

## REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

June 24, 2025

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, Ms. Stacey S. Hannigon, 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 Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Reverend Matthew Bryant, Pastor of Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church, Chattahoochee, Florida.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Hannigon stated that she wanted to publicly say Happy Birthday to Board Member Frost.

Mr. Frost recognized Ms. Deborah Young in the finance department for her hard work and dedication to the district. He stated that Ms. Young without hesitation provided him with information he requested.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Titianna Wooden, parent of a student at Havana Magnet School, addressed the Board in regards to her concern about the way she was being treated with trespassing charges brought against her at Havana Magnet School. She stated that she has been trying to get the charges dropped. She stated that she made contact with Ms. Johnson but did not get a response. Ms. Johnson apologized to Ms. Wooden because she had misplaced her phone number. Ms. Wooden stated that she had a scheduled meeting with the Superintendent, but when she arrived, she was asked to meet with Dr. Sylvia Jackson. She stated that she did not feel comfortable meeting with Dr. Jackson, but wanted to meet with the Superintendent. Mr. Key stated that due to another meeting away from the office, he was late returning to the office to meet with Ms. Wooden and asked Dr. Jackson to meet with her until he arrived. Dr. Jackson apologized to Ms. Wooden and regretted that she felt uncomfortable speaking with her. Mr. Frost stated that he was glad that Ms. Wooden brought her concerns to the Board. Mr. Key stated that he would schedule a meeting with Ms. Wooden.

Ms. Judith Mandela, district teacher, addressed the Board regarding the school starting time for the new school year. Mr. Key stated that the school start time would remain the same as last year.

6. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. May 27, 2025, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Financial Workshop
- b. May 27, 2025, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Ms. Hannigon made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #'s 6a – 6b. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

#### ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Scott, seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

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.

b. Personnel 2025 – 2026

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

a. School Board Truth in Millage (TRIM) Timetable

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Renewal of Capital Health Plan, Inc. World Class Schools of Leon County, Inc. and Titus Sports Academy, LLC

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. MOA Between Gadsden County School Board and Florida Department of Health

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$100,100.00 (Quarterly payments will be made of \$25,025.00)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Contractual Agreement Between The School Board of Gadsden County and Coggin Toyota, Jacksonville, Florida

Fund Source: IDEA

Amount: \$91,740.00 (2 @ \$45,870.00)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

g. Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC-FLVS Franchise) Contract Agreement

Fund Source: FEFP

Amount: Undetermined – Based upon enrollment

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

h. K-12 Florida LLC Virtual School Agreement

Fund Source: FEFP

Amount: Undetermined – Based upon enrollment.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

i. Medical Physicals 2025-2026

Fund Source: 1100E

Amount: \$7,200.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

## 9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #130-2425-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

## 10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Purchase Order Request for Rowe Roofing, Inc.

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$21,600.00

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. Request Approval for Contract

Fund Source: Spectrum Lease Compensation (T-Mobile)

Amount: \$41,500.00

Ms. Hannigon questioned why two different vendors were needed for item #8b and e. She stated that the scope of services were similar. Mr. John Thomas, Technology Coordinator, stated that item #8b was for engineering. He stated that the contract provides network engineering, mapping and system configuration. He stated that the funding source would be compensation from T-Mobile for leasing the district's wireless spectrum (30-year lease). He stated that Gingham Technology LLC is an integral part of the district's plan to complete the upgrade to networking and security district-wide.

Ms. Stacey S. Hannigon made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Request for Approval of Service Contract

Fund Source: Title I

Amount: \$55,000.00

Mr. Thomas stated that item #8e Lamier Technology Services, LLC contract was for a different kind of service. He stated that this individual has been a partner with the district providing competent technology support to the district for over 14 years. He stated that he does handle things with the network, etching, images, computers and work with the school sites.

Ms. Stacey S. Hannigon made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8e. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

## 11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key asked Major Jackson to come and share with the Board the goals for Gadsden Technical College. Major Jackson shared with the Board the following Smart Goals/Increasing Enrollment: 1) Accessibility - Increase admission and enrollment by promoting and maintaining an inclusive, accessible environment where all stakeholders are welcome, valued and respected; 2) Support - provide holistic and meaningful support to increase student income and program success; 3) Relevance - provide relevant, engaging and high quality instruction aligned with DOE curriculum frameworks; 4) Sustainability - pursue and sustain adequate human fiscal and physical resource needed to produce workforce ready graduates; 5) Workforce readiness. Increase the program, completion placement and certification / licensing rate for high demand industry jobs in the region; and 6) Growth and expansion - Expand educational program to offer degree and certificate programs.

He stated that there are a few challenges at Gadsden Technical College to include student services (admissions enrollment data and finance accounting procedures); student management system: A Post-secondary education institute using a secondary system. Dual enrollment textbooks and materials: Funding is a question facilities and operations, maintenance and services. He stated that 100% of the students who attend Gadsden Technical College pay \$0.00 out of their pocket. He stated that based on the Pell Grant or Open door, whatever we cover, it covers all the tuition, books and everything. He stated that no money come out of the student's pocket. Ms. Hannigon stated that she requested this presentation a few months back. She stated that she totally understands that the majority of what comes before us as a board is on the consent agenda. She stated that she thinks as a Board, we rob ourselves of the opportunity to toot our own horn every now and then, especially at a time when you hear so much negativity about our school district. She stated that it is a great opportunity for us to shine the light on the good that is going on in the district. She stated that she hoped that this presentation changes the conversation regarding our technical college and also encourages and inspire some of our residents to know that you have what you need right here in your backyard. She stated that you do not have to travel to another county; with all due respect, you do not have to go to another institution within our county. She stated that the district has programs available that can benefit you. She stated that as Major Jackson stated in the midst of doing it, we are putting some money in your pocket because of financial aid being available. She thanked Major Jackson for sharing this information with the Board. She asked him to elaborate on the comment "this is where we get our money from". Major Jackson stated that actually those are adult students. He stated that the average student would get about \$7300 in Pell Grant. He stated that the tuition is set for the State for CTE. He stated that they end up paying about \$2,234 dollars. He stated that the courses are about \$2100. He stated that if the general fund increases, it only comes from money from the Pell Grant of the adult students. He stated that now when you look at whether they are paying us maybe 2000, whatever with open door sending them somewhere between 1100 and 2200 back, so they are almost going to get all their money free. Ms. Hannigon wanted to know what the cosmetology students and the cosmetology program received. Major Jackson stated that in the past they have not received anything, but the future moving forward they would actually be able to have a kit. He stated that if they needed to go set up shop, now they will have enough to start as a cosmetologist with all the equipment, and the hard drives would be part of the bundle. Ms. Hannigon stated that the students would have a means for moving into providing those bundles. Major Jackson stated yes, we have the means to provide bundles to those students. He stated that simply because we have not charged fees for those individuals because we wanted them to put as much money back into their pocket. He stated that with the open door some of the money could be funneled back into the fees to pay for the bundles. Ms. Hannigon stated kudos to the professional advertisements. She stated that this is her first time going around this mountain. She stated that we are coming up on budget season and without having some of these presentations and conversations, we do not know what that process will look like. She stated that she understands that there are restrictions. She stated that she has been in government for a while but being able to hear from staff regarding their needs is very important. She stated that she is hopeful for being a part of the process to help shuffle whatever is needed to meet the needs. Mr. Frost stated that he loved the presentation especially since he was a former student. He stated that the public information person need to make sure the good things are getting out to the public. He stated that this shows that we are doing great things here in Gadsden County Schools, and at Gadsden Technical College. He stated that people now know that we have a technical college here in Gadsden County, and I appreciate that. Ms. Hannigon asked Major Jackson if he knew what other technical colleges were doing about making the cosmetology program more attractive for adult students. Major Jackson responded yes, and that is why it is a challenge and we are still working through it. He stated that they have to get a better understanding because he thinks when it comes to nails and facial, those hours actually transition into cosmetology. He stated that the two courses have been completely separate. He stated that the students are having to start all over, which is 225 hours that they have already used that can go towards cosmetology. He stated that they are just a little away from breaking the code to get it underneath 1100 hours to bring the students in. He stated that he is looking for the funding to find a teacher. He stated that it is not as it is impossible we will soon have the money to run cosmetology just as if we run the nursing tech for the summer. Dr. Sylvia Jackson added that the State recently recognized cosmetology and barbering as career themes. She stated that this was because of the reporting in terms of income and taxes. She stated that they recently found a way to work around that because if you are cutting hair, you do not have to report all of your income. She stated that makes it difficult to estimate the actual income of barbering or a cosmetologist. She stated that she believes that there was recent legislature that allows one to work around and allow those programs to be eligible for additional financial aid opportunities.

Mr. McMillan stated that he believes the district is missing a good opportunity with tiny houses. He stated that is an opportunity for our kids to come in and build a house from the ground up. He stated that the result after it is sold would be money going back to Gadsden Technical College. He stated that he did not know if the foundation could get involved to help fund. He stated that the district could get sponsors to help get it off the ground. He stated that once it is off the ground it should be self-sufficient. Major Jackson stated that the program for tiny home buildings would start in August. He stated that purchase orders were received to purchase the equipment. He stated that Gadsden Technical College now have four classes: Carpentry, HVAC, Electric and Plumbing. He stated that the Gate Program allowed us to build equipment for all the CTE's, and everything is a go for August 1st. Mr. McMillan stated that was exciting to hear.

Mr. Key stated that he would get information to the Board on administration hiring for the next school year. He introduced Mr. Marlon Ball as the new principal of Gadsden County High School. Mr. Ball stated that he was from Tampa, Florida and was most recently in Jefferson County. He thanked the Board for giving him a chance. Mr. McMillan thanked Mr. Ball, for coming out. He stated that the Board has great expectations for Mr. Ball. Dr. Sylvia Jackson stated to the Chair with all due respect, Mr. Ball has been hitting the ground, running, and getting things done. She stated that he is ready.

## 12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Scott stated that at the retreat the Board was given a tentative copy of the Student Code of Conduct for the 25 – 26 year. He stated that a workshop is needed for further discussion.

Mr. Frost stated that he wants everybody to know that student discipline was going to change in Gadsden County. He stated that our disciplined protocol is going to be different this year. He stated that the Board want to make our district presentable so people can come back to the district.

Mr. McMillan stated that he thinks that as a Board, sometimes we do not follow up on issues, as we really should. He stated that we ask for this or ask for that and, when we leave the meeting, we just forget about it. He stated that when things are requested, we have to stick with them and follow up. He stated that even if it has to be brought back to the next Board meeting. He inquired about the foreclosure of the old Chattahoochee High School. He asked if they had started making payments on the property. Mrs. Bruner stated that since she has been here payments have been made monthly. Mrs. Minnis stated that what was asked of her when the information was presented was not an actual vote by the Board to start the process. She stated that the last presentation as she remembers were the Board's options to deed over foreclosure, foreclosure or sell the note. She stated that has not gotten a vote on which one of those options the Board actually wants to do. She stated that until she gets clear directions and a vote on what to do she really could not start engaging. Mr. McMillan stated that he needed to know from the finance department what is going on financially, so the Board can make decision on whether or not to foreclose on the property. He stated that if they are making payments like they supposed to then that is great. He stated that the Board needed a list of all the properties that the School Board owned. He stated that he would get with the property appraiser to get a list of all of the properties that the Board own. He stated that the School Board has property that may never be used, could sell and be placed back on the tax roll. He stated that could be income for the county. He stated that he would share information about the properties with the Board at the next meeting. He stated that in reference to Quincy Main Street and the old Gadsden Elementary Magnet School property, the Board could not do anything with those buildings until the migrant program and head start office are placed somewhere. He stated that the Board has to get with the attorney in reference to the property in case other legal questions come up relating to this matter.

## 13. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.