

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

December 12, 2017

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Steve Scott, Chairman; Mr. Tyrone D. Smith; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Elder Derrick Jackson, Pastor Mt. Carmel Primitive Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Lewis recognized Ms. Pamela Bryant, Teacher of the Year, and Havana Magnet School as one of the National Title I Distinguished Schools. She stated that she was very proud of Principal Delshuana Jackson and staff at Havana Magnet School.

Dr. Hightower recognized seven teachers who qualified as recipients of the Best & Brightest Scholarships. He stated that four of the teachers were from Havana Magnet School.

Mr. Smith recognized the district's budget team, Mrs. Bonnie Wood, Mr. LaClarence Mays, and Mr. Thomas Kauffman.

Mr. Scott recognized the individuals who attended the discipline meetings. He stated that focus should be geared toward accountability. He also recognized Mrs. Wood, Mr. Kauffman along with the Finance department. He recognized Ms. Raynak for her hard work and dedication to the district.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Scott added items #7c – Purchase of Havana Northside High School, and #7d – Sale of Gretna Elementary School and St. John Elementary School. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Isaac Simmons, seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. November 13, 2017, 5:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- b. November 21, 2017, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. November 21, 2017, 5:30 p.m. – Organization Meeting
- d. November 21, 2017, 6:00 p.m. – Regular 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 2017 – 2018

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. A. Jordan, as natural guardian of J.J. v. Gadsden County School Board

Fund Source: General
Amount: \$18,250.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Letter Purchase Order for Services Pursuant to Agreement No. DESF-030928-PAEC

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Purchase of Havana Northside High School

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #50-1718-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
CASE #52-1718-0051
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Student Alternative Placement – See back-up material
CASE #53-1718-0051
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
CASE #55-1718-9102
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
CASE # 66-1718-9102
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
CASE #68-1718-9102
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
CASE #69-1718-9102
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- b. Roof Repair (Building 3-A) James A. Shanks Middle School
Fund Source: 110
Amount: \$29,443.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Annual Fire & Safety Inspections
Fund Source: 110
Amount: \$9,889.83
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Five Year Work Plan – Department of Education
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. School Field Trip Request (Out-of-State) – Gadsden Technical Institute

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. School Field Trip Request (Out-of-State) – Gadsden County High School

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items preceded by an (*) asterisk were removed from the CONSENT agenda and acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

*7. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS

- d. Sale of Gretna Elementary School and St. John Elementary School

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Frost expressed his concerns regarding the sale of Gretna Elementary School and St. John Elementary School. He questioned whether the determined price was the appraisal price of \$700,000 for both properties. He asked if the \$700,000 was a fair market price for both the Gretna Elementary School and St. John Elementary School property. He asked if any offers were received from individuals regarding the purchase of both properties.

Mr. Hunter stated that the square footage cost for Havana Elementary School appraisal price was applied to both Gretna Elementary School and St. John Elementary School properties. He stated that the fair market value and appraisal price was the same for Havana Elementary School.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to approve agenda item #7d. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis and carried with Mr. Scott, Mr. Smith, Mr. Simmons, and Mrs. Lewis voting “aye”. Mr. Frost voted “nay”.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. STUDENT MATTERS

- g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #69-1718-9102

The parent of student #69-1718-9102 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to defer action on agenda item #8g until a hearing could be held on Tuesday, December 19th at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

a. Lawn Care Equipment Quotes – District Employment

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

In response to Mr. Simmons’ request for a general overview of the quotes for the lawn care equipment, Mr. Hunter stated that this was a request for the Board’s authorization to proceed with quotes necessary to purchase equipment to move forward with providing lawn care services to the district through employment. He stated that the Board will receive continuing updates on district employment for lawn care.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made motion to approve agenda item #9a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Jerry Range with the Golden Knights Motorcycle Club addressed the Board to form a partnership with the willingness to work with students.

Mr. Milton welcomed Mr. Range and other members of the Golden Knights Motorcycle Club.

Mr. Smith stated that he appreciated members of the Golden Knights Motorcycle Club. He stated that they recently celebrated their anniversary with the theme “Not the Violence”.

Mrs. Lewis thanked the members of the Golden Knights Motorcycle Club.

11. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter stated that measures are in place to take care of minor problems at the schools. He stated that roof repairs are taking place on building 3-A at James A. Shanks Middle School.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that he will ensure that staff are in place to deal with heat issues. He shared the following reminders with the Board: a) Early release for students beginning tomorrow (Wednesday, December 13th) through Friday (December 15th); b) Gadsden Elementary Magnet School Recognition – School of Excellence – Wednesday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m.; c) Tuesday, December 19th 10:00 am to 2:00 pm - Havana Magnet School National Title I Distinguished School Celebration; d) January 2nd – Staff and students return from winter break; and e) Friday, December 19th @ 12 noon – Christmas Luncheon.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost expressed his sentiments regarding schools being closed in communities. He wanted to know what the urgency was in closing schools. He stated that he is looking for great things to happen as a result of closing schools.

Mr. Simmons stated that he respects everybody’s opinion. He stated that he has respect for everyone when doing business. He requested that the Board have a retreat to discuss the district’s vision for the upcoming year.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she respect the opinions of all Board members. She stated that community members want answers to some district issues. She stated that the student discipline meeting was great, and great responses were given on student discipline issues. She requested the Superintendent appoint staff members to continue meeting with agencies to assist with student discipline. She requested attendance rates from all schools.

Mr. Simmons commended Mrs. Lewis for contacting the different agencies to attend the meeting regarding student discipline issues.

Mrs. Lewis thanked Mrs. Carolyn Harden for submitting monthly Head Start / PreK Policy Council Meeting reports to the Board.

Mr. Smith recognized Mr. Anthony Luckey, teacher at James A. Shanks Middle School. He stated that the roof leak at James A. Shanks Middle School will be repaired over the winter break. He gave kudos to Mr. Frost for making a great idea to go to the communities to share improvement updates on the schools. He stated that an instructor was needed for Spanish. He stated that preventative measures needed to be put in place to handle student discipline. He stated that building relationships with parents was one way to handle student discipline.

Mr. Scott thanked the Board members for all they do. He stated that Board members have a tough job. He stated that the Board have all students at heart when making the best decision for them. He stated that Gadsden has one of the best Boards in the State. He applauded every Board member.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.