

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

July 22, 2014

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Ms. Audrey D. Lewis; 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. Mr. Charlie D. Frost was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 6:10 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Rev. Mike Park, Youth Pastor of First Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Lewis commended Dr. Pink Hightower and staff on a great job with the Administrative Leadership Conference.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Milton added the following items to the agenda: #8k – Contracts with DESF; #8l – Agreement Between Gadsden County School District and Catapult Learning, LLC; and revisions to agenda item #8c – Federal Programs Purchase Orders. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Judge B. Helms, seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. June 24, 2014, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. June 24, 2014, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- c. July 1, 2014, 1:30 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)
- c. Payroll Schedule for the 2014 – 2015 Fiscal Year
- Fund Source: Not Applicable (just approving schedule dates)
Amount: Not Applicable (just approving schedule dates)
- ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS
- a. Budget Amendment Number Fifteen
- Fund Source: 410 School Food Service
Amount: \$60,674.59 from fund balance
- ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS
- a. Approval of 2014 – 2015 fiscal year Debt Service Payments with SunTrust Bank
- Fund Source: Capital Funds
Amount: Construction Loan – Two bi-annual payments of \$100,683.31 each which are due on July 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015 totaling \$201, 366.62
- Bus Lease Purchase - One annual payment due January 20, 2015 totaling \$222,281.45
- ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Food Service Purchase Orders for Summer Feeding Program
- Fund Source: Federal Funds
Amount: \$48,700 (using the POWER buying group contracts for other District’s RFPs as noted on the PO) and \$4,500 respectively
- ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- i. GTI Tuition Schedule
- Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
- ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
10. EDUCATIONAL/MISCELLANEOUS
- b. Medical Physicals 2014 – 2015
- Fund Source: 110 Fund
Amount: \$7, 000.00
- ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Request to Advertise – Notice of Intent to Amend a Policy

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.

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

- a. Personnel 2013 – 2014

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Personnel 2014 – 2015

Dr. Hightower requested the following changes to personnel: Ms. Mary Ruten – Transfer from Maintenance to Transportation; Mrs. Clarissa West-White, from GEMS to CPA; name change Angela Butler to Angela Roberts; and Ashley McLendon to Ashley McIntosh; and Tonja White-Carroll effective resignation date from 09/20/13 to 08/11/14.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #'s 6a & b with the above noted changes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- *7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- b. Presentment of Tentative Budget and Request for Approval to Advertise the Tentative Budget

Fund Source: General Fund will pay for the advertisement

Amount: Minimal Exact Cost Not Currently Known

Following discussion, Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to approve the tentative proposed budget for the district 2014-15 fiscal year and approval to publish in compliance with TRIM.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to advertise for the tentative budget hearing on July 29th at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

b. Participation in the Small School District Council Consortium

Fund Source: General
Amount: \$2,850.00

Ms. Lewis requested clarification on participation in the Small School District Consortium and PAEC.

Mr. James stated that the Small School District Consortium was not part of PAEC. He stated that Mr. Helms represents the Board with the Small School District Consortium.

Following discussion, Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Federal Programs Purchase Orders

Fund Source: Federal
Amount: \$537,929.00

In response to Mr. Helms' request for an update on the corrections to the Federal Program Purchase Orders, Ms. Rose Raynak stated the following: 1) Odyssey Ware purchase order will be revised to only order 15 licenses; 5 at each secondary high school for West Gadsden High School, East Gadsden High School, and Carter Parramore Academy – reduced request from \$26,995.00 to \$10,500.00; 2) Achieve 3000 purchase order will be retracted since new proposed textbook adoption materials cover the same concepts and materials and free interventions will be included in the price of textbooks – remove \$14,260.00; 3) Flocabulary purchase order will be retracted since new proposed textbook adoption materials cover the same concepts and materials will be included in the price of textbooks – remove \$2,400.00; and 4) revise total amount for approval to \$477,774.00 (total reduction of \$60,155.00).

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8c with the added revisions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Contract Between The School Board of Gadsden County and Art Therapist, Beth Bostick-Cox

Fund Source: IDEA
Amount: \$15,500.00

In response to Mr. Helms' concern regarding the maximum amount of \$15,500.00, and accountability, Ms. Sharon Thomas stated yes, the maximum amount was \$15,500.00, and the art therapist serves twice a week at Gadsden Central Academy. She stated that the music therapist services East Gadsden High School and James A. Shanks Middle School for the entire year. She stated that accountability is done by the principal, and the therapists are only billed for services rendered.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8e. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- f. Agreement Between Erica Miller Counseling Group and The Gadsden County School Board

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Ms. Sharon Thomas stated that Erica Miller Counseling Group is a Medicaid Provider and bills Medicaid. She stated that Erica Miller Counseling Group will serve students at George Munroe Elementary.

In response to Ms. Lewis' concern regarding counseling services for Havana Elementary School, Mr. James stated that he will work out counseling services for Havana Elementary School.

Following discussion, Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8f. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- g. Memorandum of Agreement Between Gadsden County Schools and Gadsden County Health Department 2014 – 2015

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: \$100,100.00

In response to Mr. Helms' concern regarding the fund source for the Gadsden County Health Department, Mrs. Ferree stated that services will be from the general fund.

In response to Mr. Helms' concern regarding all schools being served through the Gadsden County Health Department Agreement, Mr. James stated that he will research information for all schools to be served.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to defer action on agenda item #8g. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

h. Agreement Amendment Between The Department of Corrections and Gadsden County School Board

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

In response to Mr. Helms' concern regarding the cost to the district with the Department of Corrections agreement, Mrs. Smith stated that there will be no cost to the district.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8h. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

j. AmeriCorps Gadsden Reads

Fund Source: Volunteer Florida and the School Board of Gadsden County
Amount: \$305,041 from Volunteer Florida and \$91,484.00 from the School Board of Gadsden County

Mr. Simmons asked if AmeriCorps Gadsden Read was a continuation, and if funds have been appropriated in the tentative budget.

Mrs. Ferree stated that funds for AmeriCorps Gadsden Read had not been appropriated in the tentative budget.

Mrs. Bea Hopkins stated that there was a decrease in funds and the monies will come back to the district.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8j. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

k. Contracts with DESF

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$175,319.32. Note this is a decrease from the PY.

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned about the cost to the district with the DESF contracts.

Mr. James stated that the DESF Company will pay the salaries, and there will be no cost to the district with the DESF contracts. He stated that the DESF contracts are the same as last year.

Following discussion, Mr. Helms made a motion to approve agenda item #8k with a possibility of bringing back to the Board the DESF contracts for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and failed due to lack of majority vote.

Mr. Simmons and Mr. Helms voted "aye". Mr. Milton and Ms. Lewis voted "nay"

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

L Agreement Between Gadsden County School District and Catapult Learning, LLC

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Dr. Eurmon Hervey, and student Deshawn McLain addressed the Board to request the Board's approval of Catapult Learning. Dr. Hervey stated that he wants the opportunity to continue to work with students like Deshawn.

Mrs. Ferree stated that the Catapult Learning, LLC Contract presented concerns regarding the FEFP flow through charter schools. She stated that there are other avenues within the district to offer students ways to return to school. She stated that the district needed a dedicated funding source.

Mr. Simmons requested a 15% administrative cost for the district.

Mr. James stated that his opinion changed when the Finance Officer stated that the district could not afford to have a contractual agreement with Catapult Learning, LLC.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to deny the agreement with Catapult Learning, LLC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried with Mr. Helms, Mr. Simmons, and Mr. Milton voting "aye". Ms. Lewis voted "nay"

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent did not recommend approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Transfers – See back-up material

Ms. Charlene Thompson, parent of student #072214-08 addressed the Board to request an out of district transfer to Leon County.

Ms. Lewis requested Ms. Thompson meet with the Superintendent to further discuss her student transfer request to Leon County.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on agenda item #9a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #71-1314-0051

Mr. Simmons requested student #71-1314-0051 be placed at Carter Parramore Academy, delete transitional period, and provide behavioral modification as needed for student.

Ms. Lewis requested that intervention be provided for student #71-1314-0051. She also requested an update on the student following the first semester.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to amend the Superintendent's recommendation to expel student #71-1314-0051 to Hope Academy for the 2013-14 school year, and place student at Carter Parramore Academy for the first semester of the 2014-15 school year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. EDUCATIONAL/MISCELLANEOUS

a. Gadsden District K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan

Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: \$333,883.00

Mr. Milton pulled item #10a from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the district had no irregularities with testing. He stated that the "I" will be removed from three schools.

Mrs. Smith invited the Board to the Florida Standards Common Core Training on July 28th through August 1st at West Gadsden High School.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Simmons commended the Superintendent and staff for their hard work. He stated that the common core requirements are rigorous and will be a big challenge for the students. He stated that the district will persevere. He thanked the Superintendent for the Customer Service Training provided at the Administrative Institute.

Mr. Milton requested that consideration be given to staff with the after-school programs to attend the common core training at West Gadsden High School. He recognized Ms. Frances Harrell, Ms. Lesa Russ and Ms. Shareka Hutley for their hard work. He stated that a spotlight was on the TCC-Gadsden Summer Camp Fun-2-Learn Program. He stated that the program was ranked 10 out of 140.

Mr. Helms announced that the Tentative Budget Hearing was scheduled for July 29th at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Lewis shared with the Board brochures regarding a Performing Arts Program at Jefferson Elementary School. She stated that the Performing Arts Program was a Project-Based Learning Institute integrating visual and performing arts throughout the school.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.