

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

May 14, 2014

4:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. Also present were Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; and Ms. Audrey D. Lewis were absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 4:04 p.m.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Gretna/DOT Sidewalk Project

Mr. Shepard introduced Mr. Antonio Jefferson, City of Gretna Manager; Mr. Tommy Johns, Project Engineer; Ms. Gigi Peterson, Department of Education; and Mr. Tim Smith, Department of Transportation, to share with the Board an overview of Phase II of the property at Gretna Elementary School. He stated that the contract plans were to construct a sidewalk from Gretna Elementary School to the Dollar General Store. He stated that there would be no cost to the Board. He stated that the fence would be taken down and funds will be paid to the Board to replace at their wish, and for any damages to the property. He recommended a straight line sidewalk.

Mr. Johns stated that he would propose to the Department of Transportation to use every opportunity to provide landscaping for beautification of the project. He stated that the landscaping project would be a separate project. He stated that he needed the Board's interest with the beautification project.

Mr. Jefferson stated that the City of Gretna was in favor of working with the Department of Transportation and the Board to beautify the City of Gretna gateway and Gretna Elementary School.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to have a straight line sidewalk from Gretna Elementary School to the Dollar General Store. They appointed Mr. Shepard to continue working the Department of Transportation and the Department of Education on the Gretna sidewalk project. They thanked Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Johns, Ms. Peterson, and Mr. Smith for their information on the Gretna/DOT sidewalk project,

Mr. Milton acknowledged Mr. Jeff McNealy, City of Gretna Commissioner.

b. AMIKids, Inc.

Mrs. Rosalyn Smith shared with the Board an overview of the AMIKids, Inc. Program for Gadsden County, and ways to fund the program. She stated that AMIKids, Inc. Center for Academic Discipline has been designed as an alternative to habitual suspension, expulsion and/or juvenile justice institutionalization. She stated that the goal of this model is to reduce the number of youth failing to graduate from high school due to excessive or extreme anti-social behaviors which can impede their ability to acquire the skills necessary to function in school and society. She stated that additionally, the AMIKids, Inc. and Gadsden County Public Schools partnership will enhance reduce dropout rates, improve teacher and student safety in schools, reduce long-term suspension and/or expulsions, and improve school graduation rates for the district's most challenging students. She stated that seventy-five (75) students in grades 4-12 with habitual disruptive behaviors. She stated that there will be three methods of enrollment: district hearing officer (last chance students), assigned by local juvenile courts, and parent choice. She stated that the student assigned to the programs, must remain enrolled through the full school year. She stated that the student calendar will mirror the Gadsden County calendar with 180 student days and 196 teacher workdays. She stated that the contract period would run July 1st to June 30th with the balanced invoices (i.e., 12 equal payments). She stated that the proposed staffing for AMIKids, Inc would include the following: one Executive Director; one Operations Director; one Business Manager; one Director of Education; four Certified Teachers; one Contracted LMHC; and two Behavior Specialists. She stated that the program/contract cost was \$598,053 with net 10 days by invoice of 12 equal payments. She stated this program would conclude Hope Academy. She stated that the methods for student enrollment would include Board expulsions – 60 students, Juvenile Court Order – 5 students, and parental referrals – 10 students. She stated that professional development funding will be included in the program cost of \$598,053. She stated that the total administrative cost would be \$141,000. She stated that the difference of proposed cost and generated FTE was \$147,279. She stated that In-kind Services includes school food service, facilities, and transportation.

Mr. Simmons and Mr. Frost stated for the record that they did not support the AMIKids, Inc. Program because the district could enhance its services to the students at Hope Academy with the current staff. Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned about sustainability and funding for the program.

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns and made comments during the AMIKids, Inc. presentation. They thanked Mrs. Smith for her presentation.

c. Cenergistic – Energy Savings Contract

Mr. Shepard stated that Cenergistic has offered to build and provide a customized energy conservation program that is focused on organizational and behavioral change and is designed with the following goals: save dollars that the District can reinvest in the people it serves; preserve a quality learning environment for the District's children; conserve energy for a positive impact on the environment; and increase awareness to empower energy users to be energy savers. He stated that Cenergistic can help the District pursue these goals through implementation of its energy conservation program. He stated that central to the success of this program is the recognition of shared responsibility between Cenergistic and the District as the program is initiated and implemented. He stated that Cenergistic provides extensive resources, education and onsite training, action planning, and other conservation-related services, while the District works cooperatively to implement Cenergistic's program. He stated that as part of this shared responsibility, Cenergistic offers a QuickStart during the early months. He stated that during the QuickStart the District does not pay fees to Cenergistic, at the same time Cenergistic delivers and focus on priority elements of its Cenergistic energy management program for a quick start. He stated that the QuickStart accelerates net savings for the District.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concerned about the District's termination for convenience clause. He stated that the District shall provide Cenergistic with at least 60 days prior written notice and shall pay Cenergistic a work fee to compensate Cenergistic for its intellectual property, the work performed by Cenergistic and for the benefits received by the District (and not as penalty) ("Work Fee") with the calculation based upon the date of termination.

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned about accountability and savings, and the length of the contract. He stated that he did not want to have a five year contract.

Mrs. Minnis stated that energy saving contracts are competitive. She stated that with the sole source process, the energy saving contracts would have to be in rank order, and the bidding process was a challenge. She stated that she has reviewed the Cenergistic contract and have concerns.

Mrs. Edna Hussein Forehand participated in the discussion regarding the Cenergistic contract. She stated that she was concerned whether or not the principals were made aware of their utility bill. She stated that it would help with saving energy if incentives were offered to the schools, and principals had true site-based management.

Mr. Simmons stated that Cenergistic staff will work closely with the principals and principals will have access to the energy data.

The Board agreed to have Mrs. Minnis, Mr. Simmons and Mr. Shepard gather a tentative RFP with the appropriate language before advertising for an energy savings contract.

Mr. Milton stated that he was concerned about the cost to the district for providing a commissioned security officer to accompany the energy specialist while performing facilities assessments outside of normal business hours.

Mr. Simmons requested staff begin to look at ways to offer incentives to schools for saving energy.

Mrs. Ferree stated that there needs to be better communication with the schools regarding their spending costs. She stated that ways to offer incentives to the schools needed to be sought.

Mrs. Smith stated that the Board must implement true site-based management, and there must be consistency.

Dr. Jackson stated that incentives needed to be meaningful in order to be effective and have more buy-in from the schools.

Mr. Helms announced that the Willie Ruth Williams Scholarship Program was scheduled on Sunday, May 25th @ 6:00 p.m. at First Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. He encouraged everyone to attend.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

5. The workshop adjourned at 6:35 p.m.