

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

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

July 20, 2010

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Roger P. Milton; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Mr. Eric F. Hinson. Also present were Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board, was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 6:04 p.m.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Simmons entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Roger P. Milton, seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

2. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Request Board’s Permission to Advertise for a Tentative Budget Hearing

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Budget Amendment Number Thirty-Six

Fund Source: 110 (General) Funds

Amount: \$1,500.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Budget Amendment Number Thirty-Eight

Fund Source: 410 (Food Service) Funds

Amount: \$.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Budget Amendment Number Thirty-Nine

Fund Source: 431 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$-34,764.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- f. Crossroad Academy Monthly Financial Reports

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

3. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

- b. Participation in the Small School District Council Consortium

Fund Source: 110 (General) Funds
Amount: \$2,850.00

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.

*2. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- c. Budget Amendment Number Thirty-Seven

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$256,145.14

Mr. Simmons asked for clarification on budget amendment number thirty-seven and the federal funds.

Mrs. Wood stated that budget amendment number thirty-seven posted the 2009 roll forward for Title I Part A AYP, the Title III English Language Learners roll forward, Title I School Improvement Initiative Amendment, Title I School Improvement Fund Amendment, and budget to private schools for Title I rank order.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #2c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*3. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

b. Support for PAEC Establishing and Investment Pool

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms asked for an explanation of the investment pool options.

Mrs. Wood stated that Board approval was requested for support of the PAEC Board's initiative of establishing an investment pool to enhance the investment alternatives for governmental entities. She stated that Board approval would not mean that the District would necessarily invest in this new investment pool; approval would support the establishment of a safe alternative to the current option of the State Board of Administration (SBA).

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #3b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

4. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

a. Discussion and Request to Advertise the Board's Intent to Amend School Board Rule Numbered 2.25 (Code of Student Conduct)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons stated that the purpose of agenda item #4a was to request amendments in School Board Rule Numbered 2.25 (Code of Student Conduct) and to request approval to advertise the Notice of Intent to Amend a Rule. He stated that the Board's final approval would be on August 17th at a Special Board Meeting.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

5. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Wood asked Mr. Joe Lewis, Director of Transportation, to share with the Board the process for auctioning school buses.

Mr. Lewis stated that he contacted the Department of Education regarding ways to rid surplus buses. He stated that he met with representatives from Jackson County who shared information on contacting surplus companies to bid onsite for a small fee. He stated that he would advertise nationwide, as well as locally. He stated that a tentative auction date had been scheduled for Saturday, August 7th beginning at 8:00 a.m.

The Board members expressed their concerns and wanted to ensure that the local community had an opportunity to bid on the school buses.

Mrs. Wood asked Mr. Lewis to share the Board information on the GPS system.

Mr. Lewis stated that he believes in the GPS system. He stated that after researching he thinks that the district would not spend money wisely if the GPS system was purchased, and it would not be beneficial. He stated that on cloudy and rainy days the GPS system reads false data. He stated that he experimented with a time clock for employees during the summer and it worked well. He stated that all buses will have a bumper sticker placed on them for individuals to call with concerns.

Mr. Milton stated that he recently attended a bus drivers training along with other bus drivers in the district. He stated that information was shared on bus safety.

Mr. Lewis stated that bus driver training should minimize errors.

In response to Mr. Frost's concern about whether a retiree could apply for open positions, the Board stated yes.

Mrs. Wood stated that the district will be contracting with COSTCO for copier paper. She stated that when a truck load of paper is purchased from COSTCO; they will store the paper until ready for delivery. She stated that COSTCO donated 250 back packs for the students.

In response to Mr. Helms' question whether or not the district would be exempt from placing on the ballot a resolution for holding a referendum election for critical needs millage, Mrs. Wood stated that the referendum would need to be on the ballot for the 2010 – 2011 year.

Mrs. Wood stated that it should be emphasized to citizens that their property taxes would not increase by voting yes to give authority to the School Board to levy 0.25 mills for critical operating needs for the 2011-2012 fiscal year by an annual super majority vote.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Superintendent was working on an advertisement for the 0.25 millage levy.

6. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Helms stated that he had received information from the Florida School Boards Association requesting a representative for a legislative liaison and an alternative.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Board would entertain the request from the Florida School Boards Association at its next meeting.

Mr. Frost requested a copy of the financial review report from the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. He stated that he was concerned about receiving information for Board packets in a timely manner.

Mrs. Wood confessed that many times information for Board packets are late because of the demanding deadlines are received back to back. She stated that she and her staff work on weekends to meet the deadlines.

Mr. Milton stated that there are no excuses. He stated that the Board should receive information for meetings in a timely manner. He stated that Board members need ample time to review information packets.

Mr. Hinson stated that he was concerned about receiving information on the day of the Board meeting because there was not ample time to review the information before making a decision.

Mr. Simmons stated that he will meet with the Superintendent to discuss ways to minimize receiving Board information packets in a timely manner particularly on Wednesday or Thursday before the meeting date. He reminded the Board of the Special Board meeting scheduled on Thursday, July 22nd at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a student suspension issue at the request of the parents.

7. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.