

## SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

December 6, 2016

3:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; and Mr. Tyrone Smith. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 3:04 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION – RECONFIGURATION OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Milton shared with the Board a power-point presentation proposing school configurations for the 2017 – 2021 school years. He stated that the district is moving toward greater efficiency in school operations. He stated that reconfiguration of the schools would reduce the overall cost of operating schools for improving efficiency; discontinue the use of antiquated buildings; optimizing the potential for greater course and program offerings for students; increase and improve school access to technology through redistribution of resources; and increase the availability of funds for employee compensation. He stated that reconfiguration for the 2017 – 2018 year would include West Gadsden High School, East Gadsden High School, Greensboro Elementary School, Gretna Elementary School, St. John Elementary School, George W. Munroe Elementary School, and James A. Shanks Middle School. He stated that reconfiguration for 2018 – 2019 through 2020 – 2021 would include the following schools: Chattahoochee Elementary School, Carter Parramore Academy; Stewart Street Elementary School, and Gadsden Elementary Magnet School. He stated that the proposed action for the school reconfigurations includes the following: West Gadsden High School – Action from 2017 – 2018 - Move grades 9 through 12 from West Gadsden High School to East Gadsden High School – Results of Action – West Gadsden High School will become a middle school. Greensboro Elementary School – Action for 2017 – 2018 – Move grades 4 and 5 from Greensboro Elementary to West Gadsden Middle – Results of Action – Greensboro Elementary will become a primary school (PK-3) and West Gadsden will become a grades 4 through 8 middle school. Gretna Elementary – Action for 2017 – 2018 – Move grades 4 and 5 to West Gadsden

Middle and Grades PK through 3 to Greensboro Primary School – Results of Action – Suspend Operation of Gretna Elementary School. George W. Munroe Elementary – Action for 2017 – 2018 – Move grades 4 and 5 to Shanks Middle School – Results of Action – George Munroe will become a primary school and Shanks Middle will become a 4 through 8 middle school. St. John Elementary – Action for 2017 – 2018 – Move grades 4 and 5 from St. John Elementary to Shanks Middle School and grades PK through 3 to George Munroe Primary School – Results of Action – Suspend Operation of St. John Elementary School. Chattahoochee Elementary School – Action for 2018 - 2019 – Move grades 4 and 5 from Chattahoochee Elementary to West Gadsden Middle School and grades 1, 2, and 3 to Greensboro Primary School – Results of Action – Chattahoochee Elementary will become an Early Learning Center with grades PK and KG. Carter Parramore Academy – Action for 2018 – 2019 – Relocate to possibly suspended school site (Gretna Facility) – Results of Action – Raze CPA site in preparation for a new K-8 school. Stewart Street Elementary – Action for 2020 – 2021 – Relocate school to the new K-8 facility on the old CPA site – Results of Action – Repurpose the school for other district use. Gadsden Elementary Magnet School – Action for 2020 – 2021 – Move to new K-8 school at old CPA site – Results of Action – GEMS becomes SMS at the K-8 school. He stated that the utilities, maintenance, and miscellaneous projected savings for the school year 2017 – 2018 would be an estimated \$781,089.00 He stated that the overall projected savings for the school year 2017 – 2018 would be \$2,629,904.00. He stated that the areas of critical importance during the reconfiguration process would be some community resistance to change from the neighborhood school concept; relocation of staff, equipment, materials and supplies; staffing (administrative, instructional, and non-instructional); student transportation; and merging and unifying students, faculty and staff. He started that the alternative to the proposed actions to the school reconfiguration would be to do nothing and let the schools remain as they are currently configured.

He stated that he would love to have the support of everyone to provide a quality education for all students.

Following the presentation on reconfiguration of schools, Board members shared their concerns and sentiments.

Mr. Simmons thanked Mr. Milton for his presentation on reconfiguration of schools. He requested a hard copy of the presentation and schedule another workshop to further review and discuss the reconfiguration of schools.

The Board scheduled a workshop on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. to further discuss and review the issue of reconfiguration of schools.

Mr. Milton welcomed suggestions from Board members and anyone regarding reconfiguration of schools.

### 3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

#### 4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mrs. Lewis' request for an update on the parent involvement committee, Dr. Hightower stated that the committee is comprised of representatives from each school, and Mrs. Lewis as the Board's representative. He stated that the schools currently have PTO's and SAC committees. He stated that the district will move forward with the parent involvement committee.

Dr. Brown stated that the SIP plans were included in the SAC rosters.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she wished to have the SAC rosters separate. She requested the SAC rosters that have not been turned in be submitted to the Board for approval. She stated that she was concerned about the district's discipline plan not being followed. She stated that the two visiting teachers should be focused on student's attendance and discipline.

Mr. Frost stated that he was concerned about things being done the right way. He stated that he wants students to be benefitted academically. He stated that community support was needed with reconfiguring schools.

Mr. Smith stated that he was displeased about finding out information on Coach Fuller from the media first. He stated that he was concerned about the athletic future of East Gadsden High School.

Mr. Milton stated that there has been no official notification from Coach Fuller in regards to his resignation.

Mr. Simmons stated that action cannot be taken until there is official notification from Coach Fuller.

Mr. Bill Stinson addressed the Board to request being a part of the discussion regarding the reconfiguration of schools from the beginning to the end. He stated that he wants the school configuration information to be put on the website to get as many people involved.

Mr. Simmons stated that public input is always welcome.

Ms. Millie Forehand addressed the Board to request the school reconfiguration information be placed on the website.

Mr. Ronte' Harris addressed the Board to commend the Superintendent for taking a bold step to do something. He stated that the school reconfiguration information needs to be put out for the public.

Mr. Smith requested a Public Relations position to have the individual market the positive for the district and information regarding the reconfiguration of schools.

Mr. Simmons stated that he wants information on the reconfiguration of schools to be clear.

#### 5. The workshop adjourned at 3:50 p.m.