

## SCHOOL BOARD FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

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

May 28, 2024

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, Chairwoman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, 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 workshop was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, at 4:35 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mr. Mays shared with the Board financial updates. He stated that the general fund original budget was \$44,143,588.70, revised budget was \$42,533,394.33, year to date activity was \$34,610,911.37, encumbered \$3,993,783.21, unencumbered \$3,928,699.75, and 90.76% of the general fund budget expended. He stated that the 379 fund original budget was \$150,000.00, the revised budget was \$586,758.00, encumbered \$586,686.00, unencumbered \$72.00, and 99.99 % of the 379 fund expended. He stated that the insurance recovery funds original budget was \$50,000.00, the revised budget was \$2,144,123.28, year to date activity was \$769,308.36, unencumbered funds \$818,524.92, and 61.82% expended. He stated that the food service revised budget was \$4,597,068.00, year to date activity was \$4,069,674.45, encumbered \$539,102.99, unencumbered \$-11,709.44, and 100.25% of the food service fund expended. He stated that 53.56% of the federal funds have been expended. He stated that 88.27% of the ESSER Cares funds have been expended. He stated that 60.92% of the CRRSA ESSER II funds have been expended. He stated that 43.14% of the ARP ACT ESSER III funds have been expended. He also shared with the Board the bank balances as of May 28th.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding the finance department and Mr. May's position, Mr. Key stated that Mr. May's position has been advertised online. He stated that the position has not been finalized. Ms. Johnson requested that the Board be informed of what is going on in the district. Mr. Frost stated that the Board is responsible for the finances of the district. Mr. Key stated that the Board was notified of what was going on in the finance department. He stated that plans for the finance department could be discussed in a different setting. Mr. Frost requested that the Chairwoman meet with the Superintendent to discuss plans for the finance department and report to the Board members.

3. Facilities Update

Mr. Hudson stated that Board approval was needed for the district's five year facilities work plan. Mr. Scott stated that he was concerned about Gadsden Elementary Magnet School being on the five-year facilities work plan. Mr. Hudson stated that he will contact the preparer (Clemons, Rutherford & Associates) of the facilities work plan to make the change. Mr. Scott stated that he was concerned about changes to building 400 at Gadsden County High School. Mr. Key stated that the previous

director of facilities composed the five-year work plan. Mr. Key stated that the plan was to remove the students at Carter Parramore Academy and create an ESE Center at Gadsden County High School. Mr. Hudson stated that Lakeshore Furniture would deliver and install new furniture for West Gadsden Middle School on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>; Chattahoochee Elementary School – Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>; Havana Magnet School – Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>; Greensboro Elementary School – Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>; and Gadsden County High School – Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated that there will be collaboration between DAG and Lakeshore Furniture for the new K-8 School furniture. He stated that he hoped to purchase the new furniture before September 20<sup>th</sup> and contract with Lakeshore to store until ready to install. He stated that there will be removal of the old playground equipment. He stated that a schedule would be created to install the new playground equipment. He stated that Southland began demolition of the old heating and air conditioning units at Stewart Street Elementary School. He stated that site staging has begun with the new heating and air conditioning equipment.

4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

None.

5. School Board Requests and Concerns

Ms. Johnson requested the Board schedule a meeting to discuss the district finances. Mr. Key stated that he met with the Department of Education in February regarding the district's finances. He stated that after the meeting with the Department of Education he began looking at what steps needed to be put in place to move the district forward. He stated that he would be glad to meet with Board members individually to further discuss the district's plan for finances.

Mr. McMillan stated that he had received an email from Mrs. Minnis regarding a DOE investigative report. Mrs. Minnis stated that a response will be made by June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Dudley asked Mrs. Minnis if there was any violation for Board members not getting answers from the Superintendent. She stated that she was nervous about not knowing what is happening in the district. She stated that she wants the Board to be transparent. Mrs. Minnis stated that the Superintendent is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the district. She stated that the Superintendent and his staff builds the budget for each year which begins in July and the final budget hearing is held in September. She stated that there is no statute or law, but a matter of cooperation and communication. Mr. Key stated that in preparation Ms. Deborah Young and Mr. Jalen Jackson have been going through all of the director of finance trainings.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:35 p.m.