

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

October 22, 2024

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, Chairwoman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, Mr. Steve Scott, and Mr. Charlie D. Frost. 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Retired Reverend Matthew Bryant, Sr.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Johnson acknowledged all the breast cancer survivors.

Mr. Scott acknowledged the Gadsden County High School Football Team with a 7 and 1 record, and for being ranked #1 in the State of Florida.

Mr. Frost recognized Retired Reverend Matthew Bryant, Sr. and thanked him for coming to do the prayer.

Mr. Key recognized the month of October as being breast cancer awareness month. He gave kudos to the Gadsden County High School Football Team. He stated that the district championship game was scheduled for Friday, October 25th at the high school against Taylor County. He stated that Taylor County fans would not be charged to enter the game. He recognized Mrs. Dudley and appreciated her for her work as a Board member.

Mr. McMillan, Board members and the Superintendent presented Mrs. Dudley with a plaque award for her service as a Board member.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Judith Mandela, teacher at Carter Parramore Academy, addressed the Board to share information on the framework of the most recent collective bargaining meeting and the official video.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Dudley entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried unanimously.

6. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. September 24, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Financial Workshop
- b. September 24, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2024– 2025

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Head Start Budget Revision

Fund Source: Head Start Grant

Amount: \$92,660.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. TOP-2 GCSD (James A. Shanks Middle School)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. GCSD Grants Manual

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Surplus School Furniture and Equipment

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Request to Delete from Capital Assets (Sell via Salvage)

Fund Source: Applicable Funds

Amount: \$1,642,366.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Purchase Order Request for B&T Fencing

Fund Source: General Funds

Amount: \$34,853.50

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. West Gadsden Middle School Marching Band Out-of-State Field Trip Request

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Report on 24-25 FSSAT Findings, Strategies and Activities

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Student Code of Conduct

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.

*8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

b. Varsity Tutors for Schools

Fund Source: ESSER 3 Learning Loss

Amount: \$508,800.00

In response to Mr. Scott's concern regarding the Varsity Tutors for Schools, Dr. Loietta Holmes stated that Varsity Tutors was an online tutoring platform that integrates seamlessly with classroom tools and approved curriculum. She stated that the students would receive targeted support that aligns with the district goals and the State standards. She stated that instructional support included live tutors with proven experience in core subject areas. She stated that the teachers are certified teachers. She stated that there would be 100 students served per school at Chattahoochee Elementary School, James A. Shanks Middle School, and West Gadsden Middle School.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key requested an executive session following the meeting. He shared with the Board the academic and support services departmental updates.

Major Willie Jackson shared with the Board updates at Gadsden Technical College. He stated that there were ongoing projects at GTC. He stated that the Café Renovation, technology repairs and upgrades, Post-Secondary FOCUS Rollout, equipment acquisition for the new Applied Engineering Program at Gadsden County High School. He stated that day-to-day activities include Nursing Clinical in Miller County, Georgia (October 14 -25), Student Services procedures, curriculum and instruction monitoring, COE Visit preparation (November 18-21), January 2025 Enrollment, 12 Grants Management (all award letters received). He stated that anticipated projects included the GATE Program application, AA/AS Degree implementation (August 2025), Construction Management "Tiny House" Partnership with Jones Construction (January 2025). Mrs. Dudley and the Board members thanked Major Jackson for sharing valuable information. Mr. McMillan stated that the Jones Construction Tiny House program provides an opportunity for students to learn a carpentry skill to build a house. He stated that a tiny house for homeless students. Major Jackson announced that Wednesday (October 30) the Café would open at Gadsden Technical College. He stated that there are 82 dual enrolled students at Gadsden Technical College. Mr. Frost stated that he appreciated Dr. Sylvia Jackson for pursuing the name change to Gadsden Technical College.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Johnson stated that the Reading Grants Manual contained good information. She stated that she enjoyed working with Mrs. Dudley and will truly miss her.

Mr. Scott thanked Mrs. Dudley for her leadership.

Mr. McMillan stated that he appreciated Mrs. Dudley and enjoyed working with her.

Mr. Frost stated that it was great to work with Mrs. Dudley. He stated that he appreciated the sorority/frat brothers for walking the halls at the schools. He asked everyone to show his or her presence at the schools. He stated that there was a 17% increase for black males with prostate cancer. He encouraged everyone to be tested.

Mrs. Dudley expressed her sentiments for working with the Board. She thanked her constituents of District 5 for their support. She stated that she loved Gadsden County. She acknowledged Ms. Lisa Robinson for giving her an opportunity to begin her teaching career.

13. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

The Board convened in an executive session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining issues; and adjourned at 7:20 p.m.