

## REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

November 21, 2023

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, Chairwoman; Mr. Leroy McMillan; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, Mr. Steve Scott, 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 Chairwoman, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, at 6:02 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Elder Nathaniel Trumpet, Pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Johnson thanked Ms. Nekitra Jones for returning to work in Gadsden County.

Mr. Scott thanked Mrs. Dudley for being the new Chair and for displaying leadership.

Mr. Frost recognized the Superintendent and Board members. He stated that he was excited about having the funds to build the new school.

Mrs. Dudley recognized the Board and thanked them for entrusting in her to be the new Chair. She recognized the Superintendent for his work with the new school and the City of Quincy Commissioners to secure the pool property.

Mr. Key recognized Coach Rosa Hudgins on her previous retirement. The Superintendent and Board members thanked Coach Hudgins for her years of service and presented her with a plaque. Coach Hudgins stated that she worked for 34 ½ years and asked everyone to continue to pray for her.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Dudley entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Scott, seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. October 10, 2023, 5:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- b. October 16, 2023, 5:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. October 24, 2023, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Financial Workshop
- d. October 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- e. November 6, 2023, 5:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

- a. Personnel 2023 - 2024

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #43-2324-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Allstate Construction Agreement

Fund Source: 395 Insurance Fund

Amount: \$329,661.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Purchase Order Request for Southland Contracting, Inc.

Fund Source: ESSER

Amount: \$3,825,683.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Purchase Order Request for B & T Fencing, Inc.

Fund Source: Head Start/Safety & Security Grant

Amount: \$35,693.13

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Greensboro Elementary School Third Grade Students Field Trip Request

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. 2023 – 2024 Uniform Statewide Assessment Calendar

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. 2023 – 2024 Student Progression Plan Revision

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 moved to the discussion portion of the agenda.

\*7. BUDGET/FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

a. Budget Summary Resolution Number 23-24-01

Fund Source: All Funds  
Amount: Refer to the Financial Report

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #7a with amendments to the balances. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

\*9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

a. Allstate Construction Agreement

Fund Source: 395 Insurance Fund  
Amount: \$329,661.00

Mr. Scott Brewer with Allstate Construction stated that the contract was not for a specific location, but for support and to work with the design team. He stated that the cost was based on deliverables, and the first deliverable will help access the site for the new school. He stated that the deliverables are accessed according to the number of hours. Mr. Key asked how the cost was arrived. Mr. Brewer stated that hours are assigned to staff. He stated that there is no percentage, only estimated hours for each deliverable.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

## 11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Kameelah Weeks, Director of Professional Learning, shared with the Board information regarding the Office of Professional Learning. She introduced her staff, Ms. Chelsea Murphy, Program Specialist; and Ms. Tenesia Clark, Program Assistant. Ms. Weeks stated that the Office of Professional Learning's vision is to provide the highest quality of professional learning experiences guided by data that promotes the implementation of proven instructional and leadership practices. She stated that the office is continuing to build by bridging the gap between the summer professional learning conference and the academic year. She stated that new initiatives and partnerships include tour of schools, Mentor & Mentee program, STEM Teacher Pipeline, and the Teacher Apprenticeship Program. She stated that there are available stipends that include mentorship stipend of \$500.00, the reading endorsement stipend of \$200.00, and the FTCE reading stipend of \$150.00. She stated that within one year 10 temporary certifications to professional certifications were processed; 57 professional re-certifications were processed; 18 add-on endorsements were processed; 166 tour of schools one-on-one meetings were held; and 1,651 professional learning in-service hours were offered.

The Board members thanked Ms. Weeks and her team members for their hard work.

Mr. Key stated that it was important to keep the partnership with FAMU providing clinical education training. He stated that he was working to expand the partnership to FSU. Ms. Dudley stated that she was looking forward to the interns working in the district. Mr. Key requested an executive session following the meeting to discuss collective bargaining issues.

## 12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Johnson wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Mr. McMillan stated that he was concerned about three students sitting home and not attending school. He asked Mrs. Carolyn Francis how she could help. Mrs. Francis stated that requests are made to begin an investigation, the school makes a recommendation to her with an attendance referral form, and home visits are made. She stated that certified letters are sent to the parents. She stated that more accountability is needed from the parents.

Mr. McMillan stated that he spoke with the city and they are trying to move forward hopefully within two weeks on the pool property. He stated that he thinks the city will want money for the pool property. He stated that the money could be used to purchase property at a better location for the new school. Mrs. Dudley stated that the Board needed to wait on more information regarding the pool property in order to make a sound decision.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she wanted anyone wishing to address the Board to be able to address their concerns at the beginning of the meeting. She asked Board members to think about her request. Ms. Johnson stated that it was great idea to have citizens speak at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Key stated that other districts have allowed comments from the public to speak on agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, but general comments at the end of the meeting, but it is not required.

Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to move public comments before items for consent on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously. Mrs. Dudley thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She stated that she pray everyone have a prosperous and thankful Thanksgiving.

## 13. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

The Board convened in executive session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining issues; and adjourned at 7:35 p.m.