

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

May 26, 2015

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, Chairwoman; Mr. Isaac Simmons; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Roger P. Milton; and Mr. Steve Scott. 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 Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Rev. Kelvin Robinson, Pastor of Blessed Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Frost recognized Gadsden Technical Institute's Small Engine Program as the best in the State of Florida. He stated that Terry Austin, power equipment technology student, won a Gold Medal and First Place at the SkillsUSA statewide power equipment competition. He stated that Terry will represent Gadsden Technical Institute in the national competition in Kentucky. He also recognized Chet Ptachick, welding student, who won a Gold Medal and First Place in the SkillsUSA statewide competition. He stated that Ptachick will represent Gadsden Technical Institute in the national competition in Kentucky. He stated that parents are very happy with the Board's decision to approve the ED Options Program in order to help students graduate.

Mr. Milton recognized the Board, Superintendent, Mrs. Rosalyn Smith, and Ms. Sherrie Taylor for organizing the Teacher-of-the-Year Appreciation Event in Destin.

Mrs. Lewis recognized Mrs. Rolanda Jackson for her workmanship with the Ed Options Program. She stated that Mrs. Jackson kept the Chairwoman informed with the student's progress in the Ed Options Program.

Mr. James stated that parents were pleased with the Ed Options Program. He stated that the Ed Options Program will help to increase the district's graduation rates. He stated that he received a letter for Sheriff Young acknowledging more district students graduating and less crime in the county. He stated that the district is making progress.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Lewis entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Roger P. Milton, seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. April 14, 2015, 6:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- b. April 28, 2015, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. April 28, 2015, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- d. May 6, 2015, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

- a. Personnel 2014 – 2015

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Personnel 2015 – 2016

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Budget Amendment Number Seven

Fund Source: 434 (RTTT) Funds
Amount: \$244,922.97

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Budget Amendment Number Eight

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Fund
Amount: \$128,180.42

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Purchase Order to Central Restaurant Products

Fund Source: School Food Service
Amount: \$55,515.00 (from SFS Equipment Grant)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. First 12 Month Extension on Capital City Bank Construction Loan

Fund Source: Capital Funds
Amount: Two bi-annual payments due November 1, 2015 and May 1, 2016 totaling \$371,543.66

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Approval of 2015-16 fiscal year debt service payments with IBM Credit, LLC
 Fund Source: General Fund
 Amount: One annual payment of \$56,749.84 due on April 1, 2016
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Approval of 2015-16 fiscal year debt service payments with SunTrust Bank
 Fund Source: Capital Funds
 Amount: Construction Loan: Two bi-annual payments of \$100,683.31 each which are due on July 1, 2015 and January 1, 2016 totaling \$201,366.62
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- e. Mansfield Oil 2014-15 one year extension for 2015-16
 Fund Source: 110 (Transportation Funds)
 Amount: \$800,000
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Fraud Procedures
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A (to safeguard district assets and prevent future loss from fraud)
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- g. Federal Programs Purchase Order
 Fund Source: Federal Funds
 Amount: \$14,010.50.
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- l. Board Approval of District Equality Report for 12-13 and 13-14
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- m. Dental and Life Insurance Renewal
 Fund Source: General Fund for Board paid portion
 Amount: No change in dental rate and reduction in life insurance rate
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
 Case #92-1415-0051
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #93-1415-0051
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #94-1415-9102
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #97-1415-0211
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #99-1415-0211
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Request to Waive 2014 – 2015 Board Approved Pupil Progression Plan
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 acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

- *6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)
 - c. Salary Schedule for 2015-16

Mr. Simmons requested the Board defer action on the Salary Schedule for the 2015 – 2016 school year in order to have ample time to further review and discuss.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to defer action on agenda item #6c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Revision of 2015-2016 Calendars

Mr. Simmons requested a general overview of the revisions to the 2015 - 2016 calendars.

Mrs. Rosalyn Smith stated that as a result of HB 7069 altering the beginning date of school and a request from Union Members for additional holidays, approval is requested for the revision of approved student and employee 2015 – 2016 calendar. She stated that changes are as follows: opening day of school and returning date for certain employees is one day earlier. She stated that additional holidays are two additional days at Thanksgiving, the observance of President’s Day and Good Friday. She stated that these additional holidays do not apply to 12 month employees.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #6d. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

h. Federal Programs Purchase Orders

Fund Source: 420 Funds
Amount: \$231,940.00

Mrs. Lewis stated that she was concerned about the Edgenuity MyPath Program because it did not service certain students. She stated that the district needed to market ways to attract homeschool students.

Ms. Rose Raynak stated that Edgenuity MyPath is an online intervention program that offers data driven differentiated instruction for mathematics and reading for secondary students, especially high school students who are not yet at grade level proficiency. She stated that the program provides students with the exact prescribed program to catch up. She stated that the Edgenuity MyPath Program helps with overstaffing.

Following discussion, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #8h. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

i. Amendment/Renewal of FL/DOE/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Contract

Fund Source: FEFP Dollars
Amount: \$17,040.00

In response to Mrs. Lewis’ concern regarding how the vocational services are being utilized and whether there is a transition plan in place, Mrs. Sharon Thomas stated that the district has two employment specialists who assists students with finding employment. She stated that the contractor provide services that enable eligible persons with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, maintain, or regain employment; to expand transition services with Non-pain and Paid Community Based Work Experience to Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Students with an Individualized Plan for Employment for the 2015 – 2016 school year.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

j. Magnet Initiative for Havana

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

The Board expressed their concerns regarding the application process for the Havana Magnet School. The Board wanted to ensure that students are not denied entry if they are zoned for Havana Magnet School. The Board stated that they wanted Havana Magnet School to be open to all students.

Mrs. Smith stated that the district is not in the process of turning students away. She stated that all students will be allowed to attend Havana Magnet School provided space available. She stated that the application process was part of the grant process.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to approve the school name change from Havana Middle School to Havana Magnet School, school colors royal blue and gold, and the eagle as the school mascot. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

k. Approval of 2nd Year Negotiations of the 2013 – 2015 GCCTA Contract

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested that the Board defer action on the 2nd Year Negotiations of the 2013 – 2015 GCCTA Contract until there was further discussion with the Chief Negotiator to review the changes to the contract.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to defer action on agenda item #8k. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #98-1415-0211

The parent of student #98-1415-0211 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9e until a hearing could be held. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

a. Revision 2014 – 2015 Code of Student Conduct

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Shepard stated that June 1st was the scheduled date to begin the move from Havana Elementary School to Havana Middle School. He stated that flooring had been ordered for buildings #9 and #10 at Havana Middle School. He stated that the district was on track to close out the sale of the Havana Elementary School property. He stated that a modular building for Havana Middle School was scheduled for delivery on May 27th, and a modular building for George W. Munroe Elementary School was scheduled for delivery on June 1st. He stated that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new PreK through 3rd Grade Wing at Havana Middle School was scheduled for Thursday, May 28th, at 11:00 a.m.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that he wanted to ensure that the district hire the right people to be in charge of students. He stated that he wants the best for all students. He stated that he was concerned about people working in the district and their students attending school in another county.

Mr. Scott stated that he was concerned about principals not having enough time to make a difference at the schools. He stated that the district needed to take action sooner on leadership positions. He stated that principals need more time to develop a good team.

Mr. Simmons stated that Board members should know their roles and responsibilities when it involves personnel. He stated that the Board needs to be more engaged. He stated that at any time the Board is privy to meet individually with the Superintendent.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the high school graduations were excellent. She stated that the staff needed to be reminded of the confidentiality and encourage positive interactions. She stated that the receptionist should notify staff of visitors on school property. She stated that she received good response referencing the Ed Options Program. She stated that the district should consider bringing on a graduation coach. She stated that there needs to be better communication to the superintendent's office regarding events on school property. She stated that there should be co-evaluations between the principal and the maintenance/school food service supervisors.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.