

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

January 22, 2019

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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

1. Call to Order

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott, at 4:30 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mrs. Tammy Farlin introduced the following volunteers with the We Read Program: Reverend Charles F. Flowers, Mr. Stewart Parsons, Ms. Ruby Houston, Mr. Ronald Nicholson, and Mrs. Vernett McMillan Nicholson. She stated that during the We Read Summer Program students participated in the Super Why Reading Camp 2018. She stated that during July 2018, the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) and WFSU's Education and Engagement Department provided Super Why! Early Literacy camps at five Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) sites. She stated that through a learning approach called experiential mediation, rising kindergarteners viewed PBS KIDS Super Why! Episodes, participated in hands-on activities and practiced various early literacy skills. She stated that the young campers were exposed to and practiced letter identification, phonics, word recognition, vocabulary, sentence reading and determination of the central idea in each of the episodes. She stated that across the five sites, campers' aggregated literacy knowledge grew between seven and sixteen percent. She stated that the strongest increases occurred in Isolated Word Recognition, Sentence Reading, Vocabulary, and Comprehension of the Main Idea. She stated that notable gains were also made by individual children and VPK centers on various subtests.

Mrs. Farlin introduced Dr. Maria Pouncey who shared with the Board information on the Read with Me Literacy Grant. Dr. Pouncey shared with the Board the following deliverables for the Read with Me Literacy Grant: PD for classroom teachers, media specialists, paraprofessionals with targeted focus on evidenced based literacy instruction/activities, building oral language/vocabulary and STEM books and literacy activities across disciplines; parent workshops to provide fun and engaging literacy activities, read alouds, oral language games and vocabulary activities; purchase books yearly for media centers to increase the number of books to represent a wide range of diverse populations. Each schools' ELL populations will assist with guiding the purchase of cultures to be heavily represented; Year 2, Classroom Libraries

\$11,000.00 (to be divided based on teacher totals for Read with Me districts' schools); Year 3, Classroom Libraries \$12,000.00 (to be divided based on teacher totals for Read with Me districts' schools); Each student of targeted schools will be provided at least 4 books per year of the grant to increased home libraries. Books will represent diverse populations; Yearly 6th – 8th Grades 3 day Summer Computer Coding Challenges across districts served by Read with Me. Transportation will be provided; 500 e-Readers yearly giveaways to families to increase attendance for parental workshops and family literacy events; twelve family literacy events beyond the school day at Read with Me schools to provide free literacy resources, such as, e-books, phone apps, literacy games, videos, etc.; One field trip per year of Read with Me (3) to the Scholastic Book Warehouse in Tallahassee for families to purchase books with \$25.00 gift cards. Transportation will be provided; two highly effective motivated reading endorsed teachers will be hired at each school/district (\$40.00) to facilitate family literacy events and parent workshops with Read with Me's project manager and staff. Planning and prep time will be included. (5 hours per event = 4 hours for planning and prep, 1 hour providing = \$200.00 per teacher); local teachers will be hired for the STEM Summer Challenges, 1 per middle school site, at \$100 handling project-related work/materials outside the school day and \$200.00 per day of 3-day summer challenge = \$600.00 for each 3-day summer challenge; Computer Coding instruction for 6th – 8th Summer Challenges to be paid \$350.00 per day. (3 instructors = \$350.00 per day x 12 days x 2 camps yearly = 6 days of planning and set up and 6 days of content delivery); Summer Literacy 2- day workshops for Read with Me! districts' teachers. Stipend of \$200.00 per day. (120 teachers x \$200.00 – day x 2 days = \$400.00); Read with Me! Staff presence at community events, such as, local festivals, carnivals, cultural celebrations, fairs, etc.; partnerships with healthcare organizations, PanCare, Health Departments, and North FL Health Centers to provide literacy tips and importance of reading aloud to children during well-check visits, etc.; literacy training will be provided to medical staff at all sites; and reading area provided at all medical provider sites that include small sitting area, free books, pamphlets and monitor with scrolling literacy tips, activities, games and resources for parents (including mobile units).

Mr. Milton thanked all of the volunteers for their time and support to all of the students.

In response to Mrs. Wood's information of the FTE Web Forecasting report by grade, Mr. Milton stated that is good to have FTE data information. He stated that it is incumbent for everyone to advocate and help implement things to keep students and gain more students.

a. Purchase Orders to Vendors – Accumulated Vendor Payments Warrant Board Notification

Mrs. Wood stated that purchase orders are issued to vendors whose accumulation amounts of payments warrant notification to the Board in accordance with Board Policy #6320.

b. Third Calculation of FEFP

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board an overview of the Florida Education Finance Program Third Calculation. She congratulated Mr. Mays for his efforts on the financial budget reports with accompanying benefits.

Mr. Mays stated that the financial budget reports will help the district to budget better. He stated that the district will be able to view programs realistically rather than estimation, and have a clear view of the data. He stated that the district's fund balance was at a plus or minus 3%. He ensured the Board that payroll and bills are fiscally sound.

Mrs. Lewis thanked Mrs. Wood and Mr. Mays for getting the district to this point with the budget.

In response to Mrs. Lewis' concern about the elimination of overtime, Mr. Milton stated that overtime would be eliminated, and he appreciated staff for their hard work.

The Board thanked Mrs. Wood, Mr. Mays and the finance department for all their hard work.

Mrs. Mandela addressed the Board with the concern of teachers having the option to be paid two times a month.

Mr. Milton stated that he would look into the issue of teachers having the option to be paid two times a month.

Mrs. Wood updated the Board on FEMA. She stated that weekly meetings are being held with FEMA representatives. She stated that grants will be submitted in categories. She stated that FEMA will review all information submitted for reimbursement. She stated that FEMA will forward information to the State for reimbursement. She stated that there has been an extensive environmental cleanup at Gadsden Elementary Magnet School and James A. Shanks Middle School. She stated that it has been three months and 12 days since Hurricane Michael. She stated that the external adjusters are working continuously. She stated that reimbursements will come from the insurance company first, then FEMA. She stated that W2's are being prepared. She stated that non-union employees will receive salary increase at the end of this month (January). She stated that the employee's pay statement will have a message on it that reads "every employee must have direct deposit by July 1st of this year".

Mr. Mays stated that payroll can still be processed when there is a hurricane. He stated that the direct deposits will still go on. He stated that employees will have access to their Skyward Access portal.

c. Crossroad Academy Financial Reports – July to October, 2018

Mrs. Wood stated that in accordance with Section 1002.33(9)(g), Florida Statutes, Crossroad Academy Charter School provided financial statement summary sheets to the Gadsden County School Board as its sponsor. She stated that the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement reflect the financial position of the charter school for the periods July through December, 2018.

3. Educational Items by the Superintendent

Mr. Milton stated that the Skyward Employee Access was rolling out. He stated that he would look into the issue of bi-weekly pay for employees. He stated that he was informed that Mrs. Carolyn Francis was hospitalized over the weekend, and Mr. Michael Franklin was also hospitalized. He announced that Mr. Corey Fuller had been offered the Head Football Coach position at Gadsden County High School.

4. School Board Requests and Concerns

Mrs. Lewis appreciated Mrs. Wood for her dedication and hard work. She requested that the bargaining unit address the issue of parent liaisons receiving supplemental pay.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:40 p.m.