

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

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

July 13, 2010

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. Charlie D. Frost and Mr. Judge B. Helms. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Eric F. Hinson arrived at 6:30 p.m. during the discussion of the district's budget. Mr. Roger P. Milton was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 6:08 p.m.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Simmons 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.

2. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS

a. District Participation in the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. PAEC Professional Development Center (PAEC/PDC)

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$7,931.14

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Gateway Educational Computing Consultants Project Contract for 2010– 2011

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$21,131.86

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.

*2. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS

- d. Funds Transfer Agreement with Capital City Bank

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms made a motion to defer action on agenda item #2d in order for staff to have further time to review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Health Insurance Contracts for 2010 – 2011

Fund Source: All Funds with Payroll
Amount: 6.3% Increase in Board Costs

Mr. Helms requested an overview of the health insurance contract for 2010 – 2011.

Mrs. Wood stated that the insurance committee received and reviewed the renewals of the health insurance contracts for 2010 – 2011. She stated that the blended rates from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida and Capital Health Plan were analyzed. She stated that one component of the renewals consists of the \$125,000 credit on the premium increases from Florida Combined Life. She stated that the effect of the credit is reflected on the premiums.

Mr. James thanked the insurance committee for their hard work.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

3. DISTRICT'S BUDGET

Ms. Wood shared with the Board a brief power-point outlining the tentative budget for 2010 – 2011. She stated that the State revenue was \$32,784,382 – 75.0%, Local - \$10,721,720 – 24.9%, and Federal - \$240,000.00 - .1%. She stated that the FEFP was based on \$5,782.71 FTE, district cost differential .9353, and base student allocation of \$3,623.76. She stated that the changes in assessed valuations were actual 2007 – 08 - \$1,440,090,808; actual 2008 – 09 - \$1,513,186,452; actual 2009 – 10 - \$1,546,899,495; and budgeted 2010 – 11 - \$1,534,628,720. She stated that the stimulus dollars – part of general fund revenue for year 2009 – 10 was \$1,913,514, 2010 – 11 was \$1,763,063, with a decrease of \$150,478. She stated that the estimated fund balance as of June 30, 2010 was \$241,673.41 – Categorical, \$34,764.69 - FEFP Carve Outs, \$1,561,019.07 - Special Purpose, \$1,372,697.57 - Non-Restricted, \$3,210,154.84 – Total. She stated that the general fund budgeted expenditures for 2010 – 11 were based on continuation of educational programs from 2009 – 10, contains contracts including School Health Clinics, Resource Officers, and ESE Specialists, must bid security officers contract, 80% of general fund = salaries and benefits, budget for 702.3 employees in the general fund, no budget for step. She stated that the electricity costs for 2008 – 09 was \$1,802,956; 2009-10 was \$1,662,054, budget for 2010-11 was \$1,650,000, with a decrease of 7.2%. She stated that the communications costs for 2008-09 was \$265,974; 2009-10 was \$531,597, budgeted for 2010-11 \$500,000, with a decrease of 5.9%. She stated that the natural gas costs for 2008-09 were \$138,871; 2009-10 was \$150,815, budget for 2010-11 was \$150,000, with a decrease of .5%. She stated that the district faces the challenges of potential revenue reductions in 2010-11, class size compliance enforcement, and the need to prepare for 11.6% decrease in revenues for 2011-12 (-\$5,106,479). She also shared with the Board the revenue estimated worksheet for the district.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to start planning early for the next year. A committee will be formed to submit suggestions to the Superintendent and Board on ways to reduce the budget. Each Board member will have representation from their district on the committee.

4. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the State is faced with challenges on the FCAT scores. He stated that the 4th and 5th grade scores were abnormal. He stated that the district will join other districts in challenging the 5th grade test scores. He stated that the school grades have been delayed because of the test score challenges.

5. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that he was concerned about St. John's 5th grade test scores. He stated that he has a passion for this district and the students.

Mr. Simmons stated that there was nothing wrong with Board members disagreeing. He stated that there must be order when conducting meetings. He stated that the Board needed to abide by Robert's Rules of Order. He stated that he had received information from Mr. Curtis Montgomery regarding the student suspension of his grandson. He stated that Mr. Montgomery has requested a meeting to share his concerns with the Board.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to schedule a meeting on Thursday, July 22nd at 6:00 p.m. to afford Mr. Montgomery the opportunity to share his concerns with the Board.

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