

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

October 11, 2011

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SPECIAL MEETING AT 2:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Mr. Judge B. Helms; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Eric F. Hinson; 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 3:00 p.m.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Head Start PreK Board Training

Mr. Eric Scott, Taylor County Head Start Program Director, shared with the Board an overview of the Head Start Program Governance Board Roles and Responsibilities. He stated that the information contained herein was for training and educational use to change grantees' policies and procedures. He stated that upon designation as a Head Start Agency, a formal structure for program governance shall be established and maintained for the oversight of quality services. He stated that the governing body shall have legal and fiscal responsibility for the Head Start Program, composition of the Board, conflict of interest, exceptions, and responsibilities. He stated that the governing body administers and oversees the Head Start program, and safeguards federal funds. He stated that the governing body composition consists of: not less than one shall have expertise in fiscal management or accounting; not less than one shall have early childhood expertise; and not less than one shall be a licensed attorney familiar with issues that come before the governing body. He stated that members of the governing body shall not have a financial interest with the Head Start program; not receive compensation for serving on the governing board; not be employed, nor shall immediate family; and operate as an entity independent of staff. He stated that if an individual holds a position as a result of public election or political appointment, and such position carries a concurrent appointment to serve as a member of a Head Start agency governing body, and such individual has conflict or interest described in clause (ii) or (iii) of previous slide. He stated that the governing board adopt practices that assure active, independent, and informed governance; ensure compliance with federal laws and applicable state and local; establish procedures and criteria for recruitment, selection and enrollment; review all applications for funding and amendments thereto; review and approve all major policies of the Head Start program (annual self-

assessment, financial audit, personnel policies); develop procedures for how policy council members are selected; approve financial management and reporting policies to include major purchases, operating budget, selection of independent auditor, monitoring of corrective actions if necessary; review results of triennial monitoring; approve personnel policies regarding the hire, compensation and termination of key management personnel; establish written standards of conduct (conflict of interest, community complaints); and establish advisory committees to oversee key responsibilities of the program. He stated that each Grantee Board and Policy Council must jointly establish written procedures for resolving internal disputes, including impasse procedures, between the governing body and policy group. He stated that working together provides opportunities to achieve better results than working alone; and use the language of “we” and “our” and “us”. He stated that “You” and “I” alone cannot achieve as much as “We” can achieve together.

Board members thanked Mr. Scott for the overview of the Head Start Program Governance Board Roles and Responsibilities.

Mr. Frost recognized Mrs. Carolyn Harden and the Head Start PreK staff.

b. One Word Worship Center - Old Greensboro Elementary School Property

Mr. Shepard shared with the Board a visual view of the old Greensboro Elementary School property. He stated that the fair market value of the property was \$750,000.

Mr. Simmons stated that he wanted to have one on one dialogue with Mr. West to discuss the price for sell of the old Greensboro Elementary School property.

Mr. Helms expressed his concern regarding the length of time requested by OWWC for the district to finance the old Greensboro Elementary School property.

Following discussion, Board members agreed to address their individual concerns with the Superintendent regarding the sell of the old Greensboro Elementary School property.

c. Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc. - Midway Property Located On Mine Road

Mr. Shepard shared with the Board a visual view of the property located on Brickyard Road at its intersection with Mine Road in Midway. He stated that the fair market value of the property was \$4,000.00 per acre.

Attorney Minnis stated that the only restriction requested by the McClain’s was that the Midway property be used for educational purposes.

Following discussion, Board members agreed to address their individual concerns with the Superintendent regarding the sell of the property located on Brickyard Road at its intersection with Mine Road in Midway. .

Mr. Milton called for a short recess at 3:55 p.m.; and reconvened the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

d. Technology Restructuring Plan

Dr. Sonja Bridges, Director of Media and Technology, shared with the Board a power-point presentation of the district's technology report. She stated that approximately 90% of desktop operating systems are using Windows XP Professional, and the other 10% are using Windows 7 Professional. She stated that it is important to have similar brands/models because of the support, user experience and usability. She stated that the operating system version is important in order to have the ability to run modern software. She stated that it is important to use the same productivity suite because of IT support, users (students/DOE) using newer versions – teachers/administrators have older versions, some functionality and general use is not compatible, streamline the learning curve from school to school, in to college and the work force (don't have to continue to learn new or older versions as you progress through different grades/schools.), use the "Industry Standard" MS Office (this is what student's will see in the "real world"). She stated that 69 servers are installed in multiple buildings. She stated that 250 switches are installed in multiple buildings. She stated that category 5 wiring (released 1991)/5e (released 2001) – 100 mbps. She stated that the printers are phasing out stand-alone (ink jet) printers, using a few stand-alone laser printer models, trying to standardize with DELL, opting for fewer, networked laser printers for multiple users in offices and media centers. She stated that the connectivity short-term plan is to keep key systems running 24,7,365, continue to monitor content, monitor and administer a safe network environment, and backup servers; the midterm plan is to improve speed and reliability, improve security; the long term plan is to reconfigure internal network (LAN) to virtualization of all server and work stations in the district's data center, saves money on application purchases, saves time, efficiency and accuracy for backups, more secure, fewer entry points for hackers, improve backup and restore capabilities, and speed, speed, speed. She stated that the issues that are causing delays or impeding progress – general configuration, need to upgrade servers to WAN, impact on teaching and learning. She stated that student information system needs to be upgraded. She stated that the district is previewing vendor systems for upgrade with Skyward, Crosspointe, and EDS. She stated that possible upgrade to one package for the district. She stated that the goals for the technology plan include the following: a) new and similar brand/model computers across the district; b) upgrade the infrastructure; c) upgrade/maintain software applications; d) improve quality time with new/current technology; e) modern software applications; f) fast and reliable computers; and g) fast and reliable network system. She stated that technology integration across the district will be the use of some form of technology as part of the teaching routine, use technology daily, use the internet to search for specific content, sites, etc., use all types of technology (PC, Smartboard, Student Response Systems, Document Cameras, Digital Cameras, Internet, Software, etc.), technology that teachers would like, but are not available at some of our school sites at this time (laptops – mobile carts, more Smartboards, software applications such as MS Office for all staff and students, technology we need to enhance (computer labs with up-to-date hardware and lab proctor, internet with increased bandwidth, productivity software applications, one package for the entire district (such as Skyward, ED, etc.) that integrates with our current infrastructure. She stated that the potential funding sources are E-rate, possible local, state and federal grants (Title I, Title II, and Title II-D), and general fund/capital outlay. She stated that if outside funding sources are not readily available, the district need to find a long term, committed and sustainable funding source. She stated the following reasons why the district need to invest now: 1) systems will continue to break and be unusable; 2) students continue to lose out on modern technology and applications; 3) spend thousands of dollars/countless hours repairing old/outdated equipment; 4) waste money by

purchasing multiple copies of software to deploy in multiple buildings; 5) everyone will continue to fall behind their peers; 6) increased risk and liability using old network equipment causing critical data loss; 7) competitive edge continues to decline; 8) administrative staff less efficient due to slow data access; 9) IT staff less effective and efficient due to constant “fire fighting” and repairs, “band-aids” and supporting non-standard, out of warranty, old technology; and 10) IT staff is too few. She stated that the proposed technology organization plan will add two new positions (Telecommunications/Network Repair Technician, and Technology Integration Specialist).

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, and made comments during the power-point presentation of the district’s technology report. Board members thanked Dr. Bridges for her information on the district’s technology report.

Mr. Hinson left the workshop at 4:25 p.m.

3. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Milton stated that a Board representative was needed to attend the Planning and Zoning Meeting on Thursday, October 13th, at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Frost agreed to attend the Planning and Zoning Meeting.

Mr. James stated that the district’s FTE audit started on Monday, October 10th. He stated that he had a positive talk with the Commissioner of Education on Saturday, October 8th.

In response to Mr. Helms’ concern regarding student FTE, Mrs. Smith stated that the district is using all means to support student FTE. She stated that school food service and transportation are involved with student FTE.

5. The workshop adjourned at 6:50 p.m.