

## SCHOOL BOARD FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

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

July 25, 2023

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; and Mr. Steve Scott. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, 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. Leroy McMillan, at 4:35 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mr. Mays shared with the Board the TRIM Budget Summary for fiscal year 2023 – 2024. He stated that the proposed operating budget expenditures for the District School Board of Gadsden County are 2.1 percent less than last year's total operating expenditures. He stated that the proposed millage levy included the following: Required Local Effort (including the prior period adjustment millage) was 3.2010; basic discretionary operating was 0.7480; basic discretionary capital outlay was 1.5000; the total millage to be levied was 5.4490. He stated that the total expenditures, transfers & balances totaled \$70,510,116.69. He stated that a portion of the tax levy is required under state law in order for the School Board to receive \$26,625,177 in state education grants. He stated that the required portion has increased by 2.896 percent, and represents approximately six tenths of the total proposed taxes. He stated that the remainder of the taxes are proposed solely at the discretion of the School Board. He stated that all concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increases to be held on August 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. He stated that the School Board will soon consider a measure to impose a 1.50 mill property tax for capital outlay projects.

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, and made comments during the discussion of the TRIM Budget Summary.

3. ESSER II and III Funding Update

Mr. Mays shared with the Board information on the ESSER III funding. He stated that the total project amount funded for ESSER III was \$26,643,562.00. He shared with the Board a revenue expense summary report. He stated that there are open project purchase orders to be expended.

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, and made comments during the discussion of the ESSER III funding.

Mr. Mays shared with the Board a proposed salary table showing increases for assistant superintendents, principals, assistant principals, directors, coordinators and supervisors. He stated that the general fund would be reduced.

Mr. McMillan asked what would be the increase for all positions. Mr. Mays stated that the general fund was reduced by \$167,706.90 and the federal fund increased by \$167,706.90. He stated that the overall increase would be \$27,316.76 to the general fund budget. He stated that the district is looking at neighboring counties and being competitive, but affordable. Mr. Key stated that part of the plan is to reduce the number of administrators in the district.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she wished the salary information was included in the Board's information packet. She stated that she wants to make a good sound decision. She stated that the information was needed in advance.

Mr. McMillan stated that he needed ample time to review the salary information in order to make a good decision.

In response to Mrs. Dudley's request regarding when the Annual Financial Report (AFR) is due, Mr. Mays stated that the AFR is due September 13, 2023 and will be brought to the Board along with the final budget on September 7, 2023.

#### 4. Facilities Update

Mr. Johnny Riley shared with the Board the following updates: AC Chillers installed at West Gadsden Middle School; Greensboro Elementary School AC needs additional duct work for new unit; working to get the AC unit repaired at Stewart Street Elementary School because the company did not have all the information when bid for new AC unit; school cleaning went very well; pressure washing for James A. Shanks Middle School, George W. Munroe Elementary School, Havana Magnet School, working to get someone to pressure wash West Gadsden Middle School; most of the cleaning and painting complete for Gadsden Central Academy – ceiling tile has been ordered.

Mr. Key stated that the Director of ESE asked to use the square building at Gadsden Central Academy and move staff from the portable building behind the district office. She stated that employees are getting sick from being in the portable building.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding locks on the door at Havana Magnet School, Mr. Riley stated that locks were put on the doors, some work and some don't. He stated that the previous company went out of business and the new company only received 2 partial payments.

Mr. Key stated that the change in employees has caused a breakdown and the purchase orders for payment were not complete. He stated that the purchase orders are now being processed.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding the gymnasium floors at Havana Magnet School, Mr. Riley stated that the gym floors are complete at Gadsden County High School, working on Havana Magnet School and then will move to West Gadsden Middle School.

Mr. Key stated for clarity that the company sent information regarding an additional cost of \$1.7M for the new AC unit at Stewart Street Elementary School. He stated that the information is being reviewed.

Mr. McMillan stated that he was concerned about the condition of the Gadsden Central Academy building. He stated that the district needed to stop accepting substandard facilities. He stated that the facilities need to be brought up to date. He stated that the culture needs to be changed from accepting substandard practices. He stated that he personally thought an architect should have design a nice new facility.

#### 5. Educational Items by the Superintendent

None.

#### 6. School Board Requests and Concerns

None.

#### 7. The workshop adjourned 5:58 p.m.