

## REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

March 22, 2022

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; 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 6:02 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Reverend Vivian Grant, Pastor of Rich Bay A.M.E. Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Johnson recognized members of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Havana. She thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Key stated that he appreciated the members of the Gadsden County Retired Teachers Association. He thanked them for helping students and teachers. He recognized Ms. Valarie Jones, Principal of West Gadsden Middle School, for her hard work. He stated that Ms. Jones was presenting to the State at a conference in St. Petersburg. He stated that great things are going on in the district. He stated that the district must recruit and find minds that are willing to work to repair the wall of education. He stated that there are two individuals left to be considered for the head football coaching position at the high school. He stated that the announcement for the new head football coach at the high school will be made tomorrow (Wednesday, March 23rd).

Ms. Audrey Lewis with the Gadsden County Retired Teachers Association introduced Mr. Sam Love, President and members Ms. Maggie Brown, Ms. Gracie Powell Jones, and Ms. Diane White. The members of the GCRTA recognized the following 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in the essay writing. Markayla Wiggins – Chattahoochee Elementary School (teacher, Ms. Wiggins); Del'riyah Dixon – Crossroad Academy (teacher, Ms. Brown); Destiny Sailor – Crossroad Academy (teacher, Ms. Brown); Allison Rodriguez – Gadsden Elementary Magnet School (teacher, Ms. Dilworth-Porter); Shaniyah Strong – Havana Magnet School (teacher, Ms. Pringle); Jaylen Walden – Havana Magnet School (teacher, Ms. Pringle);

Ja'Zariah Milton – Stewart Street Elementary School (teacher, Ms. Martha Ross); Diamond Goldwire – Stewart Street Elementary School (teacher, Ms. Martha Ross); Isaac Yzaguirre – West Gadsden Middle School (teacher, Ms. Allen); and Piper Rasmussen – West Gadsden Middle School (teacher, Ms. Allen). Each of the students received \$20.00 and their teacher received a \$25.00 gift card for their classroom. The district student winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Bethany Monroy – Gadsden Elementary Magnet School (teacher, Ms. Dilworth-Porter); 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Jordan Davis – Crossroad Academy (teacher, Ms. Brown); 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Ti'Shayla Wilson – James A. Shanks Middle School (teacher, Ms. Krystal Miles); 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Raymaya Richardson – Chattahoochee Elementary School (teacher Ms. Wiggins); and Honorable Mention – Kaytlin Moore – Gadsden Elementary Magnet School (teacher, Ms. Dilworth-Porter). 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner received \$70.00 and the teacher received a \$75.00 gift card; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner received \$60.00 and the teacher received a \$60.00 gift card; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner received \$50.00 and the teacher received a \$50.00 gift card; 4<sup>th</sup> Place Winner received \$40.00 and the teacher received a \$40.00 gift card; and the honorable mention winner received \$30.00 and the teacher received a \$30.00 gift card. (teacher gift cards were for classroom supplies/needs)

Mr. McMillan recognized Dr. Kimblin NeSmith (Board of County Commissioner) and thanked him for attending the meeting.

### ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Key removed from the agenda item #6b – 2022-2023 School Year Calendars.

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

#### 5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. February 14, 2022, 5:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. February 21, 2022, 5:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. February 22, 2022, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- d. February 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- e. March 1, 2022, 2:00 p.m. – Employee Hearing
- f. March 1, 2022, 5:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2021 – 2022

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. 2022 – 2023 School Year Calendars

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Removed from the Agenda.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. 2022 – 2023 Articulation Agreement School Board of Gadsden County, FL and Florida State University

Fund Source: FEFP  
Amount: Standard State University Tuition Rate Per Credit Hour

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Approval of the 2019 – 2023 GESPA Mid-Year Contract

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. English Language Learners (ELL) Plan 2022 -2025

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- b. Request to Approve the Annual Certification of Facilities Data

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Request to Award RFP 2022-0001 Gym Floor Refinishing Project and Request for Purchase Order

Fund Source: ESSER 2  
Amount: \$37,750.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Request to Award RFQ 2021 – 0008 Architectural Services for New K-8 School and Request for Purchase Order

Fund Source: Insurance  
Amount: \$519,316.00

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. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Discretionary One-half Cent Capital Outlay Surtax Ballot Resolution

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

Ms. Johnson requested an explanation of the Discretionary One-half Cent Capital Outlay Surtax Ballot Resolution. She stated that a workshop was needed for further discussion.

Mr. Key stated that the one-half cent sales tax would be used for school funding, renovations, the new school and to address safety issues for the athletic fields.

Mr. Scott stated that he is against taxes generally and his objection to this is the proposed length of time, but he realizes the district need money to maintain buildings and there is a great need. He stated that he read the state legislature's budget summary and funding allocated for facility maintenance for K-12 schools caught his attention. He stated that in the capital outlay plan for state funding, charter schools would get the largest portion of funding at \$195.8 million, with public schools being allocated \$11.4 million for repairs and maintenance, and the development research schools would get the smallest portion at \$8.1 million. He stated that it is important for the citizens to know the half-cent sales tax will target exactly what Gadsden schools need. He stated that the revenue will not go to salaries or anything else.

Mr. Frost stated that he want to make sure the district research to make sure the resolution will pass and make plans for the public to buy-in to the one-half cent sales tax.

Ms. Johnson stated that a workshop was needed to invite others to discuss. She stated that stakeholders needed to be involved.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she cannot see Gadsden County not wanting the one-half cent sales tax. She stated that she is in favor of the proposal but wants to make sure the public is aware of it.

Mrs. Minnis stated that the referendum needs to be to the Supervisor of Elections Office by June in order to be on the November ballot.

Mr. McMillan stated that he was in favor of the one-half cent sales tax.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the discretionary one-half cent capital outlay surtax ballot resolution. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried with Mr. Frost, Mr. Scott, Mr. McMillan and Mrs. Dudley voting "aye". Ms. Cathy S. Johnson voted "nay".

**ACTION REQUESTED:** The Superintendent recommended approval.

## 9. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that the Board now has the ability to try to take action to upkeep the schools with this referendum, but the voters have to decide. He stated that this gives the Board an opportunity to repair and renovate the schools. He stated that the Board now has permission to speak to community leaders to talk about the one-half cent sales tax. He stated that he appreciates the Board's support.

## 10. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost and Ms. Johnson thanked and appreciated the retired teachers for what they are doing and their service to the district.

Mr. Scott stated that he was concerned about the non-classified employees who are not covered by either contract. He stated that he wants to provide the same benefits to non-classified employees as the Gadsden Educational Staff Professional Association (GESPA) just received.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she was concerned about the district moving away from FSA and moving to Progress Monitoring. She stated that she was concerned because testing, and how to make sure there is communication with the parents and students. She stated that she was also concerned about the curriculum and teacher certification. She stated that she is hopeful that teachers will return to the district. She stated that some teachers are working very hard to become certified. She stated that teachers need to set their goal to become certified.

Ms. Ella Mae Daniels stated that she is working with teachers and principals. She stated that there are approximately 37 teachers that are not certified. She stated that teachers have different variations for not being certified.

Following the discussion of whether schools would be open tomorrow (Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>) due to inclement weather, the Superintendent and Board members agreed to close schools for that day.

Mr. McMillan stated that the Board needed to have a discussion regarding corporal punishment in the schools. He stated that some of the school guardians dress inappropriately at the schools, are sitting in offices doing nothing and on their cell phones. He stated that the guardians need to build relationships with the students, and provide guidance to them when needed.

Mr. Key stated that guardians must be mobile and monitor the school campus. He stated that it is all about building relationships with students. He stated that the right people need to be in place to work. He stated that procedures need to be written for corporal punishment.

Mr. McMillan stated that meetings regarding the design of the new school needed to begin with the planning committee and the architect.

11. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.