

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

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

April 6, 2010

Immediately Following Student Hearing at 4:00 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 Mr. Eric F. Hinson. 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 5:00 p.m.

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

a. Personnel 2009 - 2010

In response to Mr. Hinson's concern regarding the termination on agenda item #2a, Dr. Bridges stated that a random drug testing was performed with positive results.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #2a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. 2010- 2011 Calendars

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned that the students would have spring break before the FCAT. He stated that the students needed to be in school a couple of weeks before the FCAT.

Dr. Bridges stated that other districts are on the same school calendar. She stated that the FCAT was moved to a later date.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #2b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

3. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Hinson stated that he was concerned about the In-School Suspension Program in the elementary schools, especially Havana Elementary School. He stated that some of the principals are using administrators in their In-School Suspension Program.

Dr. Bridges stated that all schools were given an In-School Suspension Program and it was the principal's decision to make the program work.

Mr. Helms stated that Ms. Rhonda Craig, Principal of Gadsden Correctional Institute, has requested the Board visit their facility to review the curriculum at their facility.

Mr. Hinson stated that he was concerned about having all certified teachers in the classroom. He stated that there has been a substitute teacher in a 5th grade class at Havana Elementary School since January.

Dr. Bridges stated that the 5th grade teacher at Havana Elementary School left in January. She stated that a substitute teacher has been placed in the classroom because there is a freeze on hiring.

Mr. James stated that the principal at Havana Elementary School has assumed the primary role of the 5th grade classroom.

Mr. Hinson stated that all principals need to be administrators. He stated that he was concerned about restroom cleanliness at the schools.

The Board agreed to visit the Gadsden Correctional Institute on May 25th at 2:30 p.m. to review their curriculum.

Mr. Helms stated during the spring break he assisted Mr. Rick Soskus and others with painting James A. Shanks Middle School. He stressed that improvement was needed in the area of cleanliness in the schools.

Mr. Milton suggested that the issue of school cleanliness should be brought to the attention of the administrators.

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned about the latest hire of the football coach at East Gadsden High School. He stated that he wanted to ensure that policies and procedures were carried out appropriately.

Mr. James stated that the applicant's records and certification have been explored and qualifications have been met for the football coach at East Gadsden High School.

Mr. Frost challenged Board members to find ways to not have overage students in lower grades. He stated that the Board could create a school within a school.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Board needed to schedule a workshop to discuss school transportation safety.

Mr. Milton suggested the district have dialogue with the transportation director regarding school bus safety. He stated that the discussion needed to include what could be done to enforce the use of seatbelts on school buses.

Mr. James announced that a press conference would be held on April 7th, 1:00 p.m. at East Gadsden High School to announce the new football coach. He stated that the district is building a partnership with the Sheriff's Department to use volunteers as bus aides. He stated that the Florida High Patrol's investigative report regarding the school bus accident should be completed soon. He informed Board members that they could contact him with any concerns or questions.

Mr. Hinson encouraged Board members to schedule meetings when all members could be in attendance.

5. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

