

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

April 22, 2014

2:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Ms. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, 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 Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 2:07 p.m.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Cenergistic Energy Savings Presentation

Mr. Craig Mesenbrink with Cenergistic share with the Board a power-point presentation outlining ways the district could save energy. He recognized Mr. David Miller, former Superintendent of Wakulla County School District. He stated that Cenergistic was an energy conservation firm powered by technology, supported by data and driven by unparalleled expertise. He stated that Cenergistic was empowered to save money by businesses becoming a self-sufficient, and energy efficient organization. He stated that Cenergistic was not an equipment vendor, and there was no up-front capital investment. He stated that Cenergistic was established in 1986 as Energy Education, Inc. He stated that clients have been empowered to save \$3.3 billion in energy costs. He stated that 65% of K-12 Energy Star Top Performers are clients. He stated that Cenergistic was the #1 provider for Energy Star Certifications, with more than 5,500 certifications earned. He stated that with Cenergistic's technology, data, methodology and expertise, their clients have achieved energy savings 20-30% and often much more. He stated that Cenergistic guarantees the following: a) results verified by independent, industry-compliant Energy CAP measurement and verification software; b) no costs payable in QuickStart period – savings start right way; c) if savings don't exceed your investment, Cenergistic will refund the difference. He stated that the district's Energy Management Program would include the following: a) verifiable monthly savings measured off the utility

bills; b) no program implementation costs for first four months; c) Cenergistic guarantee – program investment costs 100% funded by savings; d) no capital investment. No new money. No financing of any kind; e) Budget neutral - entire program is funded from district existing utility budget; and f) Projected QuickStart and first year net savings - \$163,950.00. He stated Cenergistic will assign a team of highly experienced energy professionals with the specific expertise the district needs to launch and sustain an energy management program. He stated that energy prices and consumption will likely rise in the future due to the advent of new technologies, enrollment increases and square footage changes. He stated that Cenergistic can improve this trajectory.

Mr. Simmons stated that a workshop was needed to further discuss the Cenergistic Energy Saving Program.

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, and made comments during the Cenergistic Energy Saving presentation. They thanked Mr. Mesenbrink and Mr. Miller for their informative presentation.

b. AMIKids, Inc.

Mrs. Smith shared with the Board an overview of the AMIKids, Inc. Program. She stated that AMIKids, Inc. was a program for “separating a troubled past from a bright future”. She stated that the program focuses on students needing academics, behavioral modification, and is a day program for troubled kids. She stated that the kids participating in the program may be referred by the Department of Juvenile Justice or their parents, in addition to schools. She introduced Dr. Phildra Swagger, National Director of Educational Services.

Dr. Swagger introduced the AMIKids, Tallahassee staff - Chief Glen Sapp, Board Chair, Mr. Dorian Swinton, Director of Education, and Mr. Shannon Baker, Executive Director. Dr. Swagger stated that the goal of AMIKids, Inc. was to partner with Gadsden County Public Schools to enhance high school graduation rates, reduce dropout rates, improve teacher and student safety in schools, reduce long term suspension and/or expulsions, and ensure students pass standardized testing. He stated that the target student group includes over-age middle school students, students placed outside the traditional school for behavioral services, potential alternative education students, and academically low performing or disengaged students. He stated that services for the students will include programs that offer a structured environment where youth receive comprehensive services through the AMIKids Personal Growth Model (APGM). He stated that services will include evidence-based needs assessment, life skills, vocational training, employability skills, mental health, substance abuse, anger management, behavior modification, and experiential challenges. He stated that the Center for Academic Discipline includes school safety intervention for those youth that need intensive behavior and mental health interventions in addition to academic services. This intervention is the most intense, with targeted cognitive and behavioral interventions; school performance intervention for students who need improvement behaviorally yet their most

demanding need is that they have fallen significantly behind academically and are unable to pass state standardized tests; and graduation intervention for students who do not fit in socially in public schools and refuse to attend or have already dropped out on their own. He stated that AMIKids, Inc. projected outcomes are to close the valve on the school-to-prison pipeline, improve teacher and student safety in schools, enhance high school graduation rates, reduce dropout rates, reduce long-term suspensions/expulsions, reduce school-based arrests/court involvement, and ensure students who are credit-deficient earn needed credits.

Mr. Dorian Swinton stated that there will be an advisor for every student. He stated that there will be small class-sizes. He stated that there will be direct instruction, performance based curriculum and an academic plan for every student.

Mr. Shannon Baker shared with the Board the facet of the Personal Growth Model. He stated that there will be a behavioral modification to include those kids are doing the right things. He stated that there are morning devotions to provide curriculum to help students learn. He introduced there students who shared with the Board their reasons to have an AMIKids in Quincy.

Chief Glen Sapp commended the Superintendent and Board for their work with the district's educational system. He stated that he supports AMIKids, Inc. and its progress. He recited a portion of the poem "Don't Quit". He pledged to move his Boardmanship to Gadsden County if the district approved of AMIKids Gadsden.

Mrs. Smith read an email from Judge Kathy Garner expressing her support for AMIKids, Inc.

Mr. James stated that the students of Gadsden County will benefit from the AMIKids, Inc. Program. He stated that the county needs more intervention programs.

Dr. Swagger stated that there was possible funding of \$500,000 to be used as start-up monies for AMIKids, Inc.

Mr. Helms commended Chief Sapp for his book entitled "From Prison to Chief of Police". He requested the Superintendent purchase books from Chief Sapp to place in each of the school's library. He stated that he was supportive of the AMIKids, Inc. Program, but was concerned about funding.

Mr. Simmons stated that AMIKids, Inc. was an excellent program. He stated that the district needed to enhance its programs at Hope Academy.

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding the enrollment process for AMIKids, Inc, Mrs. Smith stated that parents may volunteer to place their student at AMIKids, Inc.; students can be court ordered; or Board action to AMIKids, Inc. She stated that FTE would still be generated, and the vendor will invoice for their share of the FTE.

Ms. Lewis commended the staff of AMIKids, Inc for their presentation. She stated that she was very proud of the students.

Following Mr. Simmons' inquiry to AMIKids, Inc. for a proposal to the Board, Mr. Milton requested the Board schedule a workshop prior to the regular Board meeting in May to further discuss the AMIKids, Inc. Program,

3. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

5. The workshop adjourned at 4:00 p.m.