

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

November 19, 2013

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chair; Ms. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Judge B. Helms; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. 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. Roger P. Milton, at 6:02 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Milton thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He recognized himself as the new Chair, and Ms. Lewis as the Vice Chair.

The Superintendent and Board recognized Mrs. Wood and presented her with a plaque for her hard work and dedication to the district.

Ms. Lewis and her family presented Mrs. Wood with a golden rose and a plaque for her hard work and dedication to the district.

The Superintendent and Board presented student Kairon Singleton with gift cards to Applebee's and the Movies for his heroism in a recent bus accident.

Mrs. Denise Hannah recognized the following faith based members and volunteers: Pastor Clarence Bryant, Pastor Sterling Barkley, Minister Fert Richardson, Minister Sidney Conyers, Pastor Juluis Harris, Bishop Titus Deas, Ms. Sandra Woods, Ms. Joyce Richardson, Ms. Sandra Moore, Mr. Franklin Moore, Ms. Nedra Smith, Ms. Shamymekia Dixion, Ms. Jessica Moultry, Ms. Debbie Dudley, Ms. Sabrina Oliver, Ms. Clareth White, Mr. Brodderick Neal, Ms. Liza O'Neal, Ms. Teresa Williams, Ms. Felicia Scott, Ms. Tanisha Barnes, Ms. Hollie T. Dwyer, Ms. Willie Mae Smith, and Mrs. Sharita Spradley-Newman. The Superintendent and Board members presented each of the faith based members and volunteers with a certificate of recognition.

Ms. Sarah Knight, District Reading Coordinator, recognized the following winners for the Summer Reading Program: Nykeria Allen – 1st Place; Erica Flores – 2nd Place; and Tylor Dickey – 3rd Place. The Superintendent and Board presented each student with a trophy and a certificate.

Ms. Shawanna Moye and the Challenges of Champions presented Superintendent James with a certificate of appreciation, gift card, and an edible arrangement for his support.

The Gadsden County Florida Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc presented the district with 100 books entitled “Of Thee I Sing – A Letter To My Daughters” by President Barack Obama for the schools libraries.

Mr. Frost recognized East Gadsden High School Football Team for playing in the 2nd round of the playoffs at Florida High on Friday (November 22nd) at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Helms invited the Board to the Kiwanis Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 17th, 12:00 noon at the First Baptist Church.

Mr. Milton acknowledged Ms. Chris Odahowski of the Gadsden County Public Library for her support with the Science Academy with Tallahassee Community College Quincy House and working with students at Stewart Street Elementary School. He also recognized Mr. Jerome Maples, former student Board member, who shared his accomplishments with the Board.

Mr. Milton invited Board members to the STEM Scholars Meet and Greet Christopher Bailey at the Tallahassee Community College Quincy House on November 27th at 12:00 noon.

Mr. Milton presented Board members with a certificate of completion for their ethics training. He also presented Ms. Lewis with a certificate for her inclusion in the International Top 100 Magazines for her outstanding career achievement and exemplary leadership.

Ms. Lewis presented Mr. Milton with his certificate of completion for his ethics training.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Milton added the following corrections to the agenda: Item #6b – District’s Organizational Chart, and agenda Item #10b – SAC Rosters. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mr. Judge Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. October 22, 2013, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. October 22, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. October 29, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- d. October 29, 2013, 7:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)
 - a. Personnel 2013 – 2014
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS
 - a. Purchase Order for Copier
Fund Source: Federal Projects 420 Fund – Head Start
Amount: \$2,855.88
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

 - d. Purchase Orders for School Food Service Program
Fund Source: School Food Service Fund 410
Amount: \$28,449.41
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

 - e. Purchase Order for Maintenance
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$14,949.77
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

 - f. Purchase Order for Custodial Supplies
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$11,820.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

 - g. Capital Outlay Purchase Orders
Fund Source: Capital Improvements Fund
Amount: \$33,207.11
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

 - i. Participation in Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$14,102.68
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- j. For School Board Approval to Pay Brooks Air Systems for Monthly Comprehensive HVAC Maintenance

Fund Source: 110
Amount: \$28,048.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #21-1314-0211

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)

- b. 2013- 2014 District Organizational Chart

Ms. Lewis requested that staff remove vacant positions from the district’s organizational chart.

Following discussion, Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #6b with the request to remove all vacant positions from the organizational chart. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED; The Superintendent recommended approval.

- *7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Budget Amendment Number Two

Fund Source: 420 Federal Funds
Amount: Net \$39,142.44

In response to Mr. Simmons’ request for an overview of budget amendment number two, Ms. Wood stated that budget amendment number two established budget for the 21st Century Grant at East Gadsden High School, Greensboro Elementary School, Havana Elementary School, and George W. Munroe Elementary School. She stated that the budget amendment also zeros out the Title I balance where the district received the audit FA399.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #7a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Budget Amendment Number Three

Fund Source: 420 Federal Funds
Amount: Net \$3,083,823.10

In response to Mr. Simmons' request for an overview of budget amendment number three, Mrs. Wood stated that budget amendment number three established budget for Title I Part A per approved Department of Education grant award. She stated that the budget amendment changes the net .00 and are reflected for the Carl Perkins, Rural and Sparse and Title X. She stated that the budget amendment also zeros out the Title III balance where the district received the audit FA399.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Program Cost Report for 2012 – 2013

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested that a workshop be scheduled to further discuss and review the program cost report for 2012 – 2013.

The Board scheduled a workshop on Monday, November 25th 2:00 p.m to further discuss and review the program cost report for 2012 – 2013.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7c. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

b. Purchase Orders from General Fund

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$19,884.93

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern about whether the money for the purchase orders from the general fund was part of the school's athletic allocation, Mrs. Wood responded, yes.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Federal Programs Purchase Orders

Fund Source: Title I
Amount: \$131,998.00

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern regarding whether or not vendors are impacting and benefitting the district in a meaningful way; and are an enhancement to the students, Mr. James responded, yes.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

h. Letter Purchase Orders for Services Pursuant to Agreement No. DESF 030928 – PAEC

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$133,717.36

Mr. Simmons stated that agenda item #8h was pulled in error.

Mr. Simmons 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 unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #22-1314-9106

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concerned that student #22-1314-9106 was not expelled for the 1st and 2nd semester because of the nature of the infraction. He stated that he would meet with Mrs. Smith to get more information.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on agenda item #9b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

a. Redevelopment of the Professional Development System 2013 – 2014 and Beyond

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested an overview of the redevelopment of the professional development system for 2013 – 2014 and beyond.

Dr. Hightower stated that the redevelopment of the professional development system for 2013 – 2013 and beyond was a new alignment in terms of professional development.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. 2013 – 2014 School Advisory Committee (SAC) Rosters

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Ms. Lewis stated that this was the first time that the School Improvement Plans and the School Advisory Committee (SAC) rosters were submitted to the Board at the same time. She stated that was history for the district. She thanked Ms. Taylor for her hard work in adhering to Florida Statute 1001.452. She requested a copy of the minutes from all the SAC meetings.

Mr. Helms thanked Ms. Taylor for getting the SAC rosters to the Board earlier for review.

Ms. Lewis requested that the principals receive SAC training.

Following discussion, Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. School Improvement Plans for Crossroad Academy, Carter Parramore Academy, Chattahoochee Elementary, East Gadsden High, Gadsden Elementary Magnet, George Munroe Elementary, Greensboro Elementary, Gretna Elementary, Havana Elementary, Havana Middle, James A. Shanks Middle, St. John Elementary, Stewart Street Elementary, and West Gadsden High

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms thanked Dr. Jackson for submitting the School Improvement Plans. He asked how the new curriculum and reading program was working compared to last year.

Dr. Jackson stated that adjustments are being made for more training. She stated that the reading data looks very good in the elementary schools.

Ms. Lewis stated that she was concerned about the information on parent services provided in the School Improvement Plans regarding the literacy, parent and community involvement. She stated that evaluations will be reviewed.

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. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Emmanuel Sapp addressed the Board regarding the change in graduation status from overcrowded conditions at East Gadsden High School. He stated that the following were reasons to change the graduation status from overcrowded conditions during the past years: a) lack of space and parking for the senior citizens; b) upgrade of the audio systems; c) educational strength to promote to the next grade and 1st thru 11th to graduate from high school and from a rural community; d) to promote educational goals and ensure curricular high standards are being met in Gadsden and private schools; e) to notify the tax preparer of the need to support the half cent tax; and; f) Title I funding support providing information on the performance of the Florida Student Evaluation and development of educational progress and broad policies enhancing, provide information from the State FL chapter 100.8 K-20 educational code to improve public schools to all students and to inform parents of the educational progress of their children during the past 12 years in the Gadsden County School System, and to enhance full time student learning gains, accountability and recognition. He pleaded with the Board to take a vote on the statement to change the status of overcrowding by moving East Gadsden High School graduation to the Al Lawson Center.

Mr. Milton stated that the plea from Mr. Sapp to the Board to change the status of overcrowding by moving East Gadsden High School graduation to the Al Lawson Center was clearly a day to day operation by the Superintendent. He asked the Board to share their thoughts with the Superintendent.

Mr. Frost stated that he had no comments regarding moving the high school graduation.

Mr. Helms stated that in his opinion change was not bad if done correctly. He stated that he was concerned about transportation and communication to the parents. He stated that the principal's involvement was very much needed. He stated that he would be willing to give it a try.

Mr. Simmons stated that he highly opposed to moving the high school graduation out of the district. He stated that he did not support or agree with the idea. He stated that he was concerned about a liability issue. He stated that he respects Mr. Sapp, but did not agree with the scenario. He stated that our students are not FAMU University students. He stated that students will be very proud to graduate from their own school. He stated that he wanted to make sure all students receive the same opportunity.

Ms. Lewis stated that she was concerned about there being a liability issue.

Mr. Frost stated that there will be an inconvenience for students in his district. He stated that he disagreed with moving the high school graduation out of the district.

Mr. Milton stated that he will support the Superintendent's recommendation regarding the graduation at East Gadsden High School.

Mr. James stated that he would review the Board's issues and concerns and get back with Mr. Sapp.

Ms. Lorraine Bridges and her son addressed the Board in regards to her disappointment of how her son was treated at East Gadsden High School. She stated that her son was taken out of Band II by counselors without her permission. She stated that her son was well qualified to take Band II. She stated that her son had gone through a lot in the district and to be ignored is unacceptable.

Mr. Milton requested the parent meet with the Superintendent, East Gadsden staff and himself to discuss the issue regarding her son.

Mr. Shepard requested the Board schedule a special meeting on Monday, (November 25th) at 2:00 p.m. to discuss and act on the final guaranteed maximum price for the Havana Middle School project.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Board members scheduled the December Board meeting on December 17th at 6:00 p.m. Board members were invited to the district's Christmas Luncheon on Friday December 20th at 12:00 noon, as well as the Thanksgiving Brunch on tomorrow (November 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Frost stated that he want people to recognize the district as an organization. He stated that he will ensure that individuals are well-qualified to work in the district. He expressed his sentiments regarding employees allowing their children to attend school in another district.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concerned about the Drop Back In Academy. He requested a meeting with the local director of the Drop Back In Academy. He stated that he was not pleased with the program. He stated that the district has some challenging years ahead. He requested the Board work with the Superintendent and Mr. Shepard to invest more time with the Havana Middle School project.

Ms. Lewis stated that she was glad to receive positive feedback from the parent expos regarding parent participation. She stated that she has served one year on the Board. She stated that the district has great teachers. She stated that she will fight for parent involvement and literacy. She stated that more communication was needed with the public. She stated that she was concerned about the Havana merger. She stated that she wanted to see a safe and quality school. She stated that she was proud of Gadsden County.

Mr. James recognized Ms. Lewis for her outstanding presentation at the PAEC Board of Director's meeting. He stated that Ms. Lewis was well known in the State of Florida.

Mr. Milton assured the Board that there will be no stones unturned if there was a change in graduation. He stated that the district has the talents to make it happen wherever the graduation is held. He stated that it would be a beautiful ceremony if the graduation took place at the Al Lawson Center.

13. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

The Board convened in executive session at 9:30 p.m.; and adjourned at 10:30 p.m.