

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

August 25, 2009

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Judge B. Helms, Chairman; Mr. Isaac Simmons; Mr. Eric F. Hinson; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; and Mr. Roger P. Milton. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, 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. Judge B. Helms, at 6:06 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. Milton recognized Jerome A. Maples, Student School Board Representative.

Jerome Maples shared with the Board his experience with the Army Reserve Training during the summer. He stated that he attended summer camp at Ft. Benning and received training in combat.

Mr. Milton acknowledged the following individuals: Mrs. Bea Hopkins and the AmeriCorp Gadsden Reads Program; Mrs. Juanita Ellis, Principal at James A. Shanks Middle School, received grant from Community In Schools while Principal at Stewart Street Elementary School, and has been awarded monies for the 21st CCL Grant; Ms. Lisa Robinson, Principal at Stewart Street Elementary School, has been refunded for \$255,000 Community In School Grant; Mr. Dwayne Ivory & Ms. Delshauna Jackson – support from TCC and Community In School for after school program at Gretna Elementary School; Mrs. LaTrenda Gainous Goldwire, Executive Director of Community In Schools; Mrs. Dorothy Thomas, Site Coordinator at Stewart Street Elementary School, Intern at Stewart Street Elementary School to become a certified teacher; Mr. Tyrone Smith, Site Coordinator at Tallahassee Community College.

Mr. Hinson thanked Mr. James and his staff for an outstanding job with the district. He commended Dr. Sylvia Jackson for her work at Havana Middle School. He stated that

he toured Havana Middle School and Havana Elementary School along with Mr. Wayne Shepard. He recognized Mr. Billy Blich, Principal at Gadsden Central Academy. He also recognized Ms. Lisa Robinson, Principal at Stewart Street Elementary School. He stated that he visited Stewart Street Elementary School and the faculty and staff was very energetic and excited. He thanked Bishop Showers and New Jerusalem Church for their efforts with the Book Drive in Havana. He stated that he was excited about all of the students returning to school.

Mr. Helms welcomed Jerome Maples, Student School Board Representative.

Mr. Frost thanked and recognized Mr. Milton for his dedicated work with the Gadsden County School Board and Tallahassee Community College, and for extending the 21st Century Community Grant to Gretna Elementary School. He also recognized Mr. Dwayne Ivory for his dedicated work with the district.

Mr. Helms thanked Mr. Milton and everyone for their support with the students of the Gadsden County School District.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Helms added item #10b – Underground Fuel Storage Tanks at School Board Vehicle Maintenance Facility – Site Assessment to the agenda. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. July 21, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting
- b. July 28, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. July 28, 2009, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- d. August 4, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – Tentative Budget Hearing
- e. August 11, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – Special 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 2009 – 2010

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Approval of bills and vouchers - See back-up material

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Nine

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Fund
Amount: \$-253.73

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Budget Amendment Number Thirty

Fund Source: 410 (School Food Service) Fund
Amount: \$.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. CONTRACT/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

a. Contract with Soliant Health

Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: \$58.00 per hour

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

b. Underground Fuel Storage Tanks at School Board Vehicle Maintenance Facility
– Site Assessment

Revenue: Capital Improvement
Amount: \$51,952.23

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.

*8. CONTRACT/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

b. Supplemental Educational Services Providers Contract

Fund Source: Title I, Part A, Basic (NCLB Public School Options)
Amount: An Amount Not to Exceed \$1,235.00 per eligible student

Mr. Simmons asked for the number of eligible students to receive services from Supplemental Educational Services Providers.

Mrs. Tammy Farlin stated that the district is required to offer supplemental educational services to students eligible to receive free/reduced price meals when schools fail to make AYP for four consecutive years. She stated that a total of sixteen (16) providers have agreed to provide services to our students, and twelve (12) of the providers have submitted contracts, per state requirements.

Mr. Frost stated that he supports Mrs. Farlin because she follows the guidelines with all SES providers.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Milton recognized Ms. Sharon Jefferson, Vice President of Community Affairs at Tallahassee Community College.

Ms. Jefferson stated that she was proud of what was going on at James A. Shanks Middle School. She stated that positive things are happening throughout the Gadsden County School District. She stated that Tallahassee Community College and the Gadsden County School District have good partnerships from K-12.

Mr. Hinson stated that the district needed to market its high school dual enrollment program in order to entice other students to come to Gadsden County. He solicited Ms. Jefferson's assistance by asking her to schedule a meeting with the Mr. Helms, Mr. James and Mr. Milton to discuss ways to seek funding for PR that would allow all students in Gadsden County whether private or public to attend the dual enrollment program. He stated that the price of tuition has increased by 15% and the price of an AA degree could be free through the dual enrollment program.

Ms. Jefferson stated that the Interinstitutional Articulation Agreement Between Tallahassee Community College and the Gadsden County Public School District needed to be in place before moving forward with PR for the dual enrollment program.

Mr. James stated that there is a need to promote the dual enrollment program because it has been a positive part of the Gadsden County School District. He asked Ms. Jefferson to convey his thanks to the President Law for his support.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Transfers – See back-up material

Mr. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #9a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried with Mr. Milton, Mr. Helm, Mr. Frost and Mr. Simmons voting "aye". Mr. Hinson voted "nay".

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Request to Delete from Capital Assets – Motor Vehicle

Revenue: General Fund
Amount: \$1,500.00

Mr. Hinson asked why the bidding process was not used to sell the school bus.

Mrs. Wood stated that five of the school buses were inoperable. She stated that it would have cost approximately \$1,000 individually to bid the school buses. She stated that the decision was made to sell the school bus because the buyer had traveled a great distance to purchase the school bus. She stated that an employee from the transportation department had not received the word about bidding and he decided to sell the school bus because the individual was paying cash.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was not aware that the individual had been in touch with the transportation department to purchase the school bus prior to the push for the bidding process put in place. He stated that he agreed with the sale of the school bus.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. CONSIDER, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

- a. Approval of School Board Rule 2.25 (Code of Student Conduct)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- b. Underground Fuel Storage Tanks at School Vehicle Maintenance Facility – Site Assessment

Fund Source: Capital Improvements

Amount: \$51,952.23

Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James commended the Coalition for Change for their efforts with the James A. Shanks Make Over. He stated that the make over was a success. He stated that a video has been made from the back-to-school rally. He stated that the motivational speakers were students for the back-to-school rally. He thanked Ms. Erica Starling for her hard work with the back-to-school rally. He stated that the student enrollment count is still being calculated, and the numbers look positive. He introduced Mrs. Ruthe Hardy, Principal at East Gadsden High School.

Mrs. Ruthe Hardy introduced the following staff persons from East Gadsden High School: Ms. Rebecca Gaines - Assistant Principal, Major Jackson – Assistant Principal, Ms. Germaine Brown – Staff Development Coach, and Ms. Angela Turner – Executive Assistant. Mrs. Hardy presented the Board with the following power-point presentation outlining East Gadsden High School Improvement Plan of Action. She stated that she was former State Director, Florida Teacher Advancement Program for six years. She stated that Stewart Street rose from a double F to a C, B and an A, and achieved AYP within three years. She stated that she was former Broward County Principal for six years. She stated that EGHS mission statement was to prepare students to become confident, self-directed, life-long learners ready to compete in the 21st Century global

marketplace. She stated that the following were workplace competencies required to succeed: basic skills: reading, writing, math, speaking and listening; thinking skills: thinking creatively, making decisions, solving problems, knowing how to learn and reasoning; personal qualities: individual responsibility, self-esteem, scalability, self-management, and integrity. She stated that the vision statement was to ensure that every child is entitled to an exemplary education with a quality teacher in every classroom. She stated that with business, education, community and government working together; all students will graduate with the skills needed to further their studies or enter the workplace successfully. She stated that the goals are to increase teacher quality, increase student achievement, graduate students with the skills needed to succeed in life, and implement a school-wide positive behavior plan. She stated that the process would be to focus on reading. She stated that reading across the curriculum would address the needs in all academic areas, when students can read at grade level or above and would affect student achievement, and would create professional development learning communities for leadership team members and teachers (best teaching practices, and field test research-based strategies). She stated that with the traditional professional growth model individual teachers attend selected training sessions and try to implement new practice on their own. She stated that the TAP professional growth model provides time during the school day for teachers to help each other learn, and consequently use effective teaching practices in their classrooms. She stated that teachers are provided ongoing coaching through peer teaching, modeling and demonstration lessons. She stated that in TAP, Cluster is the basic unit of ongoing applied professional growth. She stated that they are specific, focused, and strategy driven, based on specific student data. She stated that the focus is on refining teacher behavior with the strategy followed by an analysis of the impact on student performance. She stated that the following are cluster strategies: strategies are aligned to the area of student need and to the school plan, strategies would be selected using a variety of research from reputable sources, as well as from the cluster leaders own experiences, strategies selected are student based as opposed to teacher based, strategies would be field-tested over a period of time before being implemented in cluster, and strategies would be sequenced and segmented into manageable chunks based on the needs of the students. She stated that the following steps would be used for effective learning: 1) identify the problem or need; 2) obtain new teacher learning aligned to student need and formatted for classroom application; 3) develop new teacher learning with support in the classroom; 4) apply new teacher learning to the classroom; and 5) evaluate the impact on student performance. She stated that the following are TAP Instructional Analysis Tools: standards and objectives, motivating students, presenting instructional content, lesson structure and pacing, activities and materials, questioning, academic feedback, grouping students, teacher content knowledge, teacher knowledge of students, thinking, and problem solving. She stated that the measures of success are data driven goals + research-based, proven strategies + classroom implementation & support + frequent assessments = measurable student achievement.

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns and made comments throughout East Gadsden High School Improvement Plan of Action presentation.

Mr. James stated that the enrollment at Carter Parramore Academy has increased and the Board needed to set a cap. He recommended a student enrollment cap of 300 students for Carter Parramore Academy.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve an enrollment cap of 300 students for Carter Parramore Academy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Hinson reminded the Board of the bridging issue addressed before the Board two months ago. He stated that bridging was supported by the Superintendent and Mrs. Elizabeth Turner. He stated that he has received a number of telephone calls from parents concern in regards to the bridging rule not being exercised because principals

are not honoring the rule. He stated that he was concerned that the principals are not exercising the rule to bridge students for promotion.

Jerome Maples stated that he visited some schools checking to see whether there were student councils at the schools. He stated that he talked with some students at Carter Parramore Academy and they do not have a student council. He stated that the Code of Student Conduct states that every student body is given the right to form a council and he wishes to have a representative at each of the schools.

Mr. Helms advised Jerome Maples to meet with the Superintendent to further discuss the approval of each school having a student council before sending information to the schools.

Mr. Milton announced that a student council would be formed this year at James A. Shanks Middle School.

Mr. Helms announced the following upcoming meetings: 1) Special Board Meeting – September 8th, 6:00 p.m.; 2) Special Board Meeting – September 15th, 6:00 p.m.; 3) Board Retreat – September 19th, 8:00 a.m.; and 4) Board Workshop, 4:00 p.m., and Regular Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – September 22nd. He requested the Board members review the Head Start audit report.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.