

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

August 27, 2024

6:00 P.M.

This meeting 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayers was led by Pastor Marilyn Barnes of New Direction Christian Center.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Key stated that the 2024 -2025 school year was off to a great start. He recognized his mother's birthday.

Ms. Johnson welcomed the students, parents, staff and teachers to the new school year.

Mr. Scott recognized the volunteers on the first day of the school year.

Mr. Frost acknowledged that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new K-8 school was great. He thanked Mr. Key, Mr. McMillan, and everyone for his or her efforts to get funding for the new school.

Mrs. Dudley thanked everyone for a great start of the new school year.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Dudley entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Scott, seconded by Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried unanimously.

6. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. July 2, 2024, 5:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- b. July 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- c. July 23, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Financial Workshop
- d. July 23, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- e. July 30, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- f. July 30, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Tentative Budget Hearing

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)
 - a. Personnel 2023 – 2024
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - b. Personnel 2024 – 2025
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS
 - a. Health Insurance Increase
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: No Change to the current percentage funded by the Board
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - b. Memorandum of Understanding between PanCare of Florida, Inc., and the School Board of Gadsden County
Fund Source: N.A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - c. Memorandum of Understanding between Baker County School District (eDynamic Holdings, LP) and the School Board of Gadsden County
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - d. K-12 Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan (CERP)
Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: \$350,280.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - e. Head Start 2024 – 2025 Non-Competing Refunding Application
Fund Source: Head Start
Amount: \$2,674,819.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
9. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES
 - a. 2024 -25 Uniform Statewide Assessment Calendar
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - b. Gadsden County High School Cheerleaders Out-of-State (Douglas, GA) Field Trip Request
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Gadsden County High School Cheerleaders Out-of-State (Donalsonville, GA) Field Trip Request

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 at the beginning of the meeting and moved to the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

*8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

f. Addendum to GCSD and PAEC Elevate Rural FL – School Climate Grant Contract

Fund Source: U. S. Department of Education

Amount: \$1,248,215.91

In response to Ms. Johnson’s concern regarding the addendum to GCSD and PAEC Elevate Rural FL – School Climate Grant Contract, Ms. Keyondio Lee, LCSW, stated that the addendum to the initial contract between the Gadsden County School Board and the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium was being requested to extend the contract’s expiration date to September 30, 2025. She stated that the original funding cycle ending date is September 30, 2024; however, due to a substantial amount of unexpended funds, a 12-month no-cost extension is being submitted to USDOE to continue the project and to avoid the funds having to be refunded to USDOE. She stated that as noted in the addendum, subject to USDOE’s approval the original contract terms will remain in effect except for the aforementioned expiration date.

Following discussion, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson made a motion to approve agenda item #8f. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

g. TOP-1 GCSD (James A. Shanks Middle School)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

In response to Mr. Scott and Ms. Johnson’s request for an overview of the TOP-1 GCSD (James A. Shanks Middle School), Mrs. Farlin stated that the purpose of the item was to provide awareness of the Turn-Around Option Plan (TOP) established for James A. Shanks Middle School. She stated that as required by statute, schools receiving a second school grade of “D” requires comprehensive school improvement support. She stated that the district has elected “District-managed Turn-Around” (DMT) to support the improvement efforts. She stated that the plan identifies the strategies to be implemented.

Following discussion, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson made a motion to approve agenda item #8g. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key shared with the Board a handout outlining department updates for the district for July and August. He also shared with the Board a handout outlining academic updates for the district.

10. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Johnson stated that as a rural county, the Board needed an Owner’s Representative for the new K-8 School. She offered a motion to hire an Owner’s Representative. Mrs. Dudley requested that the Board revisit the issue later. Ms. Johnson stated that she was grateful for the constituents from district one.

Mr. Scott reminded the Board of the final budget hearing on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Frost asked everyone to support the ½-cent sales tax for Gadsden County.

Ms. Johnson thanked her opponent (Mr. Doug Stephens) for running a clean race for district one.

Mrs. Dudley inquired about the retired teachers not being paid for their master's supplement. Mr. Key stated that the master's degree must be in their certification for supplemental pay.

11. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.