

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

May 27, 2025

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, Ms. Stacey S. Hannigon, Mr. Steve Scott, 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 6:03 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Pastor Manny Arisso of Victory For Youth, Share Your Heart Ministries.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. McMillan acknowledged Ms. Keishawn Tellus, founder of the Rutledge Corley (RC) Foundation. Ms. Tellus stated that The Rutledge Corley Foundation help students complete their own goals. She stated that her goal is to assist students with their academic and career goals. She stated that this came from her own personal experiences. She stated that sometimes our children lives are faced with conflicts that hold them back, and they need that extra layer of support to help them succeed. She presented student Shamar Dodd with the 2025 Rutledge Corley \$500.00 scholarship. She stated that Shamar plans to become a nurse and work at TMH. She stated that the program comes with career development, professional assistance, resume building and helping students with all the resources they will need. The Board members and the Superintendent congratulated Shamar Dodd on her accomplishment.

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Hannigon congratulated the PreK students that are moving to kindergarten, the 5th graders moving to middle school, the 8th graders that are moving to 9th grade, and the 2025 graduating class of Gadsden County High School.

Mr. Frost recognized Mr. Key and staff for their hard work with getting students ready for graduation. He stated that toward the end of graduation some students come short on the things they need to graduate. He stated that the Superintendent and his staff worked with the students to make sure they were ready for graduation.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

6. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. April 9, 2025, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. April 22, 2025, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Financial Workshop
- c. April 22, 2025, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- d. May 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – Master Board Training
- e. May 13, 2025, 1:30 p.m. – Special Board Meeting
- f. May 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – Master Board Training

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #6a – 6f. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

7. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

- a. Personnel 2024– 2025

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Personnel 2025 – 2026

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. 2025-26 FSBIT Renewal

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$1,489,397.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. GATE (Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education) Grant Purchase (Computers)

Fund Source: GATE Grant
Amount: \$23,963.20

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. CAP (Capitalization Improvement) Grant (Butcher Block Tables)

Fund Source: CAP Grant
Amount: \$18,431.58

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. CAP (Capitalization Improvement) Grant (19 Robotic Kits)

Fund Source: CAP Grant
Amount: \$16,126.98

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. CAP (Capitalization Improvement) Grant (Desktops and Laptops)

Fund Source: CAP Grant
Amount: \$60,922.25

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- g. Tallahassee State College & Gadsden County Schools Career Pathways Articulation Agreement 2024 – 2025 (This agreement date is always the year before the year the service is provided)

Fund Source: FEFP

Amount: Undetermined – Based Upon Student Enrollment.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- h. Florida State University Articulation Agreement

Fund Source: FEFP

Amount: Undetermined – Based Upon Student Enrollment

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- i. Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) MOU/Internship Agreement

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- j. Walden University MOU/Social Work Internship Agreement

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- k. Request Approval of Contracts

Fund Source: ERATE-USAC/District

Amount: \$392,660 ERATE Portion: \$301,342.50 District Portion: 91,317.50

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- l. Master Contract for District Participation in PAEC 2025 – 2026

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$132,547.48

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- m. English Language Learners (ELL) Plan 2025 – 2028 (English and Spanish)

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$100,000

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #131-2425-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #132-2425-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #133-2425-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #134-2425-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #135-2425-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Purchase Order Request for MLD Architects

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$16,642.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Purchase Order Request for Mark’s Lawn Maintenance, Inc.

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$45,500.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Purchase Order Request for Brightly Software, Inc.

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$17,699.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Purchase Order Request for Green Air Environmental

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$58,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL. AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

- a. Adoption/Approval of Board Policy Revisions

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

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.

*8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- f. Principals That Make the Grade

Fund Source: Title II, Part A

Amount: \$45,600

Mr. Scott wanted to know if the Principals That Make the Grade Program demonstrate a need for the district. Ms. Kameelah Weeks stated yes, the program aligns with the district’s strategic plan and is part of what is put in the strategic plan. She stated that this is a research-based program that provide leadership and development to the principals and assistant principals. She stated that a pilot program was done with the principals and they found it to be very beneficial. She stated that the program has mentoring as well as coaching skills. She stated that the program would allow the district to learn how to build a pipeline.

Mr. Scott stated that the program is not brand new because it was used as a pilot program in the past. Ms. Weeks stated yes, a very small pilot program was done within a two-to-three-month window before a large investment was made. She stated that the principals gave positive feedback. Ms. Hannigon stated that for the investment that the district is making in the employees, is there any expectations from the district regarding employee's service at the culmination of this program. Ms. Weeks stated no, but that it could be something that the Board might want to consider.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8f. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key honored the retirement of Mrs. Tammy McGriff for her service as Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services. He stated that she would be greatly missed. The Board congratulated Mrs. McGriff on her retirement. He stated that the district's monthly newsletters from support service and academic services have been shared with the Board.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Scott stated that he would like to see the district go back and revise the Code of Student Conduct. He stated that one thing that concerns him right now is assault on district employees. He stated that is something that seems to be a growing trend. He stated that teachers are being hurt in the process. Mr. Key stated that major changes are forthcoming to the Code of Student Conduct. Mrs. Johnson stated that she agrees with Mr. Scott. She stated that students wearing hoodies are her main concern. She stated that something must be done about the student's conduct and that they need to be held accountable for their actions.

Ms. Hannigon stated that she plans to bring forth an agenda item for the next month's meeting. She stated that the item is regarding a student lead organization from South Florida. She stated that they are going across the State, and has met with the State individuals to establish representation in each of the districts as close as our neighbors in Leon County. She stated that she had an uncomfortable experience this morning. She stated that as she was sitting in her car she heard a tap on her window. She stated that it was a current student of Gadsden County. She stated that he began to ask her if she had some work that he could do, she stated no, then he asked her for a dollar. She stated that she asked him if his parents knew he was out doing this. She stated that as they were talking, he gave her the name of his parents and his school. She stated that she got in touch with his principal and the county commissioners to see if they could help him. She stated that she asked the student to meet her at Popeyes to purchase him some food. She stated that when she arrived at Popeyes the student was nowhere to be found. She stated that she wanted to mention this publicly and to her peers. She stated that a local family donated the clinic at James A. Shanks Middle School. She wanted to know what the timeline was for demolition of the clinic building. She stated that she wanted the Board to have more discussion on the building before demolition took place. She stated that the family asked if the Board was willing to sell the building instead of demolition. Mr. Frost stated that he did not want to hold up the progress of the new K-8 school.

Attorney Minnis stated that donating a building will have to be for the purpose of the public. She stated that she would have to do a title search on the building. Mr. McMillan stated that if there were no documentation on the stipulation of the clinic building, the Board would move forward. Mr. Frost stated that the previous portables were bid. Mr. McMillan wanted to know if the Board could advertise to sell a building, and present the request to the Board for bidding. Mrs. Minnis stated that the Board could go that route. Ms. Hannigon asked Mr. Hudson what was the date for Allstate Construction to begin demolition and where is the staging area? Mr. Hudson stated that demolition was scheduled to begin soon (June 1st). He stated that the building needed to be gone immediately.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to proceed as scheduled with the demolition. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost. Ms. Hannigon stated that her vote would be reflected upon her legal concerns in regards to the Board not knowing the information that has been shared and has not been verified. Mr. Frost, Mr. Scott, Ms. Johnson and Mr. McMillan voted "aye". Ms. Hannigon voted "nay".

Ms. Hannigon stated that the Board should have an Owner's Representative representing the Board through the process of building the New K-8 School. She stated that Ms. Johnson mentioned the Board having an Owner's Representative in a previous meeting. She stated that there are things that she does not know and what questions to ask. She inquired about how much the Board would pay for the service and what can be accomplished with this process. Mr. McMillan stated that the person should have been on the ground in the beginning. He stated that the Board is too far long in the process at this point. He stated that Allstate was hired as the construction manager to oversee the project. He stated that going back would hold up the process for that individual to start from the beginning because that person will have to go through everything with a fine toothcomb. Ms. Johnson stated that the construction manager's job is to make money. She stated that the square footage was shrunk from the original plans. Mr. Scott stated that the Board took a vote not to have an Owner's Representative. He stated that the vote was 3 to 2.

Ms. Hannigon thanked the Board for the information. She stated that she was grateful to attend the graduation ceremonies at the different schools. She stated that she wanted to make sure the sound system was clear and good at the new school. She stated that she was bothered and dishearten that some of the students were not in uniform for graduation. She stated that she was concerned about the clothing for some of the students. She stated that she does not want the students to not have and not be a part of the graduation process. She stated that she would like to have a clothing drive for students to have what they need.

Mr. Frost stated that he appreciates Mrs. McGriff for all her hard work for the district. He stated that the public and charter schools are a competitive business for students. He stated that he would like to have the students back in the public schools.

Mr. McMillan stated that he needed to be relieved of being the Trustee for FSBIT due to health reasons. Mr. Scott made a motion to relieve Mr. McMillan as Trustee for FSBIT and to replace with Ms. Hannigon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

In response to Mr. McMillan's concern about the assignments for principals and assistant principals, Mr. Key stated that he was currently waiting on school grades.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.