

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

September 24, 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; and Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board. Mr. Charlie D. Frost, Mr. Steve Scott, 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, Audrey D. Lewis, at 6:00 p.m.

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Leroy McMillan.

The pledge of allegiance was recited in unison.

2. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

a. Florida School Boards Insurance Trust

Fund Source: General Fund and applicable funds per payroll for Workers Compensation
Amount: For Period October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021: \$897,109.00

In response to Mr. Frost’s concern regarding the receipt of only one insurance quote, Mr. Milton stated that only one insurance quote was received. He stated that all premiums quoted were annual. He stated that FSBIT Property, Equipment Breakdown and Terrorism will be effective July 1st. He stated that premiums will be pro-rated based on the effective date requested by the prospective member.

Mr. John Pat Thomas, Pat Thomas Insurance Agency, stated that Pat Thomas Insurance is an agent for the School Board. He stated that Pat Thomas Insurance Agency has partnered with the School Board for many years. He stated that they are the liaison between the district and the insurance carrier. He stated that Pat Thomas Insurance Agency will continue to provide good service for the district.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #2a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. eWalk, Harris School Solutions

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

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #2b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Beacon Educator Partnership

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

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #2c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. McMillan stated that he wanted the Director of Professional Learning to present her plan to the Board. He stated that he wanted to have a general idea of the responsibilities of the Director of Professional Learning.

Mrs. Ella Mae Daniel shared with the Board information on the responsibilities of the Office of Professional Learning Services. She stated that pursuant to Section 1012.98, Florida Statutes, School Community Professional Development Act, the purpose of the professional development system is to increase student achievement, enhance classroom instructional strategies that promote rigor and relevance throughout the curriculum, and prepare students for continuing education and the workforce. She stated that the vision of the Office of Professional Learning Services is to increase educators' knowledge and enhance their professional skills, deepen educator's understanding and appreciation for the varied needs of students and enhance educator's capacity to facilitate the learning success of all students. She stated that the conceptual framework is organized to advance teacher effective for student learning. She stated that the focal areas of Highly Qualified Teachers, Instructional Improvement, Professional Development, and Teacher Effectiveness equally contribute to a continuous improvement model that enables students to achieve their highest potential. She stated that the OPLS plan to develop a Professional Learning Plan and Master In-Service Plan to provide the structure and means through which educators continuously enhance their professional competency and simultaneously satisfy the FLDOE certification and/or recertification requirements. She stated that the procedures, activities, and plans being develop are to facilitate the individual and collective growth of all district educators by developing and providing high quality professional development that improves the learning of all students, which is: driven by the results of a regular and systemic analysis of a variety of data and information on student learning; focused on the effective implementation of research/evidence based educational practices; responsive to the unique learning needs and styles of each individual educator; and best accomplished through the development of collaborative learning communities and partnerships whose goals are aligned with the improvement priorities of the district. She stated that the following guiding principles of effective professional development identified express PL belief that prepared and supported educators help all students achieve a higher level of learning: Effective professional development – focuses on educators as central to student learning; focuses on individual, collegial, and organizational improvement; respects and nurtures the intellectual leadership capacities of educators, principals, and others in the community; reflects best available research and practice in teaching, learning, and leadership and is differentiated in its approach; enables educators to develop further expertise in subject content, teaching strategies, uses of technologies, and other essential elements to teach to higher standards; promotes continuous inquiry and improvement and is monitored for quality delivery and is evaluated using data on classroom instruction and student achievement; is

planned collaboratively by those who will participate in, and those who will facilitate that development; is aligned vertically and horizontally; and requires substantial time and resources that are allocated through a clear district-wide process. She stated that the PL budget includes provisions within the federal entitlements for planning professional development activities to support GCPS Strategic Plan goals aimed at employee retention, maximizing employee potential, and enhancing effective leaderships as outlined: Title II, Part A: Supporting Effective Instruction – the purpose is to increase student achievement consistent with the challenging State academic standards; improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders; increase the number of teachers, principals, and other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools; and provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective teachers, principals, and other school leaders. Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment – the purpose to improve student academic achievement by increasing the capacity of state and local educational agencies in the following areas by: providing all students with access to a well-rounded education; improving school conditions for student learnings to support safe and healthy students, and improving the use of technology in order to advance digital literacy of all students. She stated that Title V, Part B, Subpart 2 – Rural & Low Income Schools (RLIS) – the purpose is to assist rural school districts in using federal resources more effectively to improve the quality of instruction and student academic achievement.

Mr. McMillan stated that he expect training to be provided for teachers to receive their certification.

Mr. Frost stated that he want highly qualified teachers. He stated that the district need to focus on getting all teachers certified. He thanked Mrs. Daniel for taking on the challenge. He also thanked Mr. McMillan for bringing the issue to the Board.

Mr. Scott stated that reading endorsements are not the choice of teachers. He stated that teachers will be expected to receive endorsements as required by the State.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she has always tried to keep her teacher certificate updated. She stated that for years the district has hired non-certified teachers. She applauded the Superintendent for giving incentives to get teachers certified. She stated that she appreciate Mrs. Ella Mae Daniel for her hard work. She encouraged teachers to work toward getting certified.

Mr. Smith echoed the sentiments of the Board for teachers to receive certification. He stated that all teachers are not capable of obtaining certification. He stated that some teachers do not have the skills or mindset to become certified.

Mrs. Lewis stated that a lot of teachers come from different professions and become teachers for different reasons. She thanked Mrs. Daniel for her presentation on professional learning.

3. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Frost's request for an update on the virus, Mr. Milton stated that the district is not closing. He stated that the Gadsden County Health Department is working closely with the directors and principals. He stated that the high school football game was cancelled this week because a football player tested positive (contact tracing). He stated that a clerical staff at one of the schools tested positive and contact tracing was used. He stated that the district is very transparent when it comes to positive tests. He stated that the district is being very careful with respecting the privacy of individuals. He stated that the schools are working very close with medical staff and the health department. He stated that everyone has their thoughts about how things should be handled. He reminded everyone that there is no magic answer. He encouraged everyone to protect themselves, wear masks, social distance and wash their hands. He stated that the FDOH-Gadsden is working diligently to ensure the safety and wellbeing of

our community's students, teachers, and families. He stated that as the health department continue to collaborate with the school district to create a safe environment for our children to learn and our teachers to provide instruction, FDOH-Gadsden is providing guidance and free testing to manage the spread of COVID-19. He stated that these are stressful times.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she appreciate the Department of Health for their guidance and for providing free testing.

In response to Mr. Scott's concern regarding the publicity of the cancellation of the high school football game, Mr. Milton stated that the Area Director would reach out to the Athletic Director and Principal of the high school to make sure it was publicized.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she appreciate everyone's input and she thanked the Superintendent for his hard work and dedication.

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