

## REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

May 24, 2022

6:00 P.M.

The meeting 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 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 Minister Jerome Harris, Associate Minister of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

None.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan entertained a motion to approve the remaining 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. April 26, 2022, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop

b. April 26, 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 2021 – 2022

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement between Tallahassee Community College and Gadsden County Schools 2022 - 2023

Fund Source: FEFP

Amount: Undetermined – based upon enrollment

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #71-2122-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #77-2122-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #79-2122-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #80-2122-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #83-2122-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Adopted Instructional Materials / Textbooks for 2022 - 2023

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Approval of Job Descriptions

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 at the beginning of the meeting and acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

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

b. 2022 – 2023 Twelve Month Calendars

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

Mr. Scott requested the date for the student’s first day of school be changed to August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to change the student’s first day of school to August 10<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

\*7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

b. Request Approval for Erate Funded Services

Fund Source: USAC – Erate / District  
Amount: \$617,076.12 Erate Funding: \$474,676.12  
District Funding: \$142,400.00

Mrs. Dudley requested that the Erate services date be changed to begin on July 1, 2022.

Following discussion, Mrs. Dudley made a motion to have the Erate services date change to begin on July 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

\*8. STUDENT MATTERS

e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #81-2122-0051

The parent of student case #81-2122-0051 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to defer action on student case #81-2122-0051 until a hearing could be held on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #82-2122-0051

The parent of student case #82-2122-0051 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to defer action on student case #82-2122-0051 until a hearing could be held on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. McMillan recognized Ms. Melanie Murray, a former high school graduate. He appreciated Ms. Murray for her accomplishments in receiving her AA and Bachelors in Business Administration.

Ms. Murray thanked the Board and Superintendent for inviting her to the meeting.

## 11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that the district has some bright students. He stated some of the seniors have already graduated from TCC with an AA degree. He reminded everyone to pray for the students, staff and parents in Texas. He stated that 14 students and one teacher were killed at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. He asked that all the communities be kept in prayer. He stated that no community is exempt from a mass shooting. He stated that school guardians are hired to keep student and staff safe.

Ms. Judith Mandela, President of GCCTA, addressed the Board and offered thoughts and prayers to the families in Texas. She stated that James A. Shanks Middle School and other schools are going to be pressure washed, painted and rotten boards will be replaced. She asked if the plans included work on the ventilation system at the schools. She stated that some of the vents are dirty.

Mrs. Dudley stated that Mr. Hunter mentioned deep cleaning of the schools and he is waiting on a quote.

Ms. Mandela stated that at the beginning of school year there was an issue with substitutes and now the district is at the end of the school year and going through the same cycle. She stated that some of the teachers are certified and not being recommended back and not being told the reason. She stated that some of the teachers have asked for extensions on expired certificates and have been denied. She asked where the teachers could find requirement information to get an extension.

Ms. Dudley stated she had teachers reach out to her about not receiving an extension. She stated that teachers have 3 years to get certified. She stated that teachers must put forth the effort to work toward certification. She stated that teachers must be held accountable.

Mr. Key stated that teachers should call Dr. Sonya Jackson to see what is needed towards getting certified. He stated that the beginning teachers program is for everyone and also testing is required. He stated that a request letter to the commissioner must state what the teacher has done to work toward getting certified. He stated that all requirement information is given to the teacher when they request a temporary certificate. He stated that as of today teachers without a certificate for next year will not be on the board agenda for approval until they get what is needed in order for him to send the extension letter of request to DOE on the teacher's behalf.

Ms. Mandela stated she understand teachers have a responsibility but the district also has a responsibility. She stated that she has asked for collaboration and practice sessions for teacher. She stated that the district needs to make sure teachers get what they need to become certified. She stated that the district also need to find ways to retain teachers.

Mr. Key stated that part of the problem in Gadsden County is what the federal and state law classifies as highly qualified teachers. He stated that a lot of our schools are struggling schools and by Florida Statute the district has to do a better job of getting highly qualified in-field teachers in the classroom. He stated that the district need to be proactive and try to get teachers that live in Gadsden, and the teachers that work in Leon County back in Gadsden.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost congratulated Mr. Key on the safety measures he has put in place for the schools.

13. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.