

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

April 28, 2020

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present via telephone conference: Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, Mr. Leroy McMillan; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Steve Scott; and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. Also present via telephone conference 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 Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, at 4:35 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mrs. Wood stated that the GESPA non-instructional salary increase would be effective March 2, 2020. She stated that the salary increase includes confidential and non-confidential secretaries. She shared with the Board an update on the district's financial and operational audit report. She stated that the district will continue to work on correcting its audit findings. She stated that she will meet with auditors to prepare for the end of the year audit. She stated that the district has purchased hundreds of technology devices for students to assist them with distant learning. She stated that food service is a visible program in the district. She stated that USDA reimbursements for breakfast, lunch, and snacks ended March 16th. She stated that the district received an amendment to provide meals for students from March 17th to April 14th. She stated that due to suspension of HOPE risks, all expenditures have been ceased. She stated that all food service staff will be paid until the end of their contracts. She stated that there are 29 feeding sites where meals are continuing to be provided for students. She stated that the district wishes to continue the summer feeding program.

Mr. Milton stated that the feeding program will continue to May 29th or 30th. He stated that discussions are taking place for summer feeding programs. He stated that the district will establish school host sites for the summer. He stated that the meals are prepared by North Florida Education Development Corporation (NFEDC), Family Worship & Praised Center (CDC), and Second Harvest of the Big Bend. He stated that Second Harvest of the Big Bend provide boxed goods, and the other providers are providing bag meals to include sandwiches. He stated that the district is assisting to facilitate distribution of the meals. He stated that CDC provide meals on the weekend.

In response to Mrs. Mandela's concern about food service substitute workers being paid, Mr. Milton stated that all full-time staff will continue to be paid.

Mrs. Wood stated that the legislative session has ended. She stated that state revenues are decreasing. She stated that district's will have to comply with statute. She stated that the district will receive less funding for the McKay Scholarship, and the Family Empowerment Scholarship. She shared information with the Board regarding the plus cost to increase teacher salaries to \$47,500 based on 2019 – 2020 staffing. She stated that the district is working with FEMA to ensure that eligible staff receive COVID 19 reimbursements for their work during the pandemic. She stated that the district has received payment from the county for the use of shelters during Hurricane Michael. She stated that the finance staff is working from home and the office during this COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that this may be a new way of working. She invite everyone to a retirement reception on May 28th to honor Mrs. Anna McGriff West. She stated that Mrs. McGriff West will complete her DROP retirement at the end of May.

3. Educational Items by the Superintendent

None.

4. School Board Requests and Concerns

Mrs. Lewis thanked everyone for their participation in the telephone conference. She encouraged everyone to be safe during the pandemic.

The following individuals participated in the telephone conference call: Mrs. Bonnie Wood, Mr. LaClarence Mays, Dr. Sylvia Jackson, Mrs. Edna Hussein Forehand, Mrs. Judith Mandela, Mrs. Vicki Muse Johnson, and Mrs. Lakysa Perkins.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:05 p.m.