

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

March 1, 2022

5:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, and Mr. Charlie D. Frost. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, 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. Leroy McMillan, at 5:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. SELECTION OF ARCHITECT

a. Clemons, Rutherford & Associates (CRA)

b. Destin Architect Group (DAG)

Following the Board members and the Superintendent's comments and concerns regarding the selection of an architect for the new K-8 school. The Board members stated that they felt comfortable with either company as the architect. The Board members took individual votes. Mr. McMillan and Mr. Frost voted for Clemons, Rutherford & Associates; and Mr. Scott, Ms. Johnson and Mrs. Dudley voted for Destin's Architect Group (DAG).

The motion was made by Mr. Steve Scott for Destin's Architect Group (DAG) to be the architect for the new K-8 school. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried with Mr. Scott, Ms. Johnson and Mrs. Dudley voting "aye". Mr. McMillan and Mr. Frost voted "nay".

Ms. Johnson stated that she was concern about advertising for the selection of an architect, and the public not attending the meeting.

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding the advertisement for selection of an architect, Mr. Hunter stated that an RFQ was advertised in the newspapers, emailed to approximately 8 local businesses in the area. He stated that only two (CRA & DAG) responded with an interest.

Mrs. Dudley encouraged Board members to speak to the public about attending meetings. She stated that Board members should communicate with their constituents more often.

Mr. McMillan stated that he did not attend School Board meetings before running for office. He stated that he felt confident in his representative, Mr. Isaac Simmons, to make the right decision. He stated that people just don't attend Board meetings. He stated that the Board represents the public.

5. AGREEMENT/PROJECT APPLICATION

a. Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures (P & P)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #5a. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

6. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that the district's Strategic Plan expires in 2022. He stated that now is the time to begin discussions to revise the Strategic Plan. He stated that Ms. Johnson is the Board's representative for the Strategic Plan. He stated that the district will become more transparent when communicating with the public. He stated that new equipment is scheduled to arrive within a couple of weeks for the Board to move into the direction of live meetings. He stated that community members are aware and inform him of what need to be done at the schools. He stated that DAG will help the Board sell the new K-8 school idea to the community. He congratulated Ms. Valarie Jones, Principal at West Gadsden Middle School, for doing an outstanding job. He stated that the students are taking ownership of West Gadsden Middle School. He stated that she will be presenting at the Bureau of School Improvement Conference on March 24th.

7. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that Board members have to get in the community. He stated that he represents district four and communicates with his constituents.

Ms. Johnson recognized Ms. Sharon Thomas and Ms. Trueblood for doing an outstanding job with the Special Olympics event.

Mr. Scott stated that the district's website and homepage needed to be updated. He stated that keeping the website updated is a way of giving people more opportunities and to share their input.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she had a conversation with Commissioner Keith Dowdell regarding the pool across the street from Shanks Middle School. She stated that it is time for the district to move forward. She stated that the Black History Program at Carter Parramore Academy went very well. She stated that she attended Stewart Street Elementary School's Black History Program and was very good with the exception of the PA system. She stated that she like what she is seeing in the district. She thanked the Superintendent for what is doing for the district.

Mr. Key stated that the district's current website contract will be ending soon. He stated that the district will be revamping its website. He stated that all the schools need a new PA system.

8. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.