

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

September 22, 2020

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, Chairwoman; Mr. Leroy McMillan; Mr. Steve Scott; and Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board. Mr. Charlie D. Frost, Mr. Tyrone D. Smith; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others were present via telephone conference.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, at 6:02 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Lewis thanked Mr. Milton, administrators, teachers, support staff and district staff for ensuring that students are getting what they need during these challenging times.

Dr. Sylvia Jackson presented Mrs. Lewis with a certificate of recognition from the Florida College Access Network congratulating the district as a champion for the 2019 – 2020 school year. She stated that the school district boosted its completion rate of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by at least 5% by April 24th of this year compared to the 2018 – 2019 school year.

Mrs. Lewis encouraged students who are not going to college to do career education. She thanked Dr. Jackson for her hard work.

Mr. Milton thanked Dr. Jackson, and all the secondary administrators and the staff at Gadsden Technical Institute for their work in putting emphasis on students to take advantage of financial aid.

Mr. Scott commended the school staff and students for their work in helping to keep the numbers low in positive COVID-19 cases. He stated that suggestions are being taken seriously to protect everyone. He stated that staff, parents and students are doing what is needed to stay safe.

Mr. Smith stated that kudos are in order for everyone doing their part to stay safe. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. August 25, 2020, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. August 25, 2020, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. September 8, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. - Final Budget Hearing

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Cooperative Agreement for Inter-County Transfer of Exceptional Students Between Leon County School Board and Gadsden County School Board

Fund Source: State FTE Funds
Amount: (determined by formula)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement Between Tallahassee Community College and Gadsden County Schools 2020 – 2021

Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: Undetermined – based upon enrollment

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Revised 2020 – 2021 Resolution for PAEC Services

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$90,591.31

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- f. Contract with Goede, Adamczyk, DeBoest & Cross, PLLC – Attorneys in Claim against Florida Municipal Insurance Trust

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: If Recovery is made, fees range between 5% and 20% of recovery amount per contract

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. 2020 -2021 Controlled Open Enrollment Plan

Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: Undetermined – based upon enrollment

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. 2020 – 2022 School Health Services Plan

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. 2020 – 2021 Uniform Assessment Schedule

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.

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

a. Personnel 2020 -2021

Mr. Scott stated that he was concerned that employees were being hired and working before Board approval. He stated that he wished to have all individuals hired and begin working following Board approval.

Attorney Minnis stated that the Board approve hiring of employees based on the Superintendent's recommendation. She stated that the Board must have just cause to not approve the Superintendent's personnel recommendation. She stated that employees are entitled to get paid for services provided.

Mr. Scott requested that research be done to see whether or not a policy was needed for new hires to have Board approval before hired and beginning to work.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

c. eWalk, Harris School Solutions

Fund Source: Title V, Part B
Amount: \$21,200.00

Mr. McMillan requested a workshop to have Ms. Ella Mae Daniel share with the Board an explanation of her job responsibilities. He also requested the Board defer action on agenda item #'s 7c & d.

Following discussion, Mr. McMillan made a motion to defer action on agenda item #'s 7c & d until a special meeting was held on Tuesday, September 29th at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried with Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Scott, Mr. Frost and Mr. McMillan voting "aye". Mr. Smith left the meeting for a brief moment and did not cast a vote.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Beacon Educator Partnership

Fund Source: Title V. Part B
Amount: \$25,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter commended the custodians and maintenance workers for their dedication and hard work. He stated that there are three positive COVID-19 cases in the maintenance department. He stated that workers are doing a good job with isolation. He stated that roof work had begun on James A. Shanks Middle School buildings 15 & 16.

Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried with Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Scott, Mr. Frost and Mr. McMillan voting "aye". Mr. Smith did not cast a vote.

10. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

In response to Mr. Milton's request for a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, September 24th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss property insurance quotes, the Board gave consensus to have a special meeting on Thursday, September 24th.

11. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost acknowledged the lawn maintenance workers. He stated that the district need one more individuals for the lawn maintenance crew. He stated that he appreciate the job the lawn maintenance workers are doing.

Mr. Scott stated that the district's website need to be updated often.

Mr. McMillan stated that it was time for the Board to make some decisions on infrastructure. He stated that some of the schools need a lot of work. He stated that the lawn care service is far behind. He stated that the administration office is the flagship for the district. He requested Mr. Hunter put together a cost analysis for labor and salary in comparison to a cost for a contractor.

Mr. Frost stated that the lawn maintenance workers are behind because staff members are out sick due to the virus. He stated that two lawn maintenance staff members are working very hard.

In response to Mr. McMillan's concern about the amount of time to advertise for sale of the old Southside School, Mr. Hunter stated that advertisement will take approximately 3 to 4 weeks.

Mr. Frost stated for clarification that the Board is not trying to rush the sale of the Southside property. He stated that the Board has received offers to purchase the property.

Mrs. Lewis agreed with Mr. McMillan regarding the importance of infrastructure. She stated that contractors were used at one point to help keep the grounds looking prestige. She requested Mr. Hunter look into the cost to contract lawn maintenance. She asked that the Board members be added to the Skylert list. She stated that the employees and parents need to be educated on the importance of FTE monies and data input.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, GCCTA President, stated that these are trying times. She stated that teachers are concerned about being in the classroom. She stated that teachers expressed their feelings on a survey. She asked the Board to display a dashboard showing the positive and negative cases in the district. She stated that everyone need to feel safe on campus. She stated that some teachers want to be informed when there is a positive case on their school campus. She stated that she want to ensure that the district is following procedures and be more transparent. She stated that some teachers feel they are not reaching all students when teaching face to face and remotely at the same time. She stated that the Board need to think about the safety conditions inside the schools more so than the upkeep of lawn maintenance. She stated that safety is paramount.

Mrs. Lewis expressed her sentiments regarding the infrastructure of the schools. She stated that the maintenance department is under staff due to some staff being out sick with the virus. She stated that safety is very important for all employees and students.

Mr. Frost stated that lawn maintenance is very important. He stated that when you see something wrong say something. He stated that everyone is afraid of the virus. He stated that issues and concerns should be shared with administrators and district staff before the Board meeting. He stated that safety is very important to everyone.

Mr. Milton stated that we are not in the normal. He pledged to remind employees daily that we are not close to normality. He stated that he is proud of the work that teachers are doing. He stated that teachers are doing remarkable work. He stated that he understands that it is difficult to make the transition. He advocated for the directors to continue to work with teachers. He stated that he want students to return to the classroom but not overcrowd. He stated that social distance must take place. He stated that he contacted parents the last two Sundays because he received information on a teacher with a positive COVID test. He stated that he appreciate Mrs. Mandela and wanted everyone to continue to work together.

Mrs. Mandela stated that the district has to honor parent requests. She requested that teachers be given one or two day notice before sending students to the classroom.

Mr. Milton expressed how the district will work with parents to get students back to brick and mortar without overcrowding classrooms.

Mrs. Mandela thanked the Superintendent and Board for listening to teacher concerns.

12. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.