

## REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

January 24, 2023

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; Mr. Steve Scott; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; 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 Pastor Elliot Sheppard of the Church of God In Christ, Midway, Florida.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Key stated that the district Teacher of the Year will be recognized this week.

Mr. Frost recognized guardians Ms. Ja'Nay McNealy, Ms. Markita Shazier and Ms. Maurnicia Evans. He also recognized Mr. James Stevens, custodian at the district office. He thanked them for all their hard work.

Mrs. Dudley recognized Mrs. Millie Anderson and Mrs. Frances Brown for their DROP Retirement and thanked them for their service. She also recognized Mrs. Rolanda Jackson who recently retired.

Mr. Scott recognized the Havana Magnet School students for participating in the Spelling Bee and Tropicana Speech Contest last week.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan added agenda item #8b – Contractual Agreement between The School Board of Gadsden County and Aubrey's Heart Therapy Services, PLLC. He entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. December 20, 2022, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. December 20, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2022 - 2023

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Purchase Order Request for Brooks Building Solutions

Fund Source: General Fund / Insurance Reimbursement  
Amount: \$118,687.00 – Alternate Price #1

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Greensboro Elementary School Out-of-State Field Trip Request

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Contractual Agreement between The School Board of Gadsden County and Aubrey's Heart Therapy Services, PLLC

Fund Source: IDEA  
Amount: SLP (\$60.00), SLPA (\$40.00) per hour

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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

- a. Request to Amend/Adopt Policies

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

Mrs. Judith Mandela, President GCCTA, addressed the Board to ask if policy 4.21 was new policy.

Mr. Key stated that policy 4.21 was updated policy.

Mrs. Mandela stated that it would be beneficial to share information with teachers on what would happen for going outside of the boundaries.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #9a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

## 10. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that the graduation requirements included (1) completion of course credits, (2) cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and (3) passing score on the statewide assessment (2017 -18, and 2021 – 22). He stated that two academic terms did not require passing score on the statewide assessment (2019 – 20 and 2020-21). He stated that the district demonstrated an increase of 16 points when 2021 – 2022 is compared to 2018 – 2019, the last year that included the statewide assessment.

Mrs. McGriff Farlin stated that getting students graduation ready starts in kindergarten. She stated that significant findings with the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Data Review in PM1 and PM2 ELA Reading showed 7 percentage point decrease in the number of students at Tier 1 from 66% to 59%; 4 percentage point increase in the percent of students at Tier 2 from 20% to 24%; and 3 percentage point increase in the percent of students at/above proficiency from 15% to 18%. She stated that significant findings with the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Data Review in PMI and PM2 ELA Mathematics showed 14 percentage point decrease in the percent of students at Tier 1 from 77% to 63%; 4 percentage point increase in the percent of students at Tier 2 from 16% to 20%; and 10 percentage point increase in the percent of students at/above proficiency from 7% to 17%. She stated that the goal is to make student progress in moving forward.

Mrs. Dudley and the Board thanked Mrs. McGriff Farlin for the update on data information regarding student performance.

Mr. Key recognized the following employees: Dr. Loietta Holmes as Director of Secondary Education; Ms. Travonna Hunter as the Assessment Coordinator; and Ms. Kameelah Weeks as Director of Professional Learning.

## 11. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost recognized guardian Ms. Maurnicia Evans for her hard work.

Ms. Johnson requested a basketball schedule for the boys and girls.

Mr. Key stated that he would provide the Board a copy of the basketball schedule for the high school. He stated that the middle school basketball season was over.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she was still very much concerned with Board meetings not being live stream. She stated that she will bring the issue of live streaming Board meetings after the Master Board Training.

Mrs. Shaia Simmons, former teacher, addressed the Board to share her concerns regarding George W. Munroe Elementary School. She stated that she could not continue to teach because there are too many students in a classroom, tests are hand counted; and students are not allowed the 30 minutes a day state mandated recess. She stated that at George W. Munroe Elementary School there is mold, water stands on the ground, and there are snake beds within yards of the school's playground. She stated that there is a lack of much needed resources in the public school system. She stated that Mrs. Germaine Kirkland, Principal at George W. Munroe Elementary School is doing the best she can, and Superintendent Key is doing a good job, but the issues need to be addressed from a higher standpoint. She pleaded with the Board to have the meetings live streamed. She stated that the community needs to know what is happening in the district. She stated that her students never attended art or music classes. She stated that the

students can't check out books from the school's media center because the school doesn't have a certified media specialist. She stated that students cannot participate in the Accelerated Reader Program because it is not set up at the school. She stated that afterschool programs should begin the first week of school. She addressed the issue of preventing parental involvement. She stated that a parent wanted to bring pizza and cupcakes to the school for her child's birthday, but the parent was told parents were not allowed on campus. She stated that she believes this was a rule created during the pandemic, but proper precautions can be taken so parents can be actively involved. She asked the Board to vote to make their meetings more accessible, and that they vote to put a policy in place that no school or district official can prohibit parents from being allowed on campus.

Mrs. Dudley stated that Mrs. Simmons' concerns are valid. She stated that she wished the concerns could have been brought up before Mrs. Simmons resigned.

Mrs. Simmons stated that she can better advocate for students now. She stated that the use of Title I funds could possibly be used for Art and Music classes. She stated that students deserve to be well-wounded. She stated that parents need to be involved in their child's education.

Mr. Key stated that school board meetings are recorded. He stated that principals advertise positions for music and art, but are unable to fill the positions. He stated that the music and art teaching positions must be paid from general fund and not Title I. He stated that principals must protect the instructional time. He stated that principals must be notified when parents want to come on campus or on campus. He stated that parents are not being rejected.

Mr. McMillan asked anyone that was recording from their phones to stop recording.

Mrs. Minnis stated that consent has to be given from individuals attending the meeting to be recorded. She stated that criminal charges can be filed.

Mrs. Mandela requested a copy of the information regarding ESSER funds.

Dr. Chris Segal, Executive Director of Big Bend Service Unit – Florida Education Association, addressed the Board to share the facts of the proposals from GCCTA and GESPA bargaining this year. He stated that while there is not a written proposal, on September 20, 2022, the initial salary proposal was made of \$2,500 across the board raise. He stated that there has not been a response for the following proposals: GCCTA Proposal 08/11/22 Article IV – Teaching Conditions; GCCTA Proposal 09/20/22 MOU; Appendix G –Joint Professional Development Committee; GCCTA Proposal 09/20/22 Article IV – Teaching Conditions; GCCTA Proposal 08/20/22 Article IV – Teaching Conditions – Safety; GCCTA MOU regarding bonuses; and GCCTA Proposal 08/11/22 – Article V – Leave.

Ms. Johnson stated that she wants to handle everything in accordance with the law.

Mr. Key stated that he attended a State Board of Education Meeting and not all School Boards have an agreement with their unions.

Mrs. Dudley read two quotes from Ms. Rita Pierson – "Teachers become great actors and great actresses. And we come to work when we don't feel like it, and we're listening to a policy that doesn't make sense and we teach anyway." "Every child deserves a champion—an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be." She stated that teachers are not the only champions for students. She stated that we all deserve respect. She stated that we are here to serve the students. She stated that children deserve people that will stand for them. She asked everyone to put their personal feelings aside and focus on the students.

12. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.