

FINAL BUDGET HEARING

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

September 8, 2022

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; and Mr. Charlie D. Frost. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, 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. Leroy McMillan, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 22-01 (reaffirmed at final budget hearing) and FDOE form ESE 524

Fund Source: General Fund and Capital Project

Amount: Refer to millage rates and amounts stated on the Resolution

Mr. Mays shared with the Board a copy of the final original budget. He also shared with the Board a detailed overview of the 2022 – 2023 district budget. He stated that the tentative budget was approved in July. He stated that the total estimated revenues, other financing sources and fund balance was \$43,457,937. He stated that the budget numbers will change depending on the FEFP. He stated that the numbers are generated by local efforts, property taxes, discretionary millage, and district local capital improvement tax (capital outlay dollars). He stated that all the figures are from the state.

In response to Mrs. Amy McBride's concern regarding the purpose or reason for the property tax increase, and if the district received lottery funds, Mr. Mays stated that the district is not increasing property taxes, and the district has not received lottery funds in approximately five years.

Following discussion and reading of Resolution Number 22-01 by Mr. Leroy McMillan, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #4. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

5. APPROVAL OF THE 2022 – 2023 FINAL BUDGET – RESOLUTION 22-02

Fund Source: All Funds Budget
Amount: Refer to final budget

Following the reading of Resolution Number 22-02 by Mr. Leroy McMillan, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #5. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 22-03 CATEGORICAL FLEXIBLE SPENDING

Fund Source: General Funds
Amount: To Be Determined

Following the reading of Resolution Number 22-03 by Mr. LaClarence Mays, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 22-04 – BOARD'S INTENTION ON USE OF GENERAL FUNDS

Fund Source: General Funds
Amount: N/A

Following the reading of Resolution Number 22-04 by Mr. LaClarence Mays, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. APPROVAL OF THE 2021 – 2022 SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Source: All Funds
Amount: Total Expenditures for 2021 - 2022

Removed from the agenda by the chairman.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan removed from the agenda item #8 – Approval of the 2021 – 2022 Superintendent's Annual Financial Report. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Scott, seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried unanimously.

9. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

d. Unified School Improvement Grant (UniSIG) 2022 – 2023

Fund Source: UniSIG
Amount: \$1,044,325 Total

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. School Safety Equipment

Fund Source: ESIII
Amount: \$43,527.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

a. Out-of-State Fieldtrip Request – GCHS Football Team and Cheerleaders

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 at the beginning of the meeting and acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

*9. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

a. Contractual Agreement Between Gadsden County District Schools and Ethica, LLC

Fund Source: Title I
Amount: \$20,000

Mrs. Dudley requested an explanation of the contract agreement with Ethica, LLC.

Mrs. Joannette Thomas stated that Ethica will provide professional monitoring services to Title I administration and management specifically in federal compliance.

Following discussion, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #9a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. KB Solutions

Fund Source: CRSSA
Amount: \$15,000

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding Mr. Key's title as the Program Executive Director, Mr. Key responded that his title was correct for the Head Start Program.

Following discussion, Ms. Johnson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #9b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. TSSSA Plan 2022 – 2023 – George W. Munroe Elementary School and West Gadsden Middle School

Fund Source: TSSSA
Amount: \$355,895 Total

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #9c. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key shared with the Board a review of the letter grades for the two schools (Chattahoochee Elementary School and Gadsden County High School) who did not previously receive a grade. He stated that both of the schools have received a letter grade of "C". He stated that there will be no principal changes due to the school grades. He stated that the Department of Education has accepted the district's recommendation for Principal Kirkland to remain at George W. Munroe Elementary School. He stated that four schools (George W. Munroe Elementary School, James A. Shanks Middle School, Havana Magnet School and Stewart Street Elementary School) are going through instructional reviews by DOE. He stated that staff are working together to make sure the district moves forward. He stated that professional development is being provided for teachers.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Johnson requested notification of SAC, PTA meetings, games and events at the schools so she could attend.

Mr. Scott stated that the Board has approved plans for UniSIG grants to go to DOE for approval and can be used to help low performing schools. He stated that the Board previously approved a resolution to allow the use of lottery funds for low performing schools.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she was willing to send to Florida School Boards Association the Board members legislative and platform proposals. She stated that the proposals are due by September 16th.

Mr. McMillan stated that information such as the total number of staff and students who are traveling on school buses for fieldtrips should be noted on the request forms He stated that the Sheriff wants to meet with the Board concerning communication with schools in the event of a shooting. He stated that there are scheduled head start trainings that are available to Board members. He asked about selling a la carte food items at school.

Mr. Key stated that according to law a la carte food cannot be sold 2 hours before or 2 hours after lunch. He stated that there are some allowances. He stated that a la carte must be provided to the general population the day before. He stated that the district is trying to make school lunches better.

In response to Mr. McMillan's question why a signed letter was rescinded on the ½ cent sales tax, Mr. Key stated that there was a step missing that needed to go to OPPAGA that caused it to be removed. He stated that it will be brought back to the Board in the spring of 2023.

Ms. Johnson stated that she visited James A. Shanks Middle School and was shaken by the uncleanliness. She stated that if there are ESSER funds that could be used to clean the filtration system for health and safety of the students and staff, use the funds.

Mr. McMillan stated that there is no air filtration system in any of the schools. He stated that it is the air system and maintenance is working hard to get them cleaned.

13. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.