

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

November 22, 2016

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Elder Calvin Robinson, Pastor of Breaking Bread To Disciple Ministry, Inc.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Simmons recognized newly elected Superintendent Roger P. Milton, and Board members Tyrone D. Smith and Audrey D. Lewis.

Mr. Milton recognized the Board and stated that he look forward to working with them. He recognized his daughters, Dana and Diera, and Mrs. Maria Pouncey.

Mr. Smith recognized his wife, Mrs. TeAira Smith, his mentors and everyone. He stated that he look forward to working to make a better Gadsden.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she was glad to be back on the Board.

Mr. Scott thanked Mr. Hunter, and commended Mr. Mills for his dedication. He stated that enrollment was increasing at West Gadsden High School.

Mr. Simmons asked everyone for a moment of silence in recognition of the families who lost their children in the recent bus accident in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He recognized Vice Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott and Superintendent, Mr. Roger Milton. He recognized Mr. Ben Chandler, Executive Director of Chattahoochee Main Street.

Mr. Chandler congratulated Mr. Milton, Mr. Smith and Mrs. Lewis on their new elections to serve the Gadsden County School District. He stated that Chattahoochee Elementary School received the Secretary of State Main Street Award in 2013. He stated that the 5th grade students at Chattahoochee Elementary School displayed what they love about the school. He invited everyone to Final Friday in Chattahoochee for live music, food vendors, and arts and crafts from 6:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. He stated that Final Friday takes place the last Friday of each month.

Mr. Simmons stated that he serves as Chairman of the Final Friday Committee.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Simmons added to the agenda item #9c – Extension of Student Suspension – Case #17-1617-0051. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motions was made by Mr. Steve Scott, seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. October 25, 2016, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. October 25, 2016, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. November 1, 2016, 4:30 p.m. – Student Board Workshop
- d. November 1, 2016, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- e. November 7, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – Special School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Budget Amendment No. 2

Fund Source: All
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Capital City Consultants

Fund Source: Federal
Amount: \$36,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Agreement Between the Gadsden County Public Schools and Risa Green, MSPT, Physical Therapist

Fund Source: FEFP Dollars
Amount: \$70.00 (per hour for actual hours worked)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. 2016 – 2019 District ELL Plan

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- c. Extension of Student Suspension – See back-up material

Case #17-1617-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Purchase of 20 Ton Chiller for Greensboro Elementary School

Fund Source: 340
Amount: \$9,480.85

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Proposal of Mechanical Contractor (Continuing Services)

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 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)

- a. Personnel 2016 – 2017

In response to Mr. Frost’s concern regarding reasons why teachers are resigning, Mr. Milton stated that he will address the issue with Dr. Hightower, principals and the individuals.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #11-1617-0231

The mother of student #11-1617-0231 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9a until a hearing could be held on Tuesday, December 6th at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #12-1617-0051

The mother of student #12-1617-0051 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9b until a hearing could be held on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mrs. Carolyn Harden, Head Start / PreK Program Supervisor, addressed the Board to request a two hour workshop to discuss Head Start / PreK Program Standards and Head Start/Pre-Kindergarten Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY).

Board members agreed to schedule a two hour workshop on Tuesday, January 10th beginning at 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. discuss Head Start / Prek Program Standards and Head Start/Pre-Kindergarten Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY).

11. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter stated that water testing results will be available in a couple of weeks. He stated that a recommendation for lawn maintenance will be presented to the Board next week. He stated that the Department of Education's Florida Safe Schools Report, Five Year Work Plan, and Five Year Survey are up for review. He stated that the administration mechanical project was overbid, will be rebid and a recommendation will be presented to the Board at the next meeting. He stated that the HVAC position will be filled soon.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton requested a Board member serve on the Insurance Committee. Mrs. Lewis was appointed by the Board to serve on the Insurance Committee. He also requested a Board member to serve on the Planning & Zoning Committee. Mr. Simmons was appointed by the Board to serve on the Planning & Zoning Committee. He encouraged Mr. Smith to attend as many trainings provided by the Florida School Boards Association. He asked each Board member to share their means of communication. He stated that emergency information will be sent by text or email. He stated that he wanted to review the Board Docs System for receiving Board information. He stated that training will be provided for Board members. He stated that district is in the process of rebranding with a new logo and motto. He stated that schools will be invited to share input on rebranding the district. He requested a workshop to discuss reconfiguration of schools on Tuesday, December 6th at 3:00 p.m. He stated that data information will be provided on reconfiguring the schools at the workshop. He stated that reconfiguring the schools is needed to provide better educational services to all students.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding a tent with the district's logo on it for use when having events, Mr. Milton encouraged a Board member to look into the possibility of having someone donate a tent.

Mr. Frost thanked everyone for their condolences during the loss of his son, Antwon.

Mr. Smith stated that he was concern about the publicity referencing the upcoming workshops discussing reconfiguration of the schools. He stated that the district needed a Public Relations person to help market the positive things for the district.

In response to Mrs. Lewis' concern regarding Havana Northside, Mr. Milton requested Mrs. Minnis review the contract with the Havana Northside Group and draft a letter of response for non-payment. He stated that he will make contact with the Havana Northside Group.

Mrs. Lewis commended the schools for submitting their School Improvement Plans. He stated that all schools need to submit their SAC rosters. She requested the Superintendent draft procedures for schools to have more engagement in parent involvement. She requested a committee be formed to draft procedures for parental involvement. She stated that the committee should include Ms. Taylor, a Title I representative, community persons, and all program directors.

Mr. Milton requested Mrs. Lewis represent the Board on the parent involvement committee.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she was concerned about the finance department. She stated that she wants to ensure that everyone follow the guidelines.

Mr. Scott requested an Instructional Program Evaluation update. He stated that principals needed to update their websites, be respectful towards one another, and promote a positive school and cultural environment to help change the direction of the district.

Mr. Simmons that he will meet regularly with the Superintendent. He stated that Board member Smith needed a mentor.

Mr. Smith requested Mr. Milton serve as his mentor.

Mr. Simmons assigned the following Board members to serve on the Planning & Zoning and Value Adjustment Board. Planning & Zoning – Mrs. Audrey Lewis; and Value Adjustment Board – Mr. Steve Scott.

Mr. Milton stated that he will request principals and directors to ensure that accurate information is on the website. He requested the Board review and update their information on the website.

Mr. Frost stated that he was concerned about parents receiving emails and updates from teachers. He stated that wants to look into communication with parents.

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern regarding communication with staff regarding issues, Mr. Milton stated that it was okay for Board members to request information from staff. He stated that staff will inform him of any requests.

Mr. Milton stated that he will visit schools and the homes of students with discipline issues and those who have left the district. He stated that the Board will be invited to share the visits.

Mr. Simmons requested an updated copy of the Florida School Law Book.

Mr. Milton requested Dr. Hightower order Florida School Law Books for Board members.

Mr. Simmons stated that he will take the lead on having pictures of the Board members placed in front of the district office.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, Teacher at James A. Shanks Middle School, addressed the Board to congratulate Mr. Smith, Mrs. Lewis, and Mr. Milton on behalf of the Gadsden County Classroom Teachers Association. She stated that the GCCTA is looking forward to working with the Superintendent and Board this year.

Mr. Simmons thanked everyone for coming to the Board meeting. He stated that he was looking forward to a great year. He wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.