

## SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

April 26, 2022

4:30 P.M.

The workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; 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 workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 4:30 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mr. Mays stated that he attended a meeting with Florida School Boards Insurance Trust (FSBIT) regarding their renewal. He stated that FSBIT shared a preliminary rate for renewal (handout) for the 2022 – 2023 school year. He stated that the district has made significant gains and is the only district with negatives causing the premium to decrease. He stated that the premium decrease is due to the district following policies and procedures to move the district forward with workers compensation and getting employees back to work in addition to other steps being taken. He stated that the decrease in the premium insurance has a savings of \$169,396.00. He stated that the district's cyber premium was not included. He stated that the district's end of the year close out will begin soon as well as planning for the summer and next year. He stated that the finance department will be sending the payroll calendar to the Board for approval next month.

3. Facilities Update

Mr. Hunter stated that the maintenance department is still struggling to find new employees. He stated that there is still a battle with a water leak under a reinforced sidewalk at Gadsden County High School. He stated that the maintenance department is continuing to work to repair the water leak.

Mr. McMillan stated that the Board may want to consider what the grounds maintenance position entails. He stated that the requirements may need to include a high school diploma preferred. He stated that there are many skilled workers in the county.

The other Board members agreed with relaxing the requirements for the ground maintenance positions.

Mrs. Minnis stated that the Board would need to amend the job description if agreed upon for Board approval.

Mr. Hunter stated that there has been preliminary discussion with the architect regarding the new school. He stated that the last meeting was a full day with the architect listening to the needs and desires of the district. He stated that the next meeting will be more detailed with the focus on programs and the location. He stated that plans have evolved from basics to programming and placing classes. He stated that he was confident that the Phase I drawings will be presented to the Board on May 24<sup>th</sup> for approval unless a special board meeting is needed.

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding sharing the new school plans with the community, Mr. Hunter suggested letting the public know what is going on with the new school without getting into any major details.

Mr. McMillan stated that the new school committee is not getting the input from faculty and staff that they thought they would get. He asked Board members to attend the meetings and not wait until the drawings are presented to the Board. He stated that Board members will come at different times to the meeting on April 29th. He asked the Board members to review the drawings and changes presented and share their feedback.

4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

None.

5. School Board Requests and Concerns

Mr. Frost stated that he appreciates employees doing their job.

In response to Mr. Scott's concern regarding non-classified employees receiving a salary increase, Mr. Key stated that he is still working to give salary increases to the non-classified employees. He stated that staff recently finished the process for non-instructional staff. He stated that all employees must be at the minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour by October. He stated that he is working hard to give salary increases to non-classified employees.

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding health insurance, Mr. Mays stated that the district is working hard to make changes that are sustainable.

Mr. McMillan stated that the student / employee ratio needed to be reviewed.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:39 p.m.