

## SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATION MEETING

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

November 18, 2025

5:30 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan; 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 Superintendent, Mr. Elijah Key, at 5:30 p.m. in accordance with Chapter 230.15 Florida Statutes. SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATION FOR the 2025 – 2026 YEAR

2. SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATION FOR 2025 – 2026 YEAR

a. NOMINATE AND ELECT THE CHAIR

Mr. Key opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Mr. Frost nominated Mr. Leroy McMillan to serve as Chair for the 2025 – 2026 year. Following the nomination of one said name, Mr. Leroy McMillan, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion for Mr. Leroy McMillan to serve as Chair for the 2025 – 2026 year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

Mr. Key turned the meeting over to the Chair, Mr. Leroy McMillan.

b. NOMINATE AND ELECT THE VICE-CHAIR

Mr. McMillan opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Frost nominated Ms. Johnson to serve as Vice Chair for the 2025 – 2026 year. Following the nomination of one said name, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson. Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion for Ms. Cathy S. Johnson to serve as Vice Chair for the 2025 – 2026 year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

c. NOMINATE AND ELECT LIAISON – SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSORTIUM

Mr. McMillan opened the floor for nominations for Liaison to serve on the Small School District Council Consortium for the 2025 – 2026 year. Following an explanation of the Small School District Council Consortium by Mr. Steve Scott, he agreed to continue to serve as Liaison – Small School District Council Consortium for the 2025 - 2026 year.

d. NOMINATE AND ELECT LIAISON – PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Mr. McMillan opened the floor for nominations for Liaison to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission for the 2025 – 2026 year. Following discussion, Ms. Stacey S. Hannigon agreed to continue to serve as Liaison – Planning and Zoning Commission for the 2025 - 2026 year.

e. ESTABLISH DAY AND TIME OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Following discussion of the establishment for the day and time of the regular meetings, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to continue to meet the 4th Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. and the financial workshop at 4:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

The Board agreed to change the December Board Meeting date from December 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. McMillan stated that he was under the impression today that he would not be elected chair. He stated that there were other people on the Board that are very capable of being chair. He stated that he was going to serve for this year, and asked that the Board members think about giving someone else a chance next year. He stated that would only be fair. He stated that he appreciated everyone putting their trust in him to remain as the chair. He stated that as chair, he wanted to be recognized before anyone speak. He stated that the right way to do it is Mr. Chairman, and then he will recognize the person to speak.

f. NOMINATE AND ELECT TRUSTEE AND ALTERNATE TO SERVE ON THE FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS INSURANCE TRUST (FSBIT)

Following discussion of nomination of a Trustee and an Alternate Trustee to serve on the Florida School Boards Insurance Trust, Ms. Stacey S. Hannigon agreed to continue to serve as the Trustee; and Mr. Charlie D. Frost will continue to serve as the Alternate Trustee for the Florida School Boards Insurance Trust.

The Board agreed to schedule the December Board Meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Key stated that Ms. Pamela Anderson, Principal at Gadsden Elementary Magnet School, would share with the Board the state of Gadsden Elementary Magnet School.

Ms. Anderson stated that the school at this point with PM3 data and PM1 showed PM3 ELA Reading grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. Level 1 – 6 students, Level 2 – 15 students, Level 3 – 22 students, Level 4 – 12 students and Level 5 – 11 students; She stated that this year for the first time on September 12<sup>th</sup> for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade scoring – Level 1 – 22 students, Level 2 – 24 students, Level 3 – 21 students, Level 4 – 7 students and Level 5 – 6 students. She stated that for PM3 Math students scored Level 1 – 9 students, Level 2 – 19 students, Level 3 – 0 students, Level 4 – 25 students and Level 5 - 10 students. She stated that for students taking the PM1 Math in September 2025; Level 1 – 27 students, Level 2 – 12 students and Level 3 – 2 students. She stated that for Science Testing PM2 – Level 1 – 3 students, Level 2 – 7 students, Level 3 – 5 students, Level 4 – 5 students and Level 5 – 4 students. She stated that students with attendance below 90%: KG – 4, 1<sup>st</sup> grade – 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 0, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – 1, 4<sup>th</sup> grade – 3, 5<sup>th</sup> grade – 3, 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 3, 7<sup>th</sup> grade – 2 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade 1; Discipline Data – 6th grade – 3 referrals – most recent referral on October 16, 2025; 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 2 referrals – most recent referral on October 16, 2025, 4<sup>th</sup> grade – 2 referrals – most recent referral on October 24, 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 1 referral – most recent referral on October 2, 2025, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade – 1 referral – most recent referral on September 24, 2025. She stated that the highest priorities are to: 1) Close the Achievement Gap for the Lowest 25% in ELA – implementing high-intensity small-group interventions; expand use of diagnostic data to tailor instruction; increase access to evidence-based literacy programs; provide targeted development in differentiation for reading instruction; pair middle school teachers with lower-level students for interventions during resource period; implement laps within the classroom for aggressive monitoring of students; 2) Strengthen Science Achievement to Meet or Exceed State Averages – Integrate science literacy strategies, increase hands-on and inquiry-based learning, embed science content into ELA and math lessons, and strengthen vertical alignment to ensure pre-requisite skills are mastered, implement district Science Scope & Sequence with weekly testing of standards, use skill plan with Study Island, pair Biology teacher with 5<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher for science interventions; and 3) Sustain and Build on High Math Performance While Improving Learning

Gains – Math Achievement is exceptional at 90%, but Math Learning Gains declined from 75% to 71%; maintaining high achievement while improving growth ensures continued success for all learners; provide enrichment for high-performing students, strengthen conceptual understanding for students just meeting benchmarks, and implement progress monitoring to adjust instruction for students at risk of stagnation.

Board members thanked Ms. Anderson for her presentation on the state of Gadsden Elementary Magnet School.

3. The meeting adjourned at 5:53p.m.