

## SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

May 23, 2023

4:30 P.M.

The workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, Vice Chair; Mr. Steve Scott; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; and Mr. Charlie D. Frost. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; and others. Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman, was absent.

1. Call To Order

The workshop was called to order by the Vice Chair, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, at 4:30 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mr. Mays stated that the Department of Education has given clearance that indirect costs have been approved for administrative use for grants to determine how much can be used. He stated that the district's indirect cost for fiscal year 2023 – 2024 has been reviewed and the restricted rate of 3.69% and unrestricted rate of 7.42% is approved with an effective date of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. He stated that an amendment to the original budget was coming in June to show the reduction due to the Family Empowerment Scholarships. He stated that there was an adjustment of a negative \$3,692,013 to the Family Empowerment Scholarships. He stated that instead of the State Net FEFP being \$26,280,385, it has to be adjusted to \$22,685,581. He stated that the district is closing out this fiscal year and will start to review encumbrances, balances, and federal dollars. He stated that the estimated fund balance was 3.8% but is expected to increase with review of funds. He stated that the June and July payrolls are large and coming forth.

3. Facilities Update

Mr. Johnny Riley stated that the district's five-year work plan need Board approval. He stated that he has a request for bid award for Stewart Street Elementary School HVAC that need Board approval. He stated that the plan for summer cleaning in the schools is to have all head custodians at their own schools and assign students that are employed by the county summer program to work close with them and clean the schools.

In response to Mrs. Dudley's concern regarding any specific summer tasks, Mr. Riley stated that the traditional cleaning will be done at the schools.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding the new AC unit at Stewart Street Elementary School, Mr. Riley stated that the bidding process has been completed and there is one contractor Kelly Sheet Metals, and he hopes the work will be completed this summer.

In response to Ms. Johnson's question regarding what would Stewart Street Elementary School be used for when the new school is built, Mr. Key stated that it will be refurbished

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding the AC repair at Gadsden County High School, Mr. Riley stated that Brooks Building Solutions repaired the unit.

Mr. Riley stated that the maintenance department is in the interview process for lawn service.

Mr. Scott inquired about whether the expenditures listed in the five-year work plan are ESSER funded. Mr. Key stated that all of the expenditures are funded out of 1.5 mil.

In response to Mr. Key asking Mr. Riley for feedback from current employees about working the summer, Mr. Riley stated that some of the 11 month employees may be willing to work the summer, but mostly the head custodians. He stated that some of the custodians stated that they did not want to work the summer because of the possibility of becoming 12-month employees, something they do not want.

Dr. Sylvia Jackson stated that it is a possibility that the work during the summer may have to be contracted.

Mr. Riley stated that he suggested to the head custodians to have all desks moved; clean the rooms, windows, walls, dusting, cleaning, and mopping/waxing/carpet cleaning.

Ms. Johnson stated that there are 2 classrooms at James A. Shanks Middle School that have a box sitting over something in the floor.

Mr. Key stated that the rooms were used as science rooms with labs. He stated that the box covers the plumbing in the room. He stated that the majority of the cleaning should be completed before the 11 month employees go home for the summer.

#### 4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

Mr. Key stated that he met with DAG concerning bids for a construction manager and he should have some information regarding the timeline in the next couple of weeks. He stated that he will get with the City of Quincy to discuss the pool property located next to James A. Shanks Middle School. He stated that a Special Board Meeting was needed to discuss the bidding process for a construction manager for the new school. He provided the Board with an activity schedule for the end of the school year for each of the schools.

#### 5. School Board Requests and Concerns

Mr. Frost stated that he supports all the students. He requested a donation from everyone to support the Boys Basketball Team in their tournament this week. He thanked Mrs. Dudley for attending the meeting.

Ms. Johnson stated that she attended an awards program at George W. Munroe Elementary School and was taken by students speaking two languages. She stated that the district has to use all of its resources for students. She stated that Spanish should be included in the curriculum and needs to be taught from PreK and up. She stated that the district wants to engage students to come back to the district by offering different things such as Spanish in the earlier grades.

Mrs. Dudley stated that it is a hard conversation but it is reality. She stated that Hispanic students work harder and have more parental involvement. She stated that putting Spanish in PreK could help bring students back to the district.

Mr. Key stated that Stewart Street Elementary School and James A. Shanks Middle School will be closed for the summer. He stated that all other school campuses will be open for the summer.

#### 6. The workshop adjourned at 5:26 p.m.