

SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT

THE GOLF CLUB OF QUINCY
2291 SOLOMON DAIRY ROAD
QUINCY, FLORIDA

August 13, 2013

1:00 P.M.

The retreat 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 Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board, was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The retreat was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons 1:00 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION OF GOALS FOR THE DISTRICT

The chairman thanked everyone for attending the retreat. He stated that the retreat was scheduled for each Board member to share their goals for the district.

Mr. Milton thanked everyone for their cards, flowers and support on behalf of his family in the loss of his brother (Mr. Earl Milton).

Board members expressed their concerns in regards to setting goals for the district: District 1 - Ms. Lewis – funding; personnel; staffing; technology; audit findings (internal accounts); and facilities. She requested an organizational chart including the pay and responsibilities. She stated that she was pleased with the consolidation of Havana Elementary School and Havana Middle School.

Mrs. Minnis stated that the district should follow the “Redbook” with internal accounts.

Mr. Milton stated that it was imperative to have administration communicate with each other. He stated that the district’s image needed work.

District 2 – Mr. Helms – consolidation of schools (Havana Elementary School and Havana Middle School a step in the right direction); budget – larger reserve (reduce personnel); academic (reading priority); policies (district must follow written policies; communication skills; and the need for more positive articles in newspaper.

District 3 – Mr. Simmons – fully support educational programs with a fiscal responsible budget; eliminate all audit findings; continue to enhance parental involvement focusing on student discipline; classroom management and sensitivity training; accountability for everyone; adhere to state, federal, and local laws; reduce staff by 1% each year; meet monthly on collective bargaining issues and legal issues; only hire highly certified employees; employees must meet DOE guidelines and background checks; complete long range facilities plan including consolidation of schools; Board members chair a committee, i.e. transportation, facilities, food service, technology, etc.; and team work.

District 4 – Mr. Frost – Board members being apprised on personnel changes, transfers, appointments prior to coming to the Board; and consequences for not following Board policy – non-compliance.

District 5 – Mr. Milton – more student centered versus staff centered; site-based management; and district operate as a business.

Following discussion of each Board member’s concern, they prioritized the following areas of concern: 1) Personnel, 2) Communication, 3) Fiscal & Management Accountability, 4) Collective Efficacy; and 5) Facilities Plan (Short and Long Range).

Board members asked Mrs. Smith to put their concerns in writing to further discuss in a workshop setting.

3. Mr. Milton stated that students attend the Band Summer Camp to enhance music. He stated that one of the major initiatives was to purchase band uniforms for James A. Shanks Middle School. He stated that last year band students at Havana Middle School were assisted with windsuits.

Ms. Lewis requested that a parent liaison be identified at each school.

Mrs. Smith announced that the Back To School Rally was scheduled for Wednesday, August 14th at 9:00 a.m. She stated that the district is working with the Board’s focus to have all certified teachers. She stated that the district has received two charter school proposals (E. M. Watson School of Arts, and Galloway Academy Foreign Language Immersion Charter School).

4. The retreat adjourned at 3:45 p.m.