

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

February 25, 2014

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Angela Grant Sapp recognized the following science fair winners: Nilah Dantzler, Montgomery Goodlet, Emmani Todd, Khalia Robinson, Aileen Deleon, Ashley Jenkins, Tyson Laws, and Amari Shellman. The students received a championship trophy and along with their parents were presented to the Superintendent and School Board.

Ms. Sherrie Taylor recognized Mr. William Rutherford of Clemons & Rutherford Associates, who made a donation of \$500.00 to each school, and a \$2,500 donation to the Gadsden Education Foundation and the Homeless Foundation. The Superintendent and Board members thanked Mr. Rutherford for his donations.

Ms. Lewis commended Ms. Sharon Thomas for her expertise in resolving a parent issue.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Milton entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Judge B. Helms, seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. January 28, 2014, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. January 28, 2014, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. February 4, 2014, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- d. February 4, 2014, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- e. February 18, 2014, 6:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Budget Amendment Number Seven

Fund Source: 434 (ARRA Race To The Top) Funds
Amount: \$12,839.02

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Budget Amendment Number Eight

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Fund
Amount: \$47,514.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Resolution Relating to Dissolution of Gadsden County School Board Leasing Corporation

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: Possible Minimal filing fees with the Division of Corporation, State of Florida and costs associated with work performed by District's General Counsel

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Proposed E-Rate Contract

Fund Source: Reimbursement to General Fund for E-Rate technology purchases previously made in accordance with the Technology Plans approved by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE)
Amount: Various depending on reimbursement request submitted by the consultant on behalf of the school district

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Modification to the 2014 Florida Statewide Spring Assessment Schedule

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #48-1314-0071

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Transfers – See back-up material

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended denial.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #49-1314-0071

The parent of student #49-1314-0071 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9b until a hearing was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #50-1314-0071

The parent of student #50-1314-0071 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9c until a hearing was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

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

In response to Ms. Lewis' concern about the district being within the staffing plan, Dr. Hightower stated that all the positions currently being filled are replacement positions, and the district is within its staffing plan.

Following discussion, Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

d. Approval of 2013 – 2015 GESPA Contract

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested an overview of the 2013 – 2015 GESPA Contract.

Mr. Rocky Pace stated that the following were a summary of changes to the 2013 – 2015 GESPA Contract: a) Cover Page – date changes to reflect 2013 – 2015; b) Article VI – Section A9 – Page 18 – revised language regarding the donation of sick leave to reflect statutory changes; c) Article XI – Page 38 – correcting language to reflect current insurance contributions by each party; d) Article XII – Page 39 – date change to reflect two year contract in the first sentence of the paragraph dealing with a working conditions committee as well as adding “each year” at the end of the last sentence in that paragraph; e) Amendment and Duration - Section C – Page 48 – date change to reflect 2015 contract expiration; f) Appendix A1 – Page 50 – date changes to reflect 2013 – 2015 contract; and g) Appendix A – date change to reflect 2013 – 2015 contract.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons 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.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

a. Florida School Boards Association Annual Dues 2014 - 2015

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$14,160.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that he was very optimistic about the student's performance with FCAT Writing. He stated that Ms. Smith and staff will share with the Board in a workshop setting the major changes coming to the school grading system. He shared with the Board an email from Dr. Murdaugh regarding the Gadsden Law Academy.

Mr. Milton requested that the workshop regarding the changes with the school grading system include high school grading in all areas.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Simmons requested an update on the ½ cent sales tax issue.

Ms. Shaia James stated that she met with Superintendent Pons regarding a ½ cent sales tax referendum. She stated that he shared with her insight on things to help the referendum pass. She stated that a marketing plan needed to be created to support all schools. She recommended creating a body built of community members to partner with the district.

Mr. James stated that a workshop will be scheduled to discuss the timelines for the ½ cent sales tax referendum. He stated that everything needed to be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections by August 1st.

Ms. Shaia James stated that the district was currently working on a marketing plan with high school seniors to create commercials.

Mr. Simmons stated that a professional marketing person with expertise was needed to promote the district. He stated that a consultant was needed to work with the district staff to create a successful marketing plan. He stated that team building exercises must convey the message everywhere. He stated that the Board must be unified.

Mr. James stated that teamwork from the Board was needed to convey the campaign for the ½ cent sales tax referendum.

Ms. Lewis stated that principals need a chance to speak with parents to recruit students. She read the district's Bylaws and Policies regarding parental involvement. She stated that the Superintendent will provide for a comprehensive plan to engage parents, families, and community members in a partnership that supports each student's academic achievement, the district's continuous improvement, and individual school improvement plans.

Mr. James requested Ms. Lewis be part of the parent committee.

In response to Ms. Lewis' request to provide a Survey Monkey to employees to give feedback on the district, Mr. James stated that he would work on a Survey Monkey and share with the Board.

Mr. Helms stated that he agree with the teamwork accountability on the ½ cent sales tax referendum. He emphasized that staff be more accurate with their wording on expulsion summary sheets.

Mr. Frost stated that he was concerned about the following issues: a) administrators abiding by policies and procedures; b) more friendly schools (Red Carpet Schools); c) use of facilities fees; d) employees allowing their children to attend school in another district; e) abiding by policies with school recognition monies; and f) wants Board to be a Master Board. He requested a copy of Security/Disaster Handbook.

Mr. Milton stated that everyone cannot be an air traffic controller, they aim for perfection. He stated that everyone has pledged to do a better job with teamwork. He reminded the Board that the day to day operation was the Superintendent's responsibility. He stated that school recognition monies were a decision by the SAC committees, except when deadlines are not met.

Mr. Bill Stinson stated that the SAC committees have never failed to come to an agreement past the deadline. He stated that the SAC committees have always come to an agreement with school recognition monies.

The Board scheduled a workshop on Tuesday, March 4th at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the Auditor General's Preliminary and Tentative Audit Findings.

13. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.