

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

October 27, 2020

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Lewis stated that she was appreciative of Mr. Milton for his vision and his four years of service. She thanked him for leading the district in a forward movement and his leadership. She also thanked Mr. Tyrone D. Smith for his wisdom and great ideas to the district.

Mr. Milton and the Board presented Mr. Smith with a plaque award. Mr. Milton thanked Mr. Smith for his service and dedication to the district. He stated that Mr. Smith has planted good seeds. He stated that his efforts put into the district have not gone unnoticed.

Mr. Smith thanked everyone for their gratitude. He stated that he was the youngest Board member and he has turned many tables. He stated that he was taught to love Gadsden County. He stated that he was thankful and will continue to pray for the district. He stated that he will labor for the students, parents and citizens of Gadsden County.

Dr. Sylvia Jackson introduced Dr. Ron Peterson, Principal of George W. Munroe Elementary School. Dr. Peterson stated that it has been a pleasure watching Mr. Milton lead the district. On behalf of all the principals, he thanked Mr. Milton for his service and presented him with a gift card of thanks. He appreciated Mr. Smith for his service to the district.

On behalf of the Extended Executive Management Team (EEMT), Mrs. Rose Raynak shared appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Milton for his service to the district. She presented Mr. Milton with a visual sea journey of the district. She saluted Mr. Milton for his service.

Mr. McMillan and Dr. Jackson expressed words of thanks to Mr. Milton for his service to the district before unveiling a portrait of him.

Mr. Milton shared words of thanks to everyone. He thanked the Board for working with him, not always agreeing but finished strong. He stated that he is an advocate for children. He stated that he learned so much from the principals. He stated that he built individual relationships with each of them. He stated that he is a much better person because of his Executive Management Team and Extended Executive Management Team members. He stated that DOE respects Gadsden. He stated that he was the right person for the job at the time. He expressed his sentiments to everyone. He stated that he had enjoyed his relationship with GCCTA and GESPA. He stated that he believes in Gadsden County. He stated that he is number 12 out of 12 children. He stated that his mother was very proud of him. He stated that he look forward to spending more time with his wife and children.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan added to the agenda item #'s 7b – 2019 - 2020 Revised Annual Financial Report – Management’s Discussion and Analysis, Notes to Financial Statements, FDOE Form 348 Revenues and Expenditures and FDOE Form 145 Balance Sheet and Details, and 8c – Approval of the 2020 –2022 GCCTA Contract. Mr. McMillan entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Tyrone D. Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. September 22, 2020, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. September 22, 2020, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- c. September 24, 2020, 6:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meting
- d. October 6, 2020, 6:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- e. October 8, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2019 - 2020

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Personnel 2020 -2021

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Resolution – Employee Positions Vacant for One or More Years

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Board Review Requested for the 2020 – 2021 first quarter Financial Statements from Crossroad Academy Charter School

Fund Source: All Public Funds at Crossroad Academy Charter School

Amount: Crossroad Academy Charter School Financial Statements Attached

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Classroom Instruction That Works, McRel International

Fund Source: Title II, Part A

Amount: \$39,700.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Contract Between Stephen R. Winn and Associates and the Gadsden County School Board

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$1,000.00 Monthly Retainer Fee

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Request to Approve the 2020 – 2021 Five Year Work Plan

Fund Source: Varies

Amount: Varies

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Request to Delete and Dispose from Capital Assets – Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment

Fund Source: ALL Funds

Amount: \$873,522.53

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Gadsden District K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan

Fund Source: FEFP

Amount: \$305,134.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Progression Plan 2020 – 2021

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. School Improvement Plans – Elementary & Secondary Schools

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Request to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Policies

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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

a. Approval of Policy Numbered 6.543, Illness-Or-Injury-In-Line-Of-Duty Leave

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter stated that three of the maintenance employees who previously tested positive with the coronavirus have returned to work. He stated that the employees have been in quarantine and are doing well. He stated that COVID has impacted deliveries to the district. He stated that there have been some big steps made in the heating and air control units.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that the Governor's Executive Order Number 20-246 expires 12:01 a.m. November 1, 2020. He stated that local government public meetings should prepare to meet in person as required by Florida Law beginning November 1st. He stated that the Board's input was needed on winter sports for the high school. He requested the Board continue the restrictions on middle school sports until December, continue restrictions on the use of facilities for non-school use, and continue restrictions on field trips until December. He recommended the Board allow winter sports for the high school and continue all restrictions on middle school sports, use of facilities for non-school use, and field trips.

Mr. Smith stated that the district need to start creating a new normal to continue education. He stated that students really need to be in school.

Mrs. Lewis agreed with Mr. Smith regarding the start of creating a new normal for students to return to school.

The Board agreed to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the following: winter sports for the high school, continue the restrictions on middle school sports until December, continue restrictions on the use of facilities for non-school use, and continue restrictions on field trips until December.

Mr. Milton stated that the process should continue for face to face learning. He stated that the Area Directors will work closely with the principals and parents to return students to school safely. He stated that the district has a COVID-19 dashboard on the district's website for reporting the number of student and staff positive cases. He stated that the district will continue to work closely with DOH when staff and students have symptoms and test positive. He stated that the district has received rapid COVID testing kits. He stated that the insurance company for hurricane recovery has requested scheduling a meditation date. He stated that he wants what is entitled to the district.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Scott commended Mr. Milton and Ms. McKinnon for their work with the COVID Dashboard. He stated that he wants to bring students back to the classroom.

Mr. Smith thanked everyone for allowing him to serve the district for four years. He stated that he will be praying for the district. He recognized Mrs. Karema Dudley on her election to the School Board Member District 5 seat. He stated that everyone should remember that we are one Gadsden. He stated that the world is changing and Gadsden has to change. He stated that he loves everybody and it was a joy and peace to serve.

Mr. Milton recognized newly elected Board Member Karema Dudley.

Mrs. Lewis thanked Mr. Milton and Mr. Smith for their service. She congratulated Mrs. Dudley. She stated that there are many challenges for students and employees. She thanked Mr. Milton and Mr. John Thomas for Phase I of remote and distance learning in Havana. She stated that principals are identifying students who are not able to return to school because of health issues. She stated that the next phase will be to show support and be creative. She stated that there are mental health issues among teachers, students and parents. She stated that the district's priority is the safety and welfare of students and parents. She stated that teachers are doing a great job. She thanked the health department and Ms. Caroline McKinnon for navigation with the COVID-19 dashboard. She apologized for not being in person at the meeting. She thanked Mr. Milton for his leadership and vision. She also thanked Mrs. Sharon Thomas and staff for looking into ways to help students and parents with mental health issues.

Mr. McMillan stated that everyone need to get an understanding that students need to be back in school. He encouraged everyone to do all they can to stay safe and positive.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, President GCCTA, thanked Mr. Milton and Mr. Smith for their service to the district. She congratulated Mrs. Karema Dudley on her election to the School Board Member District 5 seat. She stated that we all want to get students back in school. She stated that she was concern about not having a plan to return students to school. She stated that everyone should be mindful that we are still in a pandemic. She stated that there need to a plan to safely return students to school. She stated that teachers are returning to the classroom. She stated that teachers are being creative. She stated that the Board decided to give teachers what the State mandated in regards to teacher salary increases. She stated that it was the Board's decision to not add more to teacher salary increases. She stated that hopefully there will be more insight on the Board's part regarding the budget. She stated that the district is in a place where teachers are ready to leave the district. She stated that if teachers are working as substitutes, there will be things they are not required to do. She stated that the work people do should be valued. She thanked the Board for their time. She wished the Superintendent and Mr. Smith well.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.