

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

January 28, 2014

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Ms. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. 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. Roger P. Milton, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Judge B. Helms.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

The Superintendent and Board presented a plaque to Dr. Sylvia Jackson for the teachers with the highest number in attendance at the Reading Conference titled "By The Bay".

Mr. Milton recognized Mrs. Carolyn Harden who requested the Board schedule a workshop to discuss the new standards and regulations for the HeadStart/PreK program.

The Board scheduled a workshop on Tuesday, February 25th beginning at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the new standards and regulations for the HeadStart/PreK program.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Milton entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Isaac Simmons, seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. December 17, 2013, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)
 - a. Personnel 2013 – 2014
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS
 - a. Budget Amendment Number Six
Fund Source: 420 Federal Funds
Amount: \$-335,541.98
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - b. Update on Financial Recovery Plan Submitted to FDOE on 12/04/13
Fund Source: 110 General Fund
Amount: N/A - Informational
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - c. Internal Audit Reports
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - d. Crossroad Charter School's Second Quarter Financial Statements
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS
 - a. Vendor Notice
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - c. Amendment #1 Between Cook Brothers, Inc. and Gadsden County District Schools
Fund Source: 379 Capital Project Funds
Amount: GMP - \$4,821,118.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Bus Lease Resolution of Governing Body

Fund Source: None associated with this resolution directly. Part of the lease purchase agreement totaling \$1,074,867 that was previously approved at the May 21, 2013 meeting

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. For School Board Approval to use the Services of Southern Earth Sciences, Inc. for Soil and Concrete Testing at Havana Middle School PreK through 3rd Grade Classroom Wing

Fund Source: 379

Amount: \$14,900.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Contract for Sale and Purchase Agreement with Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc.

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: As Per Agreement

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #32-1314-0211

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #33-1314-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #35-1314-9106

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #41-1314-0071

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 acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

*5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

b. December 17, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

Ms. Lewis stated that the district needed more positive publicity. She requested the Board's goals from the retreat be publicized.

c. January 7, 2014, 2:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting

Ms. Lewis stated that she had requested a copy of the SAC minutes from each school. She stated that she has received a copy of the SAC minutes from all the schools except East Gadsden High School. She stated that Dr. Hightower was asked to provide SAC training for the principals. She stated that she has a passion for parental involvement. She recited the Florida Statutes referencing parental involvement.

Dr. Hightower stated that he contacted the Department of Education School of Improvement and they have agreed to conduct the SAC training for principals, staff and parents. He stated that principals can view further information regarding SAC on the DOE website.

Following discussion, Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #'s 5b & c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Transfers – See back-up material

The parents of student transfer #012814-02 addressed the Board to request that her child be allowed to attend school in Leon County. The mother stated that one of their children currently attends school in Leon County, and they want both children to attend school in Leon County. The mother indicated that Leon County provides a better learning environment.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to deny the transfer request for student #012814-02. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #40-1314-0231

The mother of student #40-1314-0231 addressed the Board to request a student hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to defer action on student case #40-1314-0231 until a hearing was held on Tuesday, February 4th at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

b. Request for Extension on City of Midway Charter School Project

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Approval of 2013-2015 GCCTA Contract

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

In response to Mr. Simmons' request for an overview of the changes to the 2013 – 2015 GCCTA Contract, Mr. Rocky Pace stated that the following were a summary of changes to the GCCTA Contract 2013 -2015: 1) Cover Page – date changes to reflect 2013 – 2015; 2) Preamble – Page 2 – dates to be inserted reflecting final action; 3) Article II – Section H.1. – Page 5 – date change from September 10th to September 1st; 4) Article II – Section H.2. – Page 5 – correct deduction to deductions; 5) Article II – H.5. – Page 5 – correct slots to slot; 6) Article IV Lunch Period – Page 11 – new language was inserted to establish a site based decision making tool that will facilitate a duty free lunch for teachers, however, the final decision will remain with the site based administrator; 7) Article V – Section A – Page 14 - revised language regarding the donation of sick leave to reflect statutory changes; 8) Article XII – Page 34 – language inserted to first paragraph establishing evaluation criteria to receive salary increases. Also included is the language defining the eligibility criteria for the dissemination of the teacher raise monies; 9) Terms of Agreement – Page 38 – date change in paragraph 1 to reflect 2015 contract expiration. Language is also included that establishes a hold harmless clause should any provision of this contract be deemed illegal by court action or legislative action. Language is included in the final paragraph that establishes a multi-year contract and clarifies party names; and 10) Appendix C – Page 41 – date changes to reflect correct pay dates for 2013 – 2014.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8g. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #28-1314-0211

Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #9b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Agreement Between Gadsden County School District and Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons expressed his dismay with the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. Contract. He stated that Alternative Unlimited, Inc. has not met its overall obligation to provide good educational opportunities for students. He stated that he was not in support of the transfer of Alternative Unlimited, Inc. to Catapult. He requested the Board terminate the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. contract at the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Christine Pereze, Representative from Catapult Academy, stated that Catapult has acquired Alternative Unlimited, Inc. She stated that Catapult Academy was in the process of restructuring the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. Program.

Mr. Ronterrious Robinson stated that there was one isolated case that had been resolved. He stated that classroom management was under control, and the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. Program was effective. He stated that the program was benefitting those students who are in attendance.

Following discussion, Mr. Simmons made a motion to deny the transfer of Alternative Unlimited, Inc. to Catapult.

Mr. Harvey, National Vice President of Catapult, addressed the Board to request an opportunity to serve the students of Gadsden County. He pledged to assume the responsibilities of Alternative Unlimited, Inc.

Mr. Simmons withdrew his motion.

Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to transfer Alternative Unlimited, Inc to Catapult for the remainder of the school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried with Mr. Milton, Mr. Helms, Mr. Simmons, and Ms. Lewis voting “aye.” Mr. Frost voted “nay.”

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that FCAT testing was coming soon. He stated that the schools as well as the district office will be closed tomorrow (January 29th) due to inclement weather.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

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