Board to share concerns regarding the reconfiguration of schools. He stated that two important points needed to be addressed. He stated that the district needed to find out why students are leaving, and mergers and school closures should have been in the forefront of academic success. He stated that parents are taking students out of the district because of the learning environment. He stated that Gadsden Elementary Magnet has a different learning environment. He stated that Gadsden Elementary Magnet has the best parent environment. He stated that all schools should be advocated to have an environment like Gadsden Elementary Magnet School. He stated that the schools have be cleaned up. He stated that the district needed to re-establish the learning environment for students. He stated that courses needed to be expanded at the Career and Technical

Institute. He stated that the alternative programs needed to be re-established. He stated that the district must be proactive with alternative placement for students. He stated that the needs of students needed to be identified early. He stated that GCCTA wants all students to be successful. He stated that GCCTA wants to have a meeting with the Superintendent and Board to share their plan for reconfiguring schools.

Mr. Simmons thanked Mr. Harris for sharing positive information with the Board. He stated that Mr. Harris made some good points regarding school reconfiguration.

Mr. Frost stated that it is alright to say where the district is going, but not many say what they can do to help. He shared his sentiments regarding the support of students.

Mr. Smith stated that as a parent, it is the learning environment and culture being taught at home. He stated that parents feel they need to remove students to a safer environment.

Mrs. Lewis commended Mr. Harris for his comments.

Mr. Scott thanked Mr. Harris for his comments. He stated that parents are mentioning cultural problems as a reason to move students.

## 12. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter reminded that the Board that contractors would be continuing air conditioning work during spring break at the district office.

The Board agreed to move the workshop scheduled on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> to Carter Parramore Academy Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Frost and Mrs. Lewis commended Mr. Hunter for his work with the district.

Mr. Smith also thanked Mr. Hunter for his work with the district. He stated that the new head custodian at Stewart Street Elementary School will have the support of the staff.

## 13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that testing begins next week for students. He stated that the cultural change has to start with the Superintendent and Board. He stated that we all must be customer-focused and friendly. He stated that everyone is very important. He stated that the district's organizational chart will soon be presented to the Board. He stated that PAEC will assist the district with the strategic plan. He stated that FADSS will work with finance on policies, and Dr. Brown is currently working on the district's policies. He encouraged each Board member to visit schools. He stated that there are some good things happening in the schools. He stated that he has high expectations for everyone.

## 14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mrs. Lewis commended Dr. Hightower for providing student behavioral reports to the Board. She stated that Head Start/PreK also provide monthly reports. She stated that she want to see the RV Bus in the communities. She stated that an exit interview needed to be put in place to see why employees are leaving the district. She stated that everyone in the district needed to follow policies and procedures. She stated that she was very passionate about parent involvement. She thanked Mr. Milton for being a person of high expectations.

Mr. Smith stated that he was concerned about transportation monies spent on overtime. He wanted to know what strategies could be put into place to target transportation. He stated that the principals are doing a good job and great things are going on in the schools. He stated that he visited with Ms. Delshuana Jackson at Havana Magnet School and requested she share her model with other principals.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the teachers at Havana Magnet School were very appreciative to see Board members during their recent crisis. She stated that ESE has crisis teams to provide support to the schools.

Mr. Milton stated that the district needed to review every program and every department. He stated that every route will be looked at during the re-organization.

Mr. Smith stated that Ms. Taylor and the parent services department must interview each parent before providing them with an out-of-district transfer request form.

Mr. Scott shared with the Board a recap of the upcoming community meetings: Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – James A. Shanks Middle School; Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – East Gadsden High School;; Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – Stewart Street Elementary School; and Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, School Board Workshop – Carter Parramore Academy. He stated that the location of the joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners was changed to the University of Florida Institute on Food and Agriculture Sciences (UF/IFAS).

Mr. Simmons stated that the financial workshop was very informative. He stated that he will meet with the Superintendent to find ways to enhance providing financial information for the workshops. He stated that the auditor general reports will be submitted to the Superintendent and Board via email. He stated that he attended the parent meeting where customer service skills were discussed. He requested Mrs. Lewis share with the Board information from the parent meeting.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the parent meeting was very good. She stated that each principal was asked to invite a parent to the meeting. She stated that the parent liaisons were used as a point of contact for parents. She stated that community members attended the meeting. She stated that the district needed to utilize things that are already in place. She stated that parent involvement can be used with rebuilding schools.

Mr. Simmons appointed Mrs. Lewis to meet with Dr. Hightower and the Superintendent to schedule a workshop to discuss customer service skills.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.