

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

September 28, 2010

6:00 P.M.

This meeting 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 Mr. Eric F. Hinson. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, 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. Isaac Simmons, at 6:05 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Judge B. Helms.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. James recognized Dr. Pink Hightower as the new Director of Human Resource and Staff Development.

Mr. Frost recognized Carter Parramore Academy, Principal Rosalyn Smith, and the students for their good behavior.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Simmons entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Judge B. Helms, seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. August 17, 2010, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. August 17, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. August 31, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting

- d. September 7, 2010, 5:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting
 - e. September 7, 2010, 6:00 p.m. - Final Budget Hearing
- ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Approval of bills and vouchers - See back-up material
- ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Crossroad Academy Financial Reports for August, 2010

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Finalized 2009 – 2010 Superintendent’s Annual Financial Report

Fund Source: All Funds
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. CONTRACT/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

- a. Contracted Services for Dual Enrollment Program

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$20,517.30

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Contracted Services

Fund Source: Federal Projects – Title I
Amount: \$36,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Contacted Services

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: Not to Exceed \$14,500.0

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Interlocal Agreement with Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners – Public Works Department

Fund Source: 2 mill
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Florida Virtual School Participation Agreement
Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: Undetermined – based upon enrollment
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Contract with Independent Contractor (Kurt LaRose)
Fund Source: IDEA
Amount: \$15,000.00 (est.)
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- g. Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures (SP&P)
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- h. Gadsden District K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan
Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: Undetermined – based upon enrollment
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.

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

a. Personnel 2010 – 2011

In response to Mr. Hinson's concerned about whether or not there was enough funding for the positions, Mr. James stated yes.

Mr. Hinson asked what was in place to ensure that out-of-field teachers are certified quickly.

Dr. Hightower stated that he has informed the principals that all certification requirements must be met by the end of the school year.

Mr. Hinson asked if the district was fully staffed in the K-12 schools.

Mr. James stated that extra teachers are needed in some places, and in some places there are fewer teachers.

In response to Mr. Helms' concern about whether or not the district would receive FTE funding for students who are being taught by Board approved out-of-field teachers, Mr. James stated yes.

Dr. Hightower stated that teachers can teach out-of-field for one year, but must have a temporary teaching certificate. He stated that all schools should have highly qualified teachers because they all are Title I schools. He stated that the district is working toward hiring all certified teachers.

Mr. Simmons stated for clarity that the two teachers presented for Board approval are certified, they are only requesting approval to teach out-of-field.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

CASE #03-1011-0071

Mr. Milton stated that he was concerned about the student's age being part of the recommendation. He stated that it was inappropriate to list the student's age in the recommendation. He requested to have the student's age removed as part of the recommendation for expulsion.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a recommendation to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on agenda item #9a with the change to remove the student's age as part of the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

CASE #04-1011-0071

Ms. Natasha Baker, aunt of student #04-1011-0071, addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Attorney Minnis stated that because there was no legal documentation for guardianship, the aunt could not request a hearing on the student's behalf.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9b in order to allow the aunt to present legal documentation for guardianship. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. MISCELLANEOUS

- i. Mr. Simmons added to the agenda item #8i – Hall vs. Gadsden County School Board.

Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #8i. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

10. CONSIDER, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

- a. Discussion and Request to Advertise the Board’s Intent to Amend School Board Rule Numbered 2.25 (Position Descriptions)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms stated that he wanted to have the deleted qualifications added back to the description and to include federal programs in language.

Mr. Milton questioned whether or not the position had the responsibility for Title I or federal programs.

Mr. James stated that although Title I was one of the main funding sources, the position would have the responsibility of federal programs.

Ms. Rose Raynak, Director of Title I, stated that the Department of Education contacted the district in reference to the position. She stated that DOE wants the Director of Federal Programs position aligned with Title I. She stated that the position oversees all federal programs, job duties include all federal programs, but the language would highlight Title I.

Mr. Hinson stated that he wants to ensure that the right person is in the position and certified.

Ms. Raynak stated that she has certification and qualifications for the position. She stated that the position description mirror the requirements of DOE.

Mr. Simmons stated that the intent of the Director of Federal Programs position is to focus on funding from Title I Programs. He stated that Title I is one of the largest Federal Programs. He stated that DOE is a catalyst to have a Director of Federal Program position in order for the district to come off reimbursement.

During the discussion, the Board shared their concerns regarding the Director of Federal Program position language not inclusive of “federal program.

Mr. Simmons instructed the Superintendent to meet with staff to work on language clarification for the Director of Federal Program position.

Mr. James stated that the Board needed to bring closure to the Director of Federal Program position in order to cease reimbursements by DOE. He stated that further discussion would only delay funding.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to defer action on agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that staff was working to ensure that all schools meet class size amendment.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Hinson stated that East Gadsden High School was concerned about books and teachers in the classroom. He stated that there needed to be some accountability for books.

Mr. Frost stated that he was concerned about the classes being overcrowded at Hope Academy.

Dr. Hightower stated that plans are underway to hire another staff person at Hope Academy. He stated that the student numbers are not that large. He stated that Hope Academy will be able to meet class size. He stated that a Reading teacher was needed. He stated that the student percentile was low in Reading.

Mr. Frost stated that he was concerned whether or not schools were fully staff, especially at East Gadsden High School.

Mr. James stated that East Gadsden High School is over staffed according to the master schedule. He stated that there are situations that need to be rectified.

Dr. Hightower stated that plans are to move toward a new model with regards to building the master schedule.

Mr. James stated that Mr. Hinson has a valid point about accountability for books. He stated that a better job is needed with accountability. He stated that the Board spends hundreds and thousands of dollars on books.

Dr. Jackson stated that she will work with principals on the textbook situation.

Mr. Hinson stated that professional development was needed for everyone in the district.

Dr. Hightower stated that the Department of Education – Third Cycle Protocol Site Visit was scheduled for October 18 – 21, 2010.

Mr. Milton thanked staff for their patience during the discussion of agenda item #10a. He stated that nothing was said personal.

Mr. Simmons appointed Mr. Helms to serve on the Value Adjustment Board, and Mr. Frost to serve as the alternate.

Mr. Hinson recommended Ms. Karen Wells of ING Company to serve as the business partner on the Value Adjustment Board.

Mr. Simmons stated that he will meet with Ms. Karen Wells in regards to serving as the business partner on the Value Adjustment Board.

Mr. Simmons appointed Mr. Milton to serve on the Planning & Zoning Committee, and Mr. Helms to serve as the alternate.

Mr. Simmons stated that the financial workshop was very informative. He stated that the Board needs to be more involved with pre-planning for next year.

Mr. James asked each Board member to appoint an individual to serve on the Finance Pre-planning Committee. He stated that the Finance Pre-planning Committee will be community-based.

The Board agreed to schedule a Special Board Meeting for Tuesday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m.

13. The Board recessed the regular meeting at 7:28 p.m.; convened in executive session at 7:40 p.m.; adjourned the executive session at 8:05 p.m.; reconvened the regular meeting at 8:07 p.m.; and adjourned at 8:10 p.m.