

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

November 17, 2015

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; Chairwoman, Mr. Isaac Simmons; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Roger P. Milton; 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 workshop was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, at 4:35 p.m.

2. Financial Data Report

3. Discussion Items

- a. List of contractors and notification to Board regarding vendors with total payments greater than \$15,000 and other payment issues.
- b. Miscellaneous finance department items:
 - i. Miscellaneous verbal updates.

Mr. Thomas Kauffman stated that he was filling in for Mrs. Ferree. He stated that he, Mrs. Ferree, and Mr. Mays attended the Finance Officer's Conference last week. He stated that twelve districts are working to resolve issues with the Annual Financial Report. He stated that the Annual Financial Report was due to the Department of Education on December 1, 2015.

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern regarding funding updates, Mr. Kauffman stated that the FEFP has not been updated. He stated that expenditures are slowing down.

- c. Other – agenda items:
 - i. Agenda item – Approval of PO #188412 for Head Start portable renovations.

Mr. Kauffman stated that Purchase Order #188412 for Head Start portable renovations cover the updates to the portables and will pay for the set up at new locations.

- ii. Agenda item – DESF contracts for two 5th grade teachers at Havana Magnet School.

Mr. Simmons stated that there was still a need for a major recruiting effort for teachers, especially in the STEM areas.

4. Review of Proposed School Board Policies

Mr. Simmons stated that at the last meeting he requested a workshop to review and discuss the proposed School Board Policies.

Dr. James Brown stated that most of the changes to the proposed School Board Policies are related to the Board's participation with the Race To-The-Top Grant. He stated that the School Board Policies address three different levels in the areas of administrative at the district level, administrative at the school level, and an instructional section. He stated that the School Board Policies will state how the Board will implement the policies. He stated that he served on the State Board Commission for Race To-The-Top. He stated that 90% of the proposed School Board Policies are mandated. He stated that implementing the Proposed School Board Policies will not require additional funds.

Following discussion, the Board scheduled a Special Board Meeting on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss and act on the Annual Financial Report; and a workshop at 1:00 p.m. to review and discuss the Proposed School Board Policies.

5. School Board Requests and Concerns

Mr. Frost stated that he wished to have experience persons working with ERATE. He stated that he will hold someone responsible for ERATE.

Mr. Kauffman stated that Mr. Hue Manning was currently working on district contract for ERATE. He stated that the finance department offers assistance with ERATE.

In response to Mr. Simmons' request for an overview of ERATE structure, Mr. Kauffman stated that the vendors give discounted billing on wireless phone bills. He stated that the vendors also offer major discounts upfront. He stated that if there is an audit regarding ERATE, the questions will be addressed to the district.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Director of Technology should have access to the ERATE files.

Mrs. Lewis suggested the finance department view Osceola County's website to see the simplicity of their budget – pie graph.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:10 p.m.; and reconvened at 5:12 p.m.

Mr. James stated that it had been a traumatic week with Deputy Superintendent Rosalyn Smith passing. He stated that she did a wonderful job. He stated that she will be missed. He stated that her legacy will live on. He stated that he appreciated Dr. Brown for coming to assist the district. He stated that at the last Board meeting he thought the Board was in agreement with the ½ cent sales tax. He requested clarity from the Board on what needs to be done regarding the ½ cent sales tax.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she agreed with the ½ cent sales tax. She stated that the public and citizens should be informed of how the funds generated from the ½ cent sales tax would be spent.

Mr. Scott stated that money is needed to improve the infrastructure of schools. He stated that he was not opposed to the ½ cent sales tax. He stated that he was opposed to introducing it at this time when it will not be successful during an election year. He stated that if the ½ cent sales tax was presented in an off year, the voter turnout would be lower.

Mr. Milton stated that a plan was needed to state how the funds from the ½ cent sales tax would be used. He stated that more discussion was needed regarding the ½ cent sales tax.

Mr. Simmons concurred with Mr. Milton. He stated that more discussion was needed to strategize on how the funds from the ½ cent sales tax would be spent. He stated that every community should receive a portion of the ½ cent sales tax. He stated that he was in agreement with the ½ cent sales tax.

Mr. Frost stated that the ½ cent sales tax should be presented when there is a big election year. He stated that the voter turnout would be low during an off year.

Mr. James stated that everyone has to do their homework. He stated that more meetings were needed to further discuss the ½ cent sales tax.

The workshop adjourned at 5:25 p.m.