

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

December 14, 2010

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. 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 6:02 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Audrey Lewis and Ms. Denise Hannah shared with the Board a power-point presentation showcasing the district's faith-based partners.

Mr. James recognized the following individuals: 1) Mr. Isaac Simmons for diligently working with Mr. Shepard concerning the heating issues; 2) Brooke Gordon for being a very articulate and outstanding student at Gadsden Elementary Magnet School; 3) Onryll Lewis for scoring a perfect score on the FCAT Reading and Math; and 4) Mrs. Wilma Jackson – retiring after 38 years. He announced that East and West Gadsden High Schools were removed from the failing list by receiving grades “D” (East Gadsden High School) and “C” (West Gadsden High School).

Mr. Frost recognized Principal Juliette Fisher Jackson for her hard work and dedication.

Mr. Hinson recognized Mr. Milton and his family for being a close-net family. He also recognized St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church and their pastor, Rev. Julius Robinson, and Rainbow Educational Services for giving away 500 books “Reading for the Holidays”.

Mr. Simmons recognized Mr. Shepard for doing an outstanding job and his expertise with facilities. He stated that he assisted Mr. Shepard to help minimize the complaints with the heat. He stated that the district needs to decrease the response time to staff and teachers.

Mr. Helms recognized the Quincy Kiwanis Club on their special day for hosting the Children's Christmas Party. He stated that 123 students from George W. Munroe Elementary School, St. John Elementary School, Gretna Elementary School, and Stewart Street Elementary School benefited from the Christmas party and received gifts.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Milton entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Isaac Simmons, seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. November 16, 2010, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. November 16, 2010, 5:30 p.m. – School Board Organizational Meeting
- c. November 16, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Approval of bills and vouchers - See back-up material

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Budget Amendment Number Nine

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$304,208.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Budget Amendment Number Ten

Fund Source: 431 Funds
Amount: \$34,511.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Budget Amendment Number Eleven

Fund Source: 410 (School Food Service) Funds
Amount: \$6,878.42

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Budget Amendment Number Twelve

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #16-1011-0211
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #22-1011-0051
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #23-1011-0211
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #27-1011-0231
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- b. School Advisory Council Rosters
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 and acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

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

- a. Personnel 2010 - 2011

In response to Mr. Hinson’s concern about whether the recommended staff was budget for and fully certified, Mr. James responded yes.

In response to Mr. Simmons’ question regarding the process for transferring an employee from one department to another, Dr. Hightower stated that the employee is asked to complete an exit interview only if they are leaving the district.

Mr. Helms stated that he hoped the Superintendent would not recommend individuals if they are not needed and asked that he be very careful about recommending anyone for the remainder of this school year, because some individuals may not be recommended back next year.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

f. Crossroad Academy Financial Reports for October, 2010

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons asked if the Crossroad Academy Financial Reports for October, 2010 met all requirements and was correct. He also asked about ownership of the facility and timeframe.

Mrs. Wood stated that based on the information provided by Crossroad Academy they are financially sound. She stated that FEFP dollars are sent every month and the district passes those dollars onto Crossroad Academy. She stated that she would have to refer back to the audit in regards to the terms of ownership. She stated that she will review the audit and report back to the Board.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7f. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

a. 2010-2012 School Health Services Plan

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested an overview of the 2010 – 2012 School Health Services Plan.

Ms. Doris Drake, Gadsden County Health Department School Health Coordinator, stated that the School Health Services Plan outline how health services prescribed by state standards will be provided to the students of the Gadsden County School District.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

a. Engineering Control Implementation Plan and Draft Declaration of Restrictive Covenant Report for the Underground Storage Tank Located at the Transportation Department

Fund Source: Capital Improvements Fund
Amount: \$5,000.00

Mr. Helms asked if this would complete the process for the engineering control implementation plan and draft declaration of restrictive covenant report for the underground storage tank located at the transportation department.

Mr. Shepard stated that this was a continuation process. He stated that the Department of Environmental Protection was involved in order to satisfy all the requirements.

Mr. Derek Price, DEP Representative, stated that once this portion is approved, it will be forwarded to DEP for comments and sent to the Board for signature. He stated that this process may take a couple of months for routing. He stated that this was an allowance in the Florida Administrative Code.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

a. Master In-Service Plan Approval

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons asked for an explanation of the revisions to the Master-In Service Plan.

Dr. Hightower stated that each year changes are made to the Master In-Service Plan and PAEC require that it is brought to the Board for approval. He stated that the plan is effective from 2007 – 2012. He stated that the plan has been written for Gadsden County and it will be implemented for inspiring leaders beginning in January for one year. He stated that administrators training will be for two years beginning in January.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

a. Approval of School Board Rules 8.71 (Information Technology Data and Computer Systems: Security, Audits and Controls) and 8.72 (Information Technology Data and Computer Systems: System Passwords and Access)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concerned about identifying the level of security for authorized individuals. He stated that authorized persons should be identified by listing their positions as having access to the district's network.

The Board instructed the Superintendent to meet with Dr. Bridges to discuss and identify those individuals authorized to have access to the district's network.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #12a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that a workshop was needed to discuss the district's budget.

The Board scheduled a workshop on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 beginning at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the district's budget.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Simmons stated that the Florida School Boards Legislation was scheduled for March and encouraged all Board members to attend. He stated that the achievement gap was in the community and that a task force might be needed to help meet the challenges in the communities. He stated that he wants to schedule quarterly Board meetings in the districts to be more accessible to the community.

Mr. Hinson stated that he wanted to make sure that the district continue to stay on top of the heating and air issues in the schools. He stated that PreK students need to have a pre-test.

Mr. Simmons stated that he recently attended the FSBA and FADSS Annual Joint Conference in Tampa. He stated that the forecast for building prisons is based on 3rd grade reading test scores.

In response to Mr. Helms' concern whether the district lost money on the class size amendment not being met, Mr. James stated that the district did not lose any money on class size amendment. He stated that the problem was data error and the district is working on an amendment.

Mr. Hinson stated that the district needed to make sure PreK teachers have the energy and enthusiasm to keep children learning.

Mr. Milton stated that it has been a life changing event for him with the passing of his mother. He thanked the Superintendent, Board, and staff for the phone calls, flowers, cards, visits, etc.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.