

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MAX D. WALKER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
35 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.
QUINCY, FLORIDA 32351

September 8, 2009

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Judge B. Helms, Chairman; Mr. Isaac Simmons; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Roger P. Milton; and Mr. Eric F. Hinson by telephone conference. 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. Judge B. Helms, at 6:00 p.m.

2. 2008–2009 SUPERINTENDENT’S ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board highlights of the 2008-2009 Superintendent’s Annual Financial Report. She congratulated the Food Service Management Team for their dedicated work. She stated that the food service department has received zero audit findings. She introduced the following team members and presented them with a book entitled “The Omnivore’s Dilemma” and a tote bag: Mrs. Paula Milton; Mr. Dusty House; Mr. Bruce James; Mr. Dennis Wester; and Mrs. Melanie Davis. She stated that the team was data driven and reduced food service expenditures.

Mr. Frost thanked Mrs. Wood and the Food Service Management Team.

Mrs. Wood stated that the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requires all governments, including special purpose governments such as school districts, to implement a financial reporting model comprised of Management’s Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), basic financial statements, notes to the financial statements, and other required supplementary information. She stated that the report complies with the format for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report presented in the Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards published by the GASB. She stated that the total actual revenue equal \$63,123,389.66, and the total actual expenditures equal \$61,322,079.12. She stated that because Form ESE 145 was not completed, Board approval is only requested for Form ESE 348 at this time. She stated that completion of Form ESE 145 is expected to be completed next week.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to approve agenda item #2 Form ESE 348, and agenda Form ESE 145 at the next Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

3. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

a. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Eight (2008-2009)

Fund Source: 110 (General) Fund
Amount: \$0.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Budget Amendment Number Thirty-One (2008-2009)

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Fund
Amount: \$ 0.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Budget Amendment Number Thirty-Two (2008 – 2009)

Fund Source: 210 (S.B.E. Bond) Fund
Amount: \$245,791.49

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Budget Amendment Number Thirty-Three (2008 – 2009)

Fund Source: 300 (Capital Improvement) Funds
Amount: \$112.66

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Budget Amendment Number Thirty-Four (2008 – 2009)

Fund Source: 432 (Targeted ARRA Stimulus) Fund)

Amount: \$0.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Sale and Lease of School Property and Building at Old Greensboro Elementary Location

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: As Per Agreement

Mr. Helms pulled item #4a from the agenda.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Lease Agreement with Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc. for the Property Located on Land Mine Road in Midway

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: As Per Agreement

Rev. Douglas Harris, President of Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc., addressed the Board to request approval of a lease agreement for the property located on Land Mine Road in Midway. He stated that the primary goal is to partner the school district, churches, and other resource agencies to support and guide the overall development of students and parents in transitioning back into the educational system and community. He stated that a community FCAT tutorial program will be established with continuous monitoring.

Mr. James stated that he supports leasing the property because a monetary award was offered.

Mr. Milton stated that the Board needed to be conscious of the number of years for leasing because the Board may want to sell the property, but will have wait until the lease is complete.

Mr. Simmons stated that the length of the lease requested by Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc. was too long. He stated that he was concerned with the request of 25 acres to be used for one portable. He stated that 25 acres can be used for multiple educational purposes.

Following discussion, Mr. Milton made a motion to approve authority for the Superintendent and Attorney to work with Rev. Harris to draft a contract with Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc. to be submitted to the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

5. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that there are challenges everywhere with the H1N1 Flu Virus. He stated that he is scheduled to meet with all of the custodial staff to inform them of their extra duties for cleaning and sanitizing all schools.

6. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Hinson stated that he has a concern with an issue at Havana Elementary School that he would address with the Superintendent tomorrow.

Mr. Simmons stated that at the next Board meeting he would present a standardized communication form for Board members to submit their concerns to the Superintendent. He stated that he wants to increase communication between the Board and Superintendent.

Mr. Helms asked Mr. Simmons to present the standardized communication form to Board members at the upcoming retreat on September 19th.

Jerome Maples, Student School Board Representative, and Amber McCullough, Student Government Association President at West Gadsden High School, addressed the Board to present a proposal to form a student council. Jerome stated that the proposal has been put together so that schools all around Gadsden County will have the chance to learn leadership skills along with getting their issues brought forward on a higher level than just their school. He stated that a student council is a curricular or extra-curricular activity for students within grade schools around the world. He stated that it often serves to engage students in learning about democracy and leadership. He stated that student councils are present in most public and private K-12 school systems across the United States and Canada. He stated that these bodies are alternatively entitled student council, student government and associated student body. He stated that student councils also help share students ideas, interest, and concerns with teachers, school principals and most important on a higher level with the School Board Representative. He stated that the student council continuously help raise funds for a school wide activity, including social events, community and mostly school reform. He stated that the student council operates in many ways. He stated that there are representatives based on models after the United States Congress, or based on the Executive Branch of the United States, with a president, vice president, etc. He stated that an example of structure of an elementary student council may include a president, vice president, parliamentarian, treasurer, and a secretary. He stated that these roles may be assigned or voted on either within or outside the student council. He stated that the following are

benefits to the students: students will have something that can build structure, leadership, and motivation to become more successful in school; raise grades along with GPA; future understanding of how the government works and how to reach a goal; gives students a voice; builds students for the teamwork they will need in the future; and give students the opportunity to experience new things, and leave their area of comfort, they might find that they can do a lot more than expected. He stated that in conclusion, this proposal should not only be approved but also endorsed. He stated that the Student Code of Conduct states that the students have a right to form and operate a student government at their respective schools under the direction of a faculty advisor, and to have access to policies of the School Board and the individual school.

Mr. Milton suggested that Jerome start getting the middle schools more involved in forming a student council. He also suggested having local conferences to share ideas and experiences and open communication between each school student council. He agreed to work with Jerome in getting the schools to become more active in school councils.

Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the proposal concept to form a student council in each of the schools. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Helms announced the following upcoming meetings: 1) September 15th, 6:00 p.m. – Final Budget Hearing; 2) September 19th, 8:00 a.m. – Board Retreat; 3) September 22nd, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop, and 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting.

Rev. Douglas Harris invited Board members to the Community Conversation (Closing the Achievement Gap) on Thursday, September 10th, 6:00 p.m. at James A. Shanks Middle School. He stated that dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Quintella Cato, City of Midway Mayor Pro-Tem, addressed the Board to request a workshop to discuss the City of Midway Charter School Application.

Following discussion, the Board instructed the Charter School Review Committee to meet with Ms. Quintella Cato and review the charter application before submitting a recommendation to the Superintendent and Board, agenda for the regular Board meeting on September 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

7. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.