

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

October 12, 2021

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; 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. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS

- a. Articulation Agreement Between Florida State University College of Medicine and the School Board of Gadsden County

Fund Source: Unified School Improvement Grant (UniSIG)

Amount: \$25,680.00

Ms. Johnson asked for a brief synopsis of the Articulation Agreement Between Florida State University College of Medicine and the School Board of Gadsden County.

Mrs. Tammy Farlin stated that the STRIDE program is very similar to programs from other years but it is tutoring and mentoring students during the school day with an instructor to work with the campus instructor. She stated that the program is funded through the Unified School Improvement Grant (UniSIG).

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #4a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Contractual Agreement Between Palazesim, LLC and the School Board of Gadsden County

Fund Source: FEFP Dollars

Amount: 1.5 days per week @ \$65.00 / hour (billed by the quarter hour)

Ms. Johnson asked for a brief synopsis of the Contractual Agreement Between Palazesim, LLC and the School Board of Gadsden County.

Mrs. Sharon Thomas stated that Palazesim is a contract to serve visually impaired students and to provide orientation and mobility training for the students who are visually impaired. She stated that the contractor also does motivation mobility to make sure students can get around campus safely and have proper technology. She stated that this contract is needed in order to allow students to succeed and to also be in compliance.

Following discussion, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #4b. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

5. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

a. Extension of Time to Finalize Donation of Old Southside School

Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #5a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Selection of Conceptual Layout Scheme for New School

Mr. Hunter shared with the Board a recap of the three ideas from the last workshop. He stated that the architect has incorporated some changes and hopes the Board will make a selection on the conceptual layout scheme for the new school.

Mr. Greg Kelly, Clemons, Rutherford and Associates, shared with the Board a power-point presentation of the James A. Shanks Middle School site that keeps the current gym. He stated that more money will be spent because of the drop-offs at the site, but that money will be from the Department of Education. He stated that there will be a service road around the whole campus and also two roads for access. He stated that scheme #1 was the New School Construction Committee's recommendation. He stated that the Department of Education will determine the number of students allowed in the school and it is currently looking very favorable. He stated that Scheme #2 will keep the same gym and existing field. He stated that scheme #2 is a 2 phase project and students will not relocate during construction. He stated that scheme #3 would need to move students out during building but also is the most savings, a new gym will be built, and DOE will not pay for portables. He stated that scheme #4 will move the gym to the front of the school and is a 2 phase construction. He stated that scheme #5 will allow for parking behind the pool area if the district could obtain that property, but there is no advantage. He stated that scheme #6 has covered walkways that connects to the buildings, a plaza and remodeled gym. He stated that scheme #7 phasing does not work with this and would be constructed over 3 phases. He stated

that Scheme #8 will keep the existing gym, front plaza, nice covered walkway, covered seating in cafeteria and greenery. He stated that all of the schemes are for a two story building because a one story building will not fit on the site.

Mr. Frost stated that he wants to make sure the new school will be at the location for a long time.

Mr. McMillan stated that he likes scheme #3 but not having to move the students. He stated that he is waiting to find out from DOE if moving students to existing facilities will hinder building the school.

Mr. Kelly stated that other districts have used schools that will be tore down to relocate students until the new school is built.

Mr. Scott stated that he was concerned about relocating students for two 2 years. He stated that this will disrupt too many students. He stated that he likes scheme #1 but is afraid students will leave the district because of having to relocate during construction.

Mr. Frost stated that he likes scheme #3. He stated that he doesn't like the idea of construction with students on campus.

Mr. Key stated that students will be relocated to Carter Parramore Academy, Stewart Street Elementary School or George Munroe Elementary School because students cannot be moved to West Gadsden Middle School or Havana Magnet School. He stated that Carter Parramore Academy, Stewart Street Elementary School and George Munroe Elementary School will be repurposed. He stated that the new school site needs to be away from the main highway.

Mr. McMillan stated that there is a concern about security at James A. Shanks Middle School because of the tomato plant and the pool. He changed his mind on scheme #3 for security reasons.

Mr. Scott stated that there has not been input from the citizens whether the district need a new school.

Mr. McMillan stated that the Board doesn't see why citizen input is needed since it only affects the Quincy area.

Mr. Scott stated that the location of the new school affects more than just the Quincy area.

Mr. Frost stated that the Board is just trying to move students out of the old schools.

Mr. Hunter stated that these conceptual layout schemes are for use when the Board meets with the public.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Board need to be open minded about the selection of just one site. She stated that the Board need to be considerate of community concerns.

Mrs. Dudley stated that there is a need for a new school. She stated that she was concerned about making the right decision and what to do with students and staff until the new school is built.

Mr. McMillan stated that he represents the community and he felt like they elected him to make a site choice and to do what is best for the students. He stated that he wants the community involved but cannot go to the community with every detailed decision the Board makes.

Mr. Frost stated that he changed his mind on scheme #3 because of security reasons. He stated that he will go with scheme #1.

Ms. Mandela, GCCTA President, addressed the Board to inquire about whether the community was involved in deciding the K-8 school. She stated that she wanted to know who the new school planning committee members are. She stated that she want to know if the community will have input, the timeline for the new school opening, if there was a contingency plan if DOE didn't approve to help build the new school, and has the Board thought about completely remodeling the current schools.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the new school planning committee's recommendation to build the new K-8 school on the James A. Shanks Middle School site. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried with Mrs. Dudley, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Scott and Mr. Frost voting "aye". Ms. Johnson voted "nay".

Mr. McMillan stated that he wanted to ensure that the new school looked good. He stated that the new school planning committee recommended scheme #1 for the layout of the school. He stated that scheme #1 was the least disruptive on the campus.

Mr. Scott stated that he liked scheme #1 because it provides security, will be located off the street and is the least disruptive for parents and students.

Mr. Frost stated that he like scheme #1 because of safety.

Ms. Johnson stated that she did not have any comments regarding the conceptual layout scheme of the new school.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she liked scheme #1. She stated that she wants to make sure students and staff are safe and taken care of.

Mr. McMillan stated that he believe the majority of the community will go along with the Board's decision regarding the new K-8 school.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to approve the new school planning committee's recommendation for scheme #1. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried with Mrs. Dudley, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Frost and Mr. Scott voting "aye". Ms. Johnson voted "nay".

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that he served on the new school planning committee and there is a need for a new school. He stated that the best state funding option is with a K-8 school. He stated that the district has vacancies especially in the area of custodians and teachers. He stated that positions are being advertised but no one is applying. He stated that a lot of the insurance monies were spent on roofing. He stated that James A. Shanks Middle School, Stewart Street Elementary School, George Munroe Elementary and Carter Parramore Academy have things that must be repaired. He stated that although Havana Magnet School is a newer school it still need repairs. He stated that the district must build a school the community can be proud of. He stated that the gym at James A. Shanks Middle School

must be renovated to provide another facility for the community to utilize. He stated that wonderful things can be done with restoration. He stated that the district needs a state of the art school.

7. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that the Board represents the community. He stated that he always ask members of the community if they have a solution.

In response to Mr. Scott's concern regarding a request from Mr. Steve Winn, Mr. McMillan referenced the letter and stated that a meeting was held last week with Senator Lorrane Ausley and Representative Ramon Alexander. He stated that the municipalities need to come together as elected officials to prioritize the needs of the county. He stated that the county's priority should be a new school.

Mrs. Dudley stated that the community is aware of what is going on and the community needs to have more ways to be involved other than coming to the meetings or being on the phone. She stated that the Board meetings need to be more accessible to the public.

Mr. McMillan stated that Mr. Key has directed technology to work on having Board meetings more accessible to the public.

Mr. McMillan stated that the district needs a risk management person to handle workers compensation claims. He stated that the district has a high percentage of workers compensation claims and that is one of the reasons for high insurance. He stated that he will attend a conference with FSBIT representatives regarding workers compensation. He asked the Board if they realized what the cost was to keep Carter Parramore Academy open. He stated that if a student comes to school and misbehaves and refuses to do what they are asked to do, then they should be sent home. He stated that the community love the gym at James A. Shanks Middle School and it should be remodeled. He stated that it is time for a new school. He stated that with the approval of everything ground breaking should be in August of 2023. He encouraged the constituents to trust the Board and Superintendent as well as join the team.

Mr. Frost asked Mr. Key to look at Carter Parramore Academy as it was originally designed to be used as credit recovery. He stated that the school is currently being used as an alternative school. He stated that a lot can be done at the home school for students.

Mr. Key stated that staff has been reduced at Carter Parramore Academy to make sure the district is under the funding amount. He stated that state funds are coming in to help fund Carter Parramore Academy. He stated that some students are still 2 or 3 years behind. He stated that more focus should be put on early learning.

Mr. Scott stated that when kids are in school the community knows where they are. He stated that the kids are not in the neighborhood if they are in school.

8. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.