

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

December 20, 2016

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, 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. Isaac Simmons, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Rev. Johnny Gordon, Associate Pastor at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Lewis recognized Dr. Sylvia Jackson (Director Gadsden Technical Institute) and Mr. Don Gibson (Barbering, Cosmetology and Nail Tech) for good representation on behalf of the district.

Mr. Scott thanked everyone that made the district office Christmas luncheon possible. He stated that the entertainment was very good.

Mr. Frost presented Mrs. Deborah Minnis with gift cards and thanked her for her hard work and dedication to the district.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Simmons added the following items to the agenda: 1) #8c – Collegiate High School Program; 2) #10f – Educational Plant Survey Report; and 3) #10g – Addendum to Real Estate Contract. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. November 15, 2016, 6:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- b. November 22, 201, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Organization Meeting
- c. November 22, 2016, 5:00 p.m. –School Board Workshop
- d. November 22, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- e. December 6, 2016, 3:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- f. December 6, 2016, 5:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- g. December 6, 2016, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2016 – 2017

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. General Fund Budget Amendment No. 3

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$-353,397.23

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Insurance/Benefits Committee Recommendation

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Agreement Between The School Board of Gadsden County Public Schools and Soliant Health, Inc.

Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: \$56.00 per hour

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Collegiate High School Program Agreement 2017 – 2018

Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #17-1617-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- b. Grounds Maintenance (District Wide)

Fund Source: 110

Amount: \$167,420.00 (annually for 10 months)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Greensboro Elementary (Accident Update)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: \$0.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Florida Safe Schools Assessment Certification 2015 – 2016

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- g. Addendum To Real Estate Contract

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.

*10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Administration Building HVAC Improvements

Fund Source: 340

Amount: \$213,275.00 (base bid) & \$29,830.00 (alternate #1)

In response to Mr. Simmons' request for an overview of the changes to the administration building HVAC improvements, Mr. Hunter stated that the project was bid in November and five qualified bidders submitted bids for the project. He stated that recommendation was for the base bid and alternate #1 to Smith's Inc. of Dothan. He stated that funding was available to pay the cost to include alternates #1, 2, 3, 4 and the base bid.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10a to include available funding to pay the cost to include alternates #1, 2, 3, 4 and the base bid. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Five Year Work Plan

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Board members added item #10d-1 with updated changes to page #8 of the Five Year Work Plan.

Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10d and 10d-1 with updated changes to page #8 of the Five Year Work Plan. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Educational Plant Survey Report

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10f. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter shared with the Board information on the project request form to be utilized for all additions, remodeling, renovation or change of space use.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton gave kudos to federal programs for combining summer programs to one central site. He stated that the programs and organizations needed to run efficiently.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern regarding a rate study on electricity, Mr. Hunter stated that he was working with Talquin Electric to schedule a meeting to discuss the issue. He invited Mr. Simmons to join in on the meeting.

Mr. Ronte' Harris, President of the Gadsden County Classroom Teachers Association, addressed the Board to commend the Superintendent for taking a bold step in the right direction in proposing reconfiguration of the schools. He stated that the Gadsden County Classroom Teachers Association supports the Superintendent in his effort to reconfigure schools. He requested that the Board provide the audience with copies of emergency items when they are added to the agenda.

Mr. Frost stated that he would like to see members of the audience get involved at the schools and attend PTA meetings, etc.

Mr. Smith expressed his appreciation to attend the first School Board Conference. He stated that he supports the Superintendent. He stated that he was concerned about the maximum capacity at Stewart Street Elementary School. He stated that the principal has expressed her concern for an Assistant Principal.

Mr. Milton stated that he spoke with Ms. Robinson at Stewart Street Elementary School and she expressed the need for additional support.

Mrs. Lewis requested the Superintendent begin the process of working with GCCTA in regards to the supplemental salary schedule. She stated that an evaluation of the curriculum in the schools was needed. She wanted to know what the return on investment was with the different programs.

Dr. Hightower stated that some programs are more effective in some schools than others. He stated that the current programs in the schools will be evaluated.

Mr. Milton stated that over time he has observed the different programs in the schools. He stated that some schools have a lot of programs. He stated that the district is moving forward in 2017. He stated that principals will have an input with programs for their use.

In response to Mrs. Lewis' request of an evaluation of data of the students in the 21st Century Program, Dr. Hightower stated that the 21st Century Program is currently being evaluated by Dr. Brown on an annual basis.

Mr. Smith stated that schools needed to be commended on their graduation rates. He requested a matrix of the district to determine what it takes for students to graduate.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the Edgenuity Program helped to move seniors forward. She stated that a graduation committee was formed and the district saw the return on investment.

Mr. Milton gave kudos to the hard working staff, teachers, principals and instructional staff. He encouraged the Board to get involved and make education a priority for the students.

In response to Dr. Hightower's statement that the current graduation plan was under attack by the Legislature, Mr. Smith stated that the district needed to prepare students for graduation.

Mr. Simmons stated that a workshop was needed to review the Auditor General's Report.

The Board scheduled a retreat on January 11th at 9:00 a.m. to discuss and review the proposal for reconfiguration of schools.

Mr. Emanuel Sapp addressed the Board to share information. He stated that great things are being done with the 9th graders. He requested the Board's support with a recent family who was burned out and lost everything. He praised the seniors at East Gadsden High School, and the Exceptional Student Education Department for their support of the family. He stated that changes needed to be made to the district's homeless procedures. He stated that a formula and service plan was needed to support homeless families.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the district has a service plan for homeless families. She stated that the district provide transportation, health and dental services to families. She stated that the district is obligated to provide services for families under the Federal Title X Program.

Mr. Ronte' Harris stated that GCCTA was prepared to return to the bargaining table to discuss salary supplements. He stated that public education is under attack. He stated that a group in Gadsden is leading the fight to save public education.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Florida School Board's Association is also on the front line to save public education.

Mr. Milton requested Mrs. Lewis use resources to research information on the Teach for America Program. He tasked the Board to look into resources to enhance education for students.

Mr. Simmons wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.