

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

November 17, 2020

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; 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 called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. McMillan congratulated Mr. Key, Mrs. Dudley and Ms. Johnson on their newly elected positions.

Mr. Key recognized Mrs. Vicki Johnson who introduced Ms. Kelli Walter with Envision Credit Union.

Mr. Key presented Ms. Walter with a plaque award for Envision Credit Union's community partnership and their contributions and resources to the district.

Ms. Walter shared words of appreciation and a brief history of Envision Credit Union. She stated that it is very important for Envision to give back to the community.

On behalf of the Board and the Superintendent, Mr. McMillan thanked Envision Credit Union for supporting the district,

Mr. Key thanked everyone for their support during his transition into the Superintendent's position. He encouraged everyone to continue to support GCHS football team. He announced that the Jaguars next game was scheduled for next Friday (November 27th) in Marianna. He stated that the Rutherford game this Friday (November 20th) was forfeit.

MSG Charlie Roberts, Athletic Director, briefed the Board on safety measures for the upcoming basketball season. He stated that NFHS sports guidance is being followed. He stated that the gym has an open ventilation system. He stated that the stands and lobby area will have to be monitored. He stated that the gym floor is sealed, each player will have their own water bottle, and there will be an onsite custodian to assist with cleaning.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan added agenda item #7c – Head Start PreK Request for Approval to Purchase 3 Vehicles. Mr. Key pulled from the agenda item #'s 7a – Approval of Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund Consultant for Extended Learning Facilitation, and 7b – Approval of Consultant for Restart Project. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda items. Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. October 27, 2020, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. October 27, 2020, 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 2020 -2021

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Approval of Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund Consultant for Extended Learning Facilitation

Fund Source: Federal
Amount: \$30,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Approval of Consultant Services for Restart Project

Fund Source: Federal
Amount: \$50,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Approval of 2020 – 2021 School Advisory Council (SAC) Membership Rosters

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plans (PFEPs)
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: \$0.00

 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. University of Florida / Florida Department of Education Flamingo Literacy Matrix

 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A

 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. 2019 – 2020 Annual Equity Update

 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A

 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- e. Florida Safe School Assessment Tool (FSSAT)

 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A

 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. McMillan thanked Mr. Hunter for his leadership with the lawn upkeep at the district.

Mr. Hunter stated that another individual was hired at the maintenance department to assist with lawn maintenance. He stated that training is being scheduled for control system renovations at West Gadsden Middle School. He stated that Gadsden County High School control system renovations phase 4 upgrade was taking place. He stated that roofs are being repaired at James A. Shanks Middle School and Gadsden Technical Institute. He stated that awnings are being replaced at Stewart Street Elementary School. He stated that there was a new walk-in cooler and freezer at the warehouse.

10. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that he was very glad to be on board. He stated that he has met with the principals and some of the directors. He stated that students will always be a priority. He stated that he will meet with all directors and coordinators tomorrow (November 18th) beginning at 9:00 a.m. He stated that students will be educated every day to make Gadsden stronger tomorrow. He stated that he will meet with principals and assistant principals Friday (November 20th) 9:00 a.m. at James A. Shanks Middle School Cafeteria. He stated that he is a no excuse person. He requested that the Board think about doing something different with the wall entrance in the front of the office building. He stated that someone is working on a new logo design for the district. He stated that he wants a logo that will be for the Board and the community, a logo for Gadsden County. He stated that the district's vision will remain the same. He stated that Gadsden can be a model district and we must work together.

11. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that there was a lot going on in the district. He stated that there are still issues with the insurance company from Hurricane Michael damage. He requested Attorney Minnis and the Superintendent review the Memorandum of Understanding with Mildred Toliver, School Turnaround at The Rensselaerville Institute (RTI) and update the Board. He stated that a review of the Power Equipment Program at Gadsden Technical Institute needed to be brought back up to standards. He stated that the Board is responsible for the fiscal responsibility of the district. He stated that he was looking for greater things for the district.

Mr. Scott stated that the COVID-19 Dashboard needed to be updated frequently.

In response to Mr. Key's concern regarding a 2 year commitment with RTI, Mrs. Minnis stated that she will review and discuss the School Turnaround at The Rensselaerville Institute contract with Mr. Key.

Ms. Johnson stated that she was concerned about the deficiencies on the Florida Safe School Assessment Tool (FSSAT) being repaired in a timely manner. She stated that academic is important but safety comes first.

Mr. Matthew Bryant, Safety and Security Specialist, stated that some of the repair work has started, and some of the repairs are ongoing issues.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, President of GCCTA, congratulated the new Board members and the Superintendent. She stated that GCCTA look forward to working with the Board and Superintendent. She stated that the goal is to do what is best for students.

Mr. McMillan stated that students are a priority for the Board. He stated that he want to make this district the best district in the State of Florida. He stated that the Board will do their best to ensure that teachers are compensated.

12. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.