

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

January 26, 2016

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; Mr. Isaac Simmons; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; and Mr. Steve Scott. 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Minister Gaylyn Pitts, Assistant Pastor at Bear Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. James recognized Ms. Peggy Howland, CEO of Liberty Community Health Care, Inc.

Ms. Howland shared with the Board a Dental Sealant Program (SMILE UNITED). She stated that SMILE UNITED is an educational and preventative campaign for Pediatric Dental Care. She stated that the program is a school-based dental sealants program that ensures student's grades second through fifth receive free dental assessments, oral cleanings, sealants, fluoride varnish, oral health instruction and a personal dental kit. She stated that the United Way of the Big Bend and Liberty Community Health Care, Inc., will partner with Gadsden County Schools. She stated that the pilot program will begin at Greensboro Elementary School in March with the hopes of expanding to all elementary schools in the county during the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Mr. James recognized Mr. Abria Harris, Rookie Teacher of the Year. He stated that Mr. Harris was one of the district's most outstanding teachers.

Mr. Scott commended Mr. Bruce James for his work with safety and securing schools. He stated that he was proud of the work that Mr. Bruce James was doing.

Mrs. Lewis commended Mr. Bruce James for his outstanding work with safety and securing schools.

Mr. Milton recognized Assistant Pastor Gaylyn Pitts. He also recognized the new Student School Board Member, Al'Tianna Baker. He stated that Al'Tianna will represent the students of the district and share concerns with the Board.

The Board welcomed Al'Tianna to serve as the Student School Board Member.

Altianna thanked the following individuals for their support: Mrs. Dorothy Thomas, Mr. Roger Milton, and her mother, Mrs. Carla Chukes.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Milton added item #8f – West Gadsden High School Emergency Shelter Grant to the agenda. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Isaac Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. December 15, 2015, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. December 15, 2015, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2015 – 2016

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Write Off of State School Recognition Funds and Release of Discretionary Funds

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$45,577.21

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Internal Accounts Audit Contract

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$27,500.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Internal Accounts Audit Report

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

a. Federal Programs Purchase Orders

Fund Source: Federal
Amount: \$42,402.95

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. PSTB Consulting, LLC, Dr. James W. Brown, Jr., Owner

Fund Source: Title II & Title X
Amount: \$10,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Uniform Grant Guidance Implementation Procedures

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

a. Permission to Trade International Bus

Fund Source: Applicable Funds
Amount: \$0.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Florida Building Code Adoption

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.

*7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

b. Resolution 15-07 – Board’s Intention on Use of General Funds

Fund Source: General Funds
Amount: N/A

Following the reading of the script for Resolution Number 15-07 by Mr. Milton, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent recommendation to approve agenda #7b – Resolution Number 15-07. The motion was seconded Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

* 8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

c. Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) Virtual School Agreement

Fund Source: FEFP

Amount: Undetermined – based upon enrollment

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern regarding the district's compliance with virtual schools, Mrs. Mathews-Nelloms stated that the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) Agreement provides a virtual instruction program to the students of Gadsden County as a school choice option. She stated that the Virtual School Program is being monitored. She stated that Edgenuity is a Virtual School Program.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Memorandum of Understanding Between United Way of the Big Bend, Liberty Community Health Care, Inc., and Gadsden County Schools

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

In response to Mrs. Lewis' concern regarding piloting only one school for the dental sealant program, Mr. James stated that the dental sealant program will be expanded to other schools next year upon the Board's approval.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. West Gadsden High School Emergency Shelter Grant

Fund Source: General Fund Grant

Amount: \$97,500.00

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #23-1516-0231

The mother of student #23-1516-0231 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to defer action on student case #23-1516-0231 until a hearing was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #24-1516-0231

The mother of student #24-1516-0231 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to defer action on student case #24-1516-0231 until a hearing was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. School Field Trip Requests (Out-of-State) – Gadsden Technical Institute

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mrs. Lewis stated that she wanted to ensure that the district was in compliance with students traveling by vans for an out of state fieldtrip. She commended Mr. Gibson for taking students to get exposure to barbering, cosmetology and nail technician.

Following discussion, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter stated that the district was seeking realtors for the Havana Elementary School property. He stated that the Board may need to consider a RFP for bid recommendation. He stated that there have been some possible interests in the Havana Elementary School property.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Scott stated that coverage for School Resource Officers at the individual schools was needed.

Mrs. Lewis requested the Board or Superintendent respond to Mr. Butler's request concerning Havana Northside High School. She stated that a Parental Involvement Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 28th, 6:00 p.m. at the district office to discuss seniors and graduation. She stated that graduation rates have increased. She encouraged parents to start working with students in the 8th grade.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was highly opposed to the recommendation from the group regarding Havana Northside High School. He stated that the budget committee has weekly meetings discussing the fiscal responsibility of the district. He stated that there needs to be more oversight in the area of finance and federal programs.

Student Board Member, Al'Tianna Baker, requested a copy of the district's policy and procedures.

Mr. James stated that there were no audit findings in the area of federal programs. He stated that he was committed to giving teachers a raise. He thanked Mr. Bruce James for doing a good job of communicating with principals regarding a recent threat on social media. He stated that the district has the largest graduation rate in the region. He stated that the preliminary school grades will be released in February, but will not include gain scores. He stated that he is confident the school grades will improve in July. He stated that a representative from the New York Times visited the district to gather information regarding the number of students graduating as a result of decreased crime.

Mrs. Lewis commended Mr. James and other district superintendent's for their efforts in fighting for the success of students.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, teacher at James A. Shanks Middle School, addressed the Board to express continued frustrations with teacher's salaries. She stated that a year ago the Board was approached with concerns of the county being out of compliance with creating sufficient teachers' salaries. She stated that she was glad to know that the budget committee was meeting to bring resolution to the issue. She stated that at what point teachers becomes a priority.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Board and Superintendent mirror the same concerns as the teachers. He stated that it is the Board's priority to increase employee salaries.

Mr. Emanuel Sapp addressed the Board to express his concern regarding the Havana Elementary School property. He stated that the property could be purchased for housing. He stated that the crime rate is reduced because Gadsden County has more high school graduates. He stated that the Department of Lottery will distribute funds in March. He requested the Board consider East Gadsden High School to receive the most funds to support additional programs for the 9th and 10th graders.

Mr. James requested Mr. Sapp meet with him, and become a part of the graduation committee.

The Superintendent and Board commended Mr. Sapp for supporting the students and the district.

Major Shawn Woods shared with the Board a power-point presentation revealing the village concept "open book / open mind. He stated that with the collaboration of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department and the Gadsden County School Board working together, more students are graduating from high school as a result of decreased crime.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.