

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

May 26, 2020

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present via telephone conference: Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, Chairwoman; 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, at 6:03 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Leroy McMillan.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Omitted.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Milton congratulated Crossroad Academy on their drive-in commencement ceremony. He also congratulated the high school seniors at Crossroad Academy on their graduation achievement.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Lewis entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

a. April 28, 2020, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop

b. April 28, 2020, 6:00 p.m. – Regular 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.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

a. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Gadsden County School District and the Gadsden County Classroom Teachers Association – COVID-19

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

a. Metal Framing, Sheetrock and Acoustical Ceiling Tile Services – Continuing Services

Fund Source: 110 Fund
Amount: \$40.00 hourly labor rate, 15% markup for materials and 10% markup for equipment rentals

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Custodial Supplies – District Wide with Purchase Order Request

Fund Source: 110 Fund
Amount: Amounts per Bid – Purchase Order Request for \$80,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter stated that the summer work schedule would begin Monday, June 8th. He stated that work repairs are continuing at Stewart Street Elementary School. He stated that the AC Control System has been updated at West Gadsden Middle School. He stated that the maintenance department is continuing to work to fill vacant positions.

11. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mrs. Lewis stated that she understands how difficult it has been for everyone during these challenging times. She stated that the district knows how much the students want to return to their schools, families want a safe and secure plan, employees are ready to roll up their sleeves and get back to work, but in a safe and clean environment. She stated that it's a new normal. She stated that the district want to be prepared for the Governor's decision and ready to act with a plan suitable for Gadsden County students and employees. She stated that the Superintendent and Board value the safety of all students and our families in Gadsden County. She stated that safety is the district's number 1 priority. She stated that the School Board and the Superintendent are establishing a task force which will be facilitated by Principal Maurice Stokes and Chairwoman Audrey Lewis. She thanked those persons who have so graciously responded. She stated that the task force is being charged with recommending a plan for Gadsden that will be collaboratively developed by various people within the district's departments, schools, community agencies, and partners. She stated that all ideas, feedback, and input from the task force members will be developed into a recommendation plan for the School Board's final consideration. She stated that a final draft will be submitted to the Commissioner of Education for consideration. She stated that the overriding purpose of the School Re-Opening Task Force is to make recommendations for the School Board to consider prior to opening up schools. She stated that while the State will ultimately approve different plans of operation once the students return back to school, the Task Force will be presenting the recommendations that would mostly likely lead to success for Gadsden students. She

stated that district staff will be meeting with each department to gather input and that input will be included with input from public school parents, principals and community members. She stated that individual work groups of the School Re-Opening Task Force will meet during the first few weeks of June and the Task Force's final recommended plan will be presented to the School Board at the June Board meeting for consideration. She stated that as the district await a decision from Governor Ron DeSantis, and the Florida Department of Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran regarding schools re-opening in the fall, the School Board's desire is to have the Superintendent present everyone with an update of where Gadsden is in the planning process. She requested everyone mute their phones while the Superintendent address and present the State of the District Address.

10. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

a. State of the District Address

Mr. Milton thanked everyone for their participation in the conference call. He stated that school ends on Friday, May 29th. He congratulated the high school seniors at Gadsden County High School and Carter Parramore Academy, and stated that a drive-in commencement ceremony will be held on May 29th at 7:00 p.m. He applauded Crossroad Academy and their seniors on their drive-in commencement ceremony on Friday (May 22nd). He shared with the Board and everyone the State of the District Address. **Closing out the School Year** – Mr. Milton stated that there have been updates and modifications made to the pupil progression plan to accommodate distance learning and this past several weeks of school closure. He stated that elementary student grades will be taken with the first 9 week scores and averaged to make a 4th 9-week score so that the grade can be calculated. He stated that principals and teachers have the option of using the 4th 9-week actual distance learning coursework as an option for the last 9-week grade. He stated that middle schools are basically the same. He stated that no retention will be based solely on activity from the last 9 weeks. He stated that any retention will be addressed in a teacher, principal, student, parent, and district consultation. He stated that this is the first time the test is not a factor in promotion or retention, it will be purely based on performance. **Employment Update** – Mr. Milton stated that there will be budget cuts in the coming year. He stated that schools will not look the same and the district do not have an idea of how that may impact FTE. He stated that professional services re-appointments were made at the April Board meeting. He stated that teachers fully certified or temporary certified and in-field will be sent to the May Board meeting for Board approval. He stated that out-of-field teachers and/or those not certified will be appointed as needed, but it will be later depending on what schools look like when we return and the needs of the district. He stated that the district's priority will be focused on certified teachers. He stated that non-instructional reappointments will be made in June. He stated that the district will not fill any non-instructional open positions. He stated that if anyone has concerns about employment please contact the Human Resources Department. **Summer Feeding** – Mr. Milton stated that the summer feeding program is still under development and site applications are not yet final. He stated that the summer feeding program schedule will be June 8th to July 31st on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (with Thursday providing enough food also for Friday). He stated that 8 schools are currently feeding site locations with the inclusion of Crossroad Academy. He stated that there are currently 15 summer feeding site locations. He stated that there are no plans yet about which sites may or may not be used if the district does not open for the summer. He stated that over 3,000 meals will be provided daily. He stated that many of the meals will be coming from Second Harvest and other community organizations who are being reimbursed by the National School Lunch Program (much like the summer feeding program). **Summer Programs** – Mr. Milton stated that there have been several back and forth 21st CCLC proposals sent to the Department of Education. He stated that DOE does not want just repeat academic instruction but wants enrichment. He stated that there have been some discussions with individual principals about what summer programming will look like. He stated that DOE sent a long litany of things that must be addressed if the districts are going to be on site or go virtual. He stated that each site leader will identify the number of at-risk students that they would have served under the summer program (i.e. if the grant is funded for 60 – who are their most at-risk 60 students). He stated

that each site leader would propose the best teachers who have implemented distance learning with fidelity. He stated that students would be assigned to teachers virtually and a M – Thurs program has been proposed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the teachers being on school sites delivering instruction from their classrooms (with appropriate timing during the day that allows for attention spans and time for taking students to a summer feeding site for lunch). He stated that the 21st CCLC program is optional programming so there is no conflict with teacher contract by asking them to be on site and it will allow them to deliver virtual instruction from their classrooms using various modes of technology so that the transition in the fall will be seamless. He stated that potential option (or hybrid bleed) will be in small groups (less than 10 and with all CDC requirements being forced) brought to the school site by parents (no bussing), but if parents or schools are not comfortable with that delivery mode then revert back to just virtual – or if parents/school want a few small groups the teacher could deliver instruction both virtually and to the small group from the classroom. He stated that the district was still awaiting approval from DOE regarding summer programs. He stated that there was no FSA so there are no requirements to provide for the summer reading camp, however, the district want to identify those students and provide some level of intervention during the summer. He stated that money is still available in the Reading Plan allocation. He stated that Mrs. Farlin will provide information on plans for identifying students to be provided virtual instruction. **School Reopening Task Force** – Mr. Milton stated that the chair of the Reopening Task Force will be Mr. Maurice Stokes with Chairwoman Audrey Lewis as Co-Chair. He stated that Mrs. Lewis will contact Mr. Stokes and set up a meeting on Thursday, May 28th as the first planning meeting of the task force. **CARES Act** – Mr. Milton stated that the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) is money that will come from USDE to assist with providing other academic programming and interventions, but the district does not have any further details. **Hurricane Michael Update** – Mr. Milton stated that the district is continuing to receive FMIT and FEMA reimbursements. He stated that the district’s vision is still to work towards rebuilding and repairing facilities, with a longer term focus of new facility planning. **Facilities** – Mr. Milton stated that a lot of work has be done during this time of school closure. He stated that the district will continue to work on improvements while schools are closed. **PreK Hurricane Relief Proposal** – Mr. Milton stated that PreK has submitted an application requesting repairs to and/or new building of a facility for PreK offices and classrooms. He stated that updates are forthcoming. **Digital Devices** – Mr. Milton stated that the district is continuing to make a device available to every household so that students can continue their instruction virtually. He stated that the district has made several thousand devices available to families within the last 9 weeks. He stated that the district will not recall them until later in the summer, pending on what the district does with summer programming. He stated that the district’s top five priorities include summer interventions, school reopening, funding, employment and facilities. He stated that the district’s 30-day plan includes close out school year, plan for summer interventions, plan for school reopening, investigate funding possibilities, and ongoing professional learning. He stated that the district’s 60-day plan includes plan for distance learning or hybrid instruction options, plan for facilities and preparedness, plan for transportation, and ongoing professional learning. He stated that the district’s 90-day plan includes plan for impact of 2020-21 FSA, plan for turnaround schools, plan for lower performing schools, and ongoing professional learning.

Mrs. Lewis apologized to those individuals who had trouble hearing the Superintendent’s State of the District’s Address. She asked Mrs. Tammy Farlin to share with the Board information on the Gadsden County Retired Educators Writing Contest. Mrs. Farlin introduced Mrs. Patricia Taylor with the Retired Teachers Association.

Mrs. Taylor recognized the following Gadsden County Retired Educators 2020 Writing Contest Winners: **Stewart Street Elementary School** – Logan Drye, Taleiah Frye and Amiya Burns; **Gadsden Elementary Magnet School** – Rashonni Holmes, Malachi Roberts and Amy Hernandez; **Crossroads Academy** – April Ollervides, Lamya Reed and Kamden Cherry; **James A. Shanks Middle School** – Kiersten Parks; **Chattahoochee Elementary School** – Janiyah Williams, Kimberly Garcia and Jade Elder. She announced the following district placement winners: 1st Place – Taleiah Frye, 2nd Place – Lamya Reed, and 3rd Place – Malachi Roberts. The Superintendent and Board congratulated each of the students for their writing achievements.

Mrs. Lewis thanked the Gadsden County Retired Educators Association, students and parents. She stated that the district will partner with the National Hook-up of Black Women to work with students on literacy. She thanked everyone for their participation in the Board meeting via telephone conference. She encouraged everyone to stay safe and remember to put children first.

The following individuals participated in the meeting via telephone conference: Dr. Sylvia Jackson, Mr. LaClarence Mays, Mrs. Tammy Farlin, Mrs. Sharon Thomas, Dr. Sonya Jackson, Mr. Bill Hunter, Dr. Sheantika Wiggins, Ms. Anitria Daniels, Mrs. Judith Mandela, Mrs. Edna Hussein Forehand, Mrs. Vicki Muse Johnson, Mrs. Robin Watkins, Ms. Sarah Graham, Mrs. Delores Fields, Mrs. Dorothy Thomas, Mrs. Sandra Joseph, Mrs. LaTonya Johnson, Ms. Andrea Andrews, Ms. Pamela Jones, Mrs. Jeanne Gunn, Ms. Sallie Murphy, Mrs. Sandra McMillan, Mr. Demarien Hawk, Ms. LaTasha Porter, Mrs. Evonski Bulger, Ms. Karen Toussaint, Ms. Annie Trueblood, Ms. Heath Dantzler, Ms. Marcelete King, Mrs. Eleanor McNealy, Mrs. Deborah Shaffer, Ms. Sharon Davis, Ms. Taniya Williams, Ms. Rashonni Davis, Ms. Matilda Mayo, Mrs. Ola Mae Davis, Ms. Shandra Wright, Ms. Marilyn Samson, Mrs. Linda Oliver, Ms. Shelanda Shaw, Mrs. Millie Anderson, Ms. Travetria Austin, Ms. Portia Lacount, Ms. Gloria McSwain, Mrs. Cametra Bryant, and Ms. Sandra Joseph.

12. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.