

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

November 19, 2019

4:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

This following Board members were present: Mr. Steve Scott, Chairman; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Leroy McMillan; and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. 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 workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott, at 4:11 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mr. John Thomas shared with the Board information regarding funding approval to harden the current network security in the Gadsden School District. He stated that funding is needed to purchase devices and software needed to avert a ransomware attack or have files and data compromised. He stated that PAEC has provided a recommendation to all of its member districts as to what they feel would be an appropriate stance in ensuring that the best possible measures are taken to prevent such an attack. He stated that as of to date four districts within the PAEC consortium have been compromised through a ransomware attack, thus costing them hundreds of thousands of dollars. He stated that there are a number of vectors ransomware can take to access a computer. He stated that one of the most common delivery systems is phishing spam – attachments that come to the victim in an email, masquerading as file they should trust. He stated that once they've downloaded and opened, they can take over the victim's computer, especially if they have built-in social engineering tools that trick users into allowing administrative access. He stated that some other, more aggressive forms of ransomware exploit security holes to infect computers without needing to trick users. He stated that the cyber security proactive items cover threat assessment, end point protection, firewalls, email malware detection, web filtering and service level agreement support. He stated that portions of the supporting documents have been redacted to ensure confidentiality.

Mrs. Wood stated that key financial highlights for the district's 2018 – 2019 fiscal year included: 1) the district's total net assets decreased by \$5.3 million, or 14 percent; 2) general revenues total \$58.9 million, or 92 percent of all revenues in the 2018 -2019 fiscal year, as compared to \$52.2 million, or 88 percent for the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year; 3) the unassigned fund balance of the general fund, representing the net current financial resources available for general appropriation by the Board, totals \$1.7 million at June 30, 2019, or 3.6 percent of general fund expenditures as compared to an unreserved fund balance of \$1.4 million, or 3.1 percent of expenditures at June 30, 2018; 4) during the current fiscal year, general fund expenditures exceeded revenues by \$8.4 million. This may be compared to the 2017 -2018 fiscal year's result in which general fund expenditures exceeded revenues by \$1.7 million and the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year's results in which general fund expenditures exceeded revenues by \$2.2 million; and 5) the total long-term debt decreased by \$0.37 million, primarily because of principal payments.

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board the following information: a) the district's student FTE counts recalibrated – unweighted; b) general fund expenditures for November 2019; c) expenditures for the school food service fund; d) a draft of the Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Allocation as of 11/18/19; and e) information regarding the retention and recruitment bonuses; and f) invoice receipt for an insurance retainer fee from Kaleb Blake Company.

3. Educational Items by the Superintendent

None.

4. School Board Requests and Concerns

None.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:31 p.m.