

FINAL BUDGET HEARING

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

September 7, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; and Ms. Cathy S. Johnson (arrived at 7:36 p.m.) Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, 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. Leroy McMillan, at 6:05 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Leroy McMillan.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

Mr. Key removed item #8 – Approval of the 2020 – 2021 Superintendent’s Annual Financial Report from the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 21-01 (reaffirmed at final budget hearing) and FDOE form ESE 524

Fund Source: General Fund and Capital Project

Amount: Refer to millage rates and amounts stated on the Resolution

Mr. Mays apologized to the Board for the delay in getting the budget information to them. He stated that the total estimated revenues, other financing sources and fund balance was \$39,839,632.30. He stated that the budget numbers will change depending on the FEFP. He stated that the numbers are generated by local efforts, property taxes, discretionary millage, and district local capital improvement tax (capital outlay dollars). He stated that all the figures are from the state.

Following discussion and the reading of Resolution Number 21-01 by Mr. Leroy McMillan, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #4. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried with Mr. Scott, Mr. Frost, Mrs. Dudley and Mr. McMillan voting “aye”. Mrs. Johnson was not present to cast a vote.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

5. APPROVAL OF THE 2021 - 2022 FINAL BUDGET – RESOLUTION 21-02

Fund Source: All Funds Budget

Amount: Refer to final budget

Mr. Mays shared with the Board a detailed overview of the 2021 – 2022 district’s budget. He stated that the district must have a balanced budget. He stated that the food service fund is one with an estimated balance throughout the whole year because this fund comes from meals. He stated that special revenue is recurring grants to help support the general fund. He stated that he work closely with Mrs. Farlin regarding the use of federal funds.

In response to Mr. Frost’s concern whether salaries could be given from the food service fund, Mrs. Minnis stated that food service staff are employees of the Board and they are covered under the collective bargaining contract and must be treated as all other employees.

Following discussion and the reading of Resolution Number 21-02 by Mr. Leroy McMillan, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #5. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried with Mr. Scott, Mr. Frost, Mrs. Dudley and Mr. McMillan voting “aye”. Mrs. Johnson was not present to cast a vote.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 21-03 – CATEGORICAL FLEXIBLE SPENDING

Fund Source: General Funds

Amount: To Be Determined

Mr. Mays stated that Resolution Number 21-03 – Categorical Flexible Spending will ensure that the district has flexible spending authority to expend allocations that may have balances remaining due to some expenses being allowable in other federal relief allocations as well as federal grant allocations that support those appropriations.

Following discussion and the reading of Resolution Number 21-03 by Mr. Leroy McMillan, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #6. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried with Mr. Scott, Mrs. Dudley, Mr. Frost and Mr. McMillan voting “aye”. Mrs. Johnson was not present to cast a vote.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 21-04 – BOARD’S INTENTION ON USE OF GENERAL FUNDS

Fund Source: General Funds

Amount: N/A

Mr. Mays stated that he wanted to ensure that the Board’s intention on services, identified in the previously adopted budgets by Resolutions 21-01, 21-02 and 21-03 as well as any subsequent budget amendments presented to the Board for approval, are the only services that the district would provide in the absence of federal funds.

Following discussion Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda #7. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried with Mr. McMillan, Mr. Frost, Mrs. Dudley and Mr. Scott voting “aye”. Ms. Johnson was not present to cast a vote.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. APPROVAL OF THE 2020 – 2021 SUPERINTENDENT’S ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Source: All Funds

Amount: Total Expenditures for 2020 - 2021

Removed from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting by Superintendent Key.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key discussed COVID-19 protocols and students coming to school when sick. He stated that it is important to communicate with parents to keep students home when they are sick or when there are positive cases in the home. He stated that deep cleaning will take place in the morning and afternoons. He stated that he wants everyone to be safe. He stated that the district has 57 positive COVID-19 cases. He stated that schools have not been hit hard with positive cases. He stated that the district has a shortage of teachers and employees. He stated that although the vacancies are high, there are no qualified applicants applying. He stated that everyone have to be willing to help the schools out. He stated that the district is continuing to work on salary increases for all employees. He stated that students and employees will be recognized at Board meetings. He stated that he is continuing to work to make Gadsden a model school district.

10. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that many businesses are experiencing vacancies. He stated that the issue with vacancies are not just with school districts. He stated that parents need to keep students home when they are sick. He stated that he appreciates Mr. Key for his dedication and hard work.

Ms. Johnson stated that some districts are testing students and employees for the virus before they enter classes. She asked if the district could set up testing sites for anyone that wanted to be tested for the virus. She stated that it is important for leaders to show concern for students and staff. She stated that she wants to be sure that the district is doing everything it can to keep students and staff safe.

Dr. Sylvia Jackson stated that the district is working closely with the health department to make testing and vaccinations available for students on campus with parent permission. She stated that ESSER II funds would be used for testing and vaccinations.

Mr. Scott stated that the football game Friday night required purchasing a ticket online. He stated that it was a difficult situation because people didn’t know this was the way to purchase tickets. He stated that a better plan was needed to purchase tickets for the games.

Mr. Key stated that Friday’s game tickets were purchased online through “GO FAN”. He stated that he spoke with the principal and stated that the issue to purchase game tickets online has to first be publicized. He stated that he did not approve of this online purchase system. He stated that there were no monies on hand at Friday’s game.

Mrs. Dudley recognized Mr. Key for his dedication and hard work.

Mr. McMillan encouraged everyone to keep up the good work.

Ms. Johnson apologized for coming to the meeting late. She stated that she was not a part of the budget vote and wanted the record to reflect that she did not vote.

11. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.