

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

July 11, 2017

5:00 P.M.

This meeting 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; Mr. Tyrone D. Smith; and Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis via teleconference. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; and 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 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Milton requested the Board add the following items to the agenda: 1) 3b – Prime South Properties – International Innovation Center of Excellence Bhasasket Corp.; and 2) 3c – Truth In Millage (TRIM) Timetable (Revision). He requested the items be addressed in the following order:

3. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT

- a. Contract Between True Wisdom New Hope Ministries International and Gadsden County School Board (Havana Elementary School Property)

Mr. Milton removed item #3a from the agenda.

- b. Prime South Properties – International Innovation Center of Excellence Bhasasket Corp.

Mr. Milton stated that Prime South Properties – International Innovation Center of Excellence Bhasasket Corp. has a cash offer and verification letter of funds. He stated that Prime South Properties training programs will not interfere with training programs at Gadsden Technical Institute.

Mr. Frost expressed his concerns with not having enough time to review the contract information for Prime South Properties before the meeting.

Mrs. Minnis shared with the Board an overview of the contract with Prime South Properties. She stated that the contract was a standard purchase agreement. She stated that the purchased price was for \$525,000.

Mr. Simmons stated that it would be in the best interest of the district to move forward to sell the Havana Elementary School property.

Following discussion, Mr. Tyrone D. Smith made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #3b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried with Mr. Smith, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Scott, and Mrs. Lewis voting "aye". Mr. Frost voted "nay".

c. Truth In Millage (TRIM) Timetable (Revision)

Mr. Milton requested that the permission to advertise the TRIM date be changed to Monday, July 17th at 10:00 a.m.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #3c with the requested change date to July 17th at 10:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. School Zones

Mr. Andy Gay, Transportation Director, shared with the Board information on school zones. He stated that the proposed rezoning aligns with the School Board's action on reconfiguration of schools for the 2017 – 2018 school year. He stated that all elementary zoning will be as follows: The previous Gretna Elementary zone will now become part of the Greensboro Elementary and the proposed West Gadsden Middle School zone. The previous St. John Elementary zone will become part of the George Munroe Elementary zone and the proposed James A. Shanks Middle zone. He stated that the middle school zone that will differentiate James A. Shanks Middle and West Gadsden Middle will be County Road 370-A or Glory Road. He stated that all students on Glory Road north to the George State Line and East to the Havana Magnet zone will attend James A, Shanks Middle School. He stated that South zoning will not change.

b. Havana Northside High School Property

Mr. Milton stated that he previously met with Mr. Wilbert Butler. He stated that he informed Mr. Butler of the Board's request to proceed with the foreclosure letter on the Havana Northside Property.

Mr. Butler addressed the Board to express the concerns of the Havana Community Development Corporation (HCDC). He stated that HCDC has worked very hard to bring the Havana Northside building up to code for operation. He shared with the Board the following information: Memorandum of Understanding; Budget List; List of Accomplishments by HCDC; and Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Harold Knowles addressed the Board to share and update on the funds raised to bring the Havana Northside building up to operation. He stated that HCDC had just recently received a \$50,000 grant from FAMU School of Business and Industry. He stated that the \$200,000 mortgage was unbearable for the HCDC at this time. He pleaded for the Board's assistance in restructuring the mortgage for lower payments.

The following members of the audience participated in the discussion of the Havana Northside High School Property: They each expressed concerns of support for the Havana Northside High School Property. 1) Ms. Amy McBride; 2) Mr. Michael Simmons; 3) Ms. Alene Jackson; and 4) Mr. Fert Richardson.

During the discussion, Board members expressed their frustration with HCDC in their efforts to not make any payments toward their mortgage. The Board requested the Superintendent proceed with a letter to HCDC to collect \$66,722.00 within 90 days, and reconstruct the mortgage agreement.

4. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that the district received a request from Jefferson County School District to service their school buses. He stated that the district's transportation mechanics will service the buses for Jefferson County during non-work hours. He stated that Jefferson County will pay all costs to service their buses.

5. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Scott stated that the district should have chosen a site for the new elementary school. He stated that the deadline of August is approaching quickly. He stated that it is the public's perception that the district staff is inflated. He stated that the district has reduced the number of schools, but added district level positions. He stated that he was concerned about the district staff increasing. He stated that he would rather see teaching positions added.

Mr. Milton stated that a positive change will come to the schools. He stated that the district has more titles. He stated that he has carefully looked at the position and dollars. He stated that the district is required to have reading, math and science specialists because of the low performing schools. He stated that he will continue to reduce the number of employees.

Mr. Scott recognized the Board members. He shared compliments to the Board referencing their character.

Mrs. Lewis stated that prayerfully she will again be able to attend Board meetings starting the 4th Tuesday of this month. She encouraged the Board to continue to work from good to great.

Mr. Simmons stated that the district will continue to move forward. He stated that challenges are ahead for the district, but the Board will work together to overcome the challenges.

In response to Ms. Forehand's concern about the correction of the letter grade "I" for one of the schools, Mr. Milton stated that communication has been sent to the Department of Education. He stated that the district is waiting to hear from the Department of Education upon the completion of an investigation.

6. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

The Board convened in executive session to discuss collective bargaining issues at 7:17 p.m.; and adjourned at 8:17 p.m.