

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

March 5, 2013

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. Roger P. Milton; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Ms. Audrey D. Lewis. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, 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 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Audrey Lewis.

4. RECOGNITIONS

In honor of Black History, Ms. Shaia Beckwith recognized Ms. Amanda Rolax Eady who shared with the Board a brief synopsis of her father's, Pierce "Sonboy" Rolax, vision. Ms. Eady stated that her father was the first black school bus driver in the district. She stated that her father's vision was to assist students in receiving an education by driving them to school.

Ms. Beckwith stated that a building dedication of the district's transportation facilities in honor of Dr. Robert H. Bryant will take place on April 4th at 6:00 p.m. She stated that a portrait of Pierce "Sonboy" Rolax will be displayed at the transportation department.

Board members, Superintendent, and Ms. Beckwith recognized the following Unsung Heroes for the month of February: Mrs. Patricia Beamon, Mr. Dennis Yon, Mrs. Sarah Knight, Mrs. Denise Hannah, Mrs. Shirley Alday, Mrs. Gloria McPherson, and Mrs. Mary Davis. Each of the employees was presented with awards by the Board members and the Superintendent. Ms. Beckwith stated that the unsung heroes are employees of the Walker Administration Building.

Mr. James commended West Gadsden High School and East Gadsden High School Basketball Teams for good effort in playing in the Final Four. He stated that both teams made an effort to win. He thanked Mr. Helms for his hospitality at the playoff.

Mrs. Maria Pouncey shared with the Board a progress report for PAEC. She highlighted specifics to Gadsden County. She invited Board members to Earth Day on April 19th at the Capitol from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Frost recognized district staff that allowed their children to attend school in Gadsden County. He also recognized Ms. Hall and Mr. Oliver. He stated that Gadsden Technical Institute has been certified to receive PELL Grants and other tuition. He stated that many individuals who attended Gadsden Technical Institute are very successful. He recognized the Director and staff at Gadsden Technical Institute.

Ms. Lewis recognized Ms. Bea Hopkins and the AmeriCorps Gadsden Reads Program. She also recognized Mr. Wayne Shepard for his hard work and for preparing detailed information for the Board.

Mr. Helms recognized East Gadsden High School and West Gadsden High School Basketball Teams for playing in the Final Four. He stated that he was proud to say he was from Gadsden County.

Mr. Milton acknowledged the City of Quincy Commissioners, Mr. Derrick Elias, Mr. Keith Dowdell, and Mayor Angela Sapp. He thanked them for the wonderful things they are doing throughout the City of Quincy.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Simmons removed from the agenda item #12a – Discussion and Request to Advertise the Board’s Intent to Amend School Board Rule 8.40 (General Food Service Requirements). He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Roger P. Milton, seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. January 10, 2013, 1:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. January 22, 2013, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. January 22, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- d. February 6, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – School Board Workshop
- e. February 14, 2013, 1:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- f. February 14, 2013, 3:30 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Budget Amendment Number Thirteen

Fund Source: 420 Federal Funds

Amount: \$1,619,246.38

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Budget Amendment Number Fourteen
Fund Source: 434 – (ARRA) Race To The Top
Amount: \$0.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Budget Amendment Number Fifteen
Fund Source: 394 (Capital) Funds
Amount: \$-66,505.14
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Budget Amendment Number Sixteen
Fund Source: 110 (General) Funds
Amount: \$405,057.53
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- b. Purchase Orders
Fund Source: School Food Service
Amount: \$70,580.80
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- e. Purchase Orders
Fund Source: Federal Funds – CAPE Grants
Amount: \$10,906.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Security Fence Installation at Stewart Street Elementary
Fund Source: 379
Amount: \$10,950.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- b. Re-roofing Bid #1213-13 Buildings 99-58 and 99-59 Gadsden Technical Institute
Fund Source: Capital Outlay
Amount: \$21,525.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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

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

a. Personnel 2012 – 2013

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned about reducing personnel.

Dr. Hightower stated that the teaching positions are replacement positions that were approved prior to the February 19th Board meeting. He stated that some of the teaching positions are interim positions through June 30th, and are funded through federal funds. He stated that all the other positions will have prior approval by the Superintendent.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

a. Purchase Order

Fund Source: Capital Improvements Fund
Amount: \$6,003.00

In response to Mr. Frost's concern about who was responsible for the purchase order, Mrs. Wood stated that she only prepared the summary sheet for the purchase order. She stated that the purchase order was prepared by and is the responsibility of Media/Technology.

Ms. Lewis stated that she was concerned about the purchase orders not clarifying who was responsible, and for not having enough detailed information for its purpose.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8a. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Purchase Orders

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$22,040.56

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8d. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Purchase Orders

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds

Amount: \$115,478.00

In response to Ms. Lewis' concern regarding whether the total amount of \$47,850.00 was correct for the network infrastructure equipment, Ms. Wood stated that the total amount was correct.

Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8f. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

g. Purchase Orders

Fund Source: Federal Funds – Title I School Improvement, ARRA Title I School Improvement and Title I Part A

Amount: \$59,858.66

Ms. Lewis requested that more detailed information be provided for purchase orders. She stated that staff should be informed that blank purchase orders and purchase orders not having detailed information will be rejected.

Mrs. Wood stated that the items on the purchase order should be itemized and will be corrected.

Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8g with the correction to itemize items on the purchase orders. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

h. Midway Charter Agreement

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms stated that he had several concerns regarding the Midway Charter Agreement. He stated that he was concerned about what Midway had to offer to our students that the district does not have to offer. He stated that he was also concerned about the leadership for Midway. He stated that the district has applied for the Magnet School Grant.

Mr. Simmons stated that he wanted to ensure that Attorney Minnis has reviewed the entire Midway Charter Agreement.

Mrs. Minnis stated that the entire Midway Charter Agreement has been reviewed and all of the Board's concerns have been included in the Midway Charter Agreement. She stated that she worked with Ms. Smith and Dr. Jackson on the Midway Charter Agreement. She stated that the district is beyond the application phase. She stated that the Board has approved the Midway Charter Application.

Mr. Frost stated that he wanted to ensure that the district would not be responsible for the charter if it fails.

Mrs. Minnis stated that in the event that the charter fails, it will become property of the School Board. She stated that the School Board will not be responsible for the charter's debt.

Ms. Lewis requested that the district be mindful of the guidance they provide to charters in the application process.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8h. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried with Mr. Simmons, Mr. Frost, Mr. Milton, and Mrs. Lewis voting "aye." Mr. Helms voted "nay."

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Purchase Orders

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$99,353.33

Mr. Simmons requested an explanation of the purchase order for Skyward, Inc.

Ms. Darlean Youmans stated that she and another staff member had recently attended a Skyward User Group Conference for support and maintenance. She stated that the district is moving forward and will have online scheduling next year.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #33-1213-0071

Ms. Lewis stated that she was concerned about the re-occurrence of students for expulsion. She wanted to know if the district was utilizing other agencies to help with the students. She wanted to know if the social workers, behavioral specialists and visiting teachers were being utilized to help with the students.

Ms. Smith stated that the Board has an Interagency Agreement with Apalachee Center. She stated that it is the best practice of the district and in this community to give students a second change. She stated that the district also has an agreement with DISC Village. She stated that the Board is currently updating its policies to have parents be held accountable for their child's education. She stated that support is needed from the Juvenile Justice System, Sheriff, Judge, and community involvement. She stated that the whole child approach is being sought. She stated that help is needed from multiple agencies.

Mr. James stated that the Board has a zero tolerance policy. He stated that he is also concerned about the large majority of students who come to school to learn.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #'s 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, 9e, 9f, 9i, and 9j. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #39-1213-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #40-1213-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #42-1213-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #43-1213-9102

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #44-1213-9102

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #45-1213-0171

Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #9g. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- h. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #47-1213-0231

Student #47-1213-0231 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to defer action on student case #47-1213-0231 until a hearing was held on Monday, March 11th at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- i. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #48-1213-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- j. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #50-1213-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case # 45-1213-0171

Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to rescind the Board's action on agenda item #9g in order to allow the parent of student #45-1213-0171 to a hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to defer action and have a hearing for student case #45-1213-0171 on Monday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- c. Certification of Facilities Data

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested a general overview of the certification of facilities data.

Mr. Shepard stated that the FISH report is done annually to verify that the spaces are correct. He stated that Board approval is needed for the Certification of Facilities Data in order for the district to comply by April 1st with Florida Statutes 1013.31(1)(d) and the State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) 6.1(7) (c).

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

a. 2012 – 2013 Student Progression Plan

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Ms. Lewis requested that her name be spelled correctly “Audrey”, and that a correction be made with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #11a with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that FCAT Writing Tests were completed. He stated that the principals felt pretty good about the coming FCAT Writing Test results.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that the schools needed to take the Red Carpet approach. He stated that parents are customer friendly in Red Carpet schools. He stated that the Superintendent is in charge of personnel and the Board sets policies.

Ms. Lewis stated that she was concerned about having family focus and friendly schools. She stated that she recently spoke with Ms. Smith and Ms. Beckwith about ways to reinstitute the Red Carpet Program in our schools. She stated that the Board needed to address its Internal Account Funds. She inquired about whether there was a conflict to have one of the principals serve as SAC Chairperson of a charter.

Mrs. Minnis stated that based on research information; there was no conflict for one of the principals to serve as SAC Chairperson because they are not employed by the charter. She stated that there was conflict about loyalty and that it was not a good idea for one of the principals to serve as SAC Chairperson, or on the Board of Directors for a charter. She stated that she will share this information with the Board in writing.

Mr. Helms recognized former School Board member, Mr. Eric Hinson.

Mr. Simmons stated that a workshop needed to be scheduled to discuss the Gadsden Technical Institute Partnership, merging of Havana Elementary School and Havana Middle School, and the Internal Accounts Funds.

Mr. Frost stated that individuals who donate funds to Gadsden Technical Institute are concerned about the Gadsden Technical Institute Partnership.

Mr. Simmons announced that the Florida School Boards Association Day in the Legislature was scheduled for March 20 – 22, 2013 at the Double Tree Hotel in Tallahassee, Florida. He encouraged Board members to attend.

Ms. Millie Forehand addressed the Board to ensure that members had received a letter from Community and Economic Development Organization of Gadsden County, Inc. regarding the intent of Crossroad Academy Charter School to increase enrollment and expand grade levels for the 2013 – 2014 school year.

Mr. Simmons requested Mrs. Minnis research the request from Crossroad Academy Charter School and share her response in writing with the Board. He stated that a workshop will be scheduled to discuss the request of Crossroad Academy Charter School.

Mr. Frost stated that the Board needed to discuss any future layoffs and the possibility of closing St. John Elementary School.

Mr. James stated that as part of the district's long range facilities plan a new school will be built to accommodate St. John Elementary School and Gretna Elementary School. He stated that budgetary information was discussed in a recent District Leadership Team Meeting with principals. He stated that Board members submitted budgetary suggestions in writing.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.