

## SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

October 3, 2017

6:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 6:07 p.m.

2. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Mr. Simmons asked Mrs. Lewis to facilitate the workshop.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she was very passionate about disruptions in the schools. She stated that the Student Code of Conduct needed to be strengthened. She stated that the discipline programs at the schools needed to be strengthened as well. She stated that Gadsden schools are all about learning.

Mr. Milton acknowledged staff and thanked them for attending the workshop.

Mr. Smith stated that he was concerned about handling student discipline consistently. He stated that the district should ensure that the words in the Student Code of Conduct exemplify the Board's action.

Mr. Scott stated that he was shocked to see the disciplinary reports. He stated that safety has to be the district's priority. He stated that he has a problem with students being defiant and disrespectful. He stated that being defiant and disrespectful can lead to physical altercation. He stated that zero tolerance is in the Student Code of Conduct. He stated that the Board needs to add to the Student Code of Conduct the possibility of taking disciplinary actions to a higher authority. He stated that the safety of students is very important. He stated that there may be a possibility of educating students as adults.

Mr. Simmons thanked the Board and Superintendent for taking discipline as a priority. He stated that many areas in discipline have to be addressed. He stated that currently the perception is that Gadsden schools are not safe. He questioned what can be done to prevent students from fighting. He stated that students have to be identified as troubling students. He stated that preventive measures must be put in place to change the perception of Gadsden County Schools. He stated that students should be identified following the third suspension. He stated that intervention has to

start early. He stated that the Board must make sure that the message is clear that no disciplinary issues will be tolerated. He stated that violent issues will not be tolerated. He stated that early detection and early prevention is the key. He stated that there must be accountability for bad behavior for staff and students. He stated that the Board must enforce the Student Code of Conduct.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she hopes to gather student discipline information from staff. She stated that the staff must have barriers along with solutions for early prevention.

Mr. Milton stated that he had conversation with Mr. Bruce James and the Sheriff's Department regarding student discipline, and they are on target with handling discipline issues. He stated that he is working to strengthen and change the programs at Carter Parramore Academy and HOPE Academy.

Mrs. Lewis shared with the Board a video clip titled "My Mama Said". She stated that the video was about using a parent strategy to handle student discipline.

The following staff shared with the Board discipline barriers and solutions in the various schools: Mr. Keith Dowdell - Assistant Principal Gadsden County High School; Mrs. Pauline West – Principal Carter Parramore and HOPE Academy; Mr. Edgar Griffin, Teacher Carter Parramore Academy; Ms. Vicki Johnson, Teacher Stewart Street Elementary School; and Mrs. Rolanda Jackson, Visiting Teacher.

Mr. Tyrone D. Smith left the meeting at 7:20 p.m. due to a prior obligation.

Mrs. Lewis thanked everyone for attending the workshop. She stated that there was very good dialogue between the Board and staff regarding ways to identify barriers and solutions to handle student discipline.

Mr. Milton suggested there be a follow-up workshop to further discuss student discipline issues.

3. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4 SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

5. The workshop adjourned at 7:50 p.m.