

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

June 29, 2017

9:00 A.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; 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. Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 9:02 a.m.

2. BUDGET

a. School Board Truth In Millage (TRIM) Timetable

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #2a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

3. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT

a. Partnership Agreement with School Turnaround (a.k.a. The Renseelaerville Institute)

Fund Source: Federal
Amount: \$520,000.00

Mr. Milton stated that on Monday, July 17th the district was scheduled to present a school turnaround plan to the State Board of Education. He stated that the school turnaround plan must be moved with fidelity when set in place. He stated that the school turnaround plan was for Gadsden County High School. He stated that the school turnaround plan was a three-year plan for continued support.

Ms. Rose Raynak shared with the Board an overview of the School Turnaround Plan (a.k.a. The Renseelaerville Institute). She stated that Gadsden County School District has several priority and focus schools based

on the latest administration of the state assessment. She stated that several schools are under Differentiated Accountability (DA) requirements for school improvement and are listed as Priority and Focused schools. She stated that based on the results of the FSA, the district will advance to a stage of intensive intervention for several schools. She stated that in an effort to address this issue proactively, the Superintendent is asking the Board for approval of a Partnership Agreement with School Turnaround that will be designed to take a feeder pattern of the most fragile schools in the district and work with their leaders and teachers to raise student achievement, improve teacher quality, change school cultures, and instill pride in the communities that will also be asked to be partners in this effort. She stated that the schools proposed for this partnership include Gadsden County High School (GCHS); West Gadsden Middle School (WGMS); James A. Shanks Middle School (JASMS); and George W. Munroe Elementary School (GWM). She stated that the external partner, with a team of specialists, will work with district leadership and personnel to understand strengths and challenges in the areas of data analysis, assessment, curriculum, professional development, human resources, and leadership pipelines. She stated that the external partner will provide a clear set of recommendations and tiered intervention plans for leadership development and school support. She stated that they will provide a set of turnaround recommendations that align with the district's vision of "Putting Children First". She stated that the partner will conduct an asset map of resources currently in each building and assign a specialist to work with each principal to create strong structures that support learning and build leadership and school capacity. She stated that this was a three-year plan with a company that has proven success in turning around fragile school districts that comes with a limited guarantee to reach targets set in collaboration with the district and school leadership. She stated that **School Board Policy 6320**, which is aligned to purchasing requirements in the **Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2 CFR Part 200 Section 200.320 (f) (2)**, allows the district to make an exception to the competitive bidding requirements if this is an emergency purchase of contractual services when the Superintendent determines that there is an immediate danger to the welfare of the district or the district would suffer a substantial loss. She stated that as a condition to this exception, the Superintendent must obtain three competitive pricing information from at least two prospective vendors. She stated that the Superintendent has received three competitive proposals for these same types of services and the School Turnaround Plan is the most advantageous for the district and has the lowest pricing overall for a more comprehensive set of services and on-site assistance. She stated that the Superintendent has discussed these three options with the Florida Department of Education, Executive Director of School Improvement. She stated that this request also aligns with **45 CFR Part 92, Section 92.94** period of availability and supports **34 CFR Part 76 Section 76.707** that reaffirms when an obligation is made for personal services by a contractor who is not an employee of the State or sub-grantee that the obligation is made on the date on which the State or sub-grantee makes a binding written commitment to obtain the services.

Mr. Milton stated that the State has mandated the district enter into a school turnaround partnership agreement. He stated that the district is currently working on its strategic plan which will be incorporated into the partnership agreement.

Following discussion, Mr. Tyrone D. Smith made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #3a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

4. EDUCATIONAL ISSUE

a. Medical Physics 2017 – 2018

Fund Source: 110
Amount: \$8,100.00

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #4a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that the following school grades for the district were released: East Gadsden High School – D; Havana Magnet School – A; Gretna Elementary School – C; St. John Elementary School – C; Gadsden Elementary Magnet School – A; Crossroads Academy Charter School – B; Chattahoochee Elementary School – C; Stewart Street Elementary School – C; Greensboro Elementary School – C; West Gadsden Middle School – D; George Munroe Elementary School – F; Galloway Charter School – F; and James A. Shanks Middle School – I.

Mr. Milton recognized Ms. Gay Steffen, Realtor for the Havana Elementary School Property, and Mr. Rob Nixson, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Chief Programmer.

Ms. Steffen addressed the Board to express her concerns regarding the offer to sell the Havana Elementary School Property. She shared with the Board an activity report that provided information to sell the Havana Elementary School Property. She stated that the Havana Elementary School Property has been on the market for a while.

Mr. Nixson addressed the Board to share information on an interest group to purchase the Havana Elementary School Property. He stated that the interest group was an engineering company that has a great interest in manufacturing.

During the discussion, the Board recessed the meeting at 9:58 a.m. for a scheduled student hearing at 10:00 a.m.; the meeting reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

Following the Board's discussion on the sale of the Havana Elementary School Property, it was the consensus of the Board to not enter into a mortgage agreement at this time. The Board requested the Realtor, Ms. Steffen, seek other offers to sell the Havana Elementary School Property.

6. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

The Board scheduled a workshop on Tuesday, July 11th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss school boundary lines, Gadsden Technical Institute Programs, and to receive an update on the school reconfiguration.

7. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.