

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

January 25, 2011

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Mr. Judge B. Helms; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Eric F. Hinson; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. 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. Roger P. Milton, at 6:04 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Student Ornyll Lewis was recognized by the Board for a perfect score on the FCAT Reading and Math. Ornyll received a plaque from the Superintendent and Board.

Mr. Hinson recognized his mentor Coach Vernell Ross. He also recognized Rev. Roosevelt Rogers as being the guest speaker for Martin Luther King Day in Havana; and the City of Midway for hosting Martin Luther King Day.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Milton provided the Board with language change on item #6a. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Judge B. Helms, seconded by Mr. Charlie D, Frost and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. December 14, 2010, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. December 14, 2010, 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 2010 - 2011
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 Thirteen
Fund Source: 431 Funds
Amount: \$1,732,525.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - c. Budget Amendment Number Fourteen
Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$2,318,490.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - d. Budget Amendment Number Fifteen
Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$2,456,182.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - e. Budget Amendment Number Sixteen
Fund Source: 410 (School Food Service) Funds
Amount: \$.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - f. Crossroad Academy Financial Reports for December, 2010
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
8. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS
 - a. Contract for Audit of Internal Funds for Individual Schools
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$25,000.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Internal Funds Audit for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Contract with Gadsden County Sheriff's Department
 Fund Source: General Fund
 Amount: Not to exceed \$226,982.36 (\$29.62/hour)
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Approval of Contract Between School Board of Gadsden County and Investing In Our Youth
 Fund Source: Federal Programs
 Amount: \$14,000.00
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
 Case #38-1011-00211
 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 discussed during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

*8. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

- e. Contract for Sale and Purchase with Havana Community Development Corporation, Inc. for Property Located at 264 Carver Avenue, Havana, Florida
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: As Per Agreement

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned about the contract for selling Havana Northside High School. He stated that his concern had nothing to do with the individuals purchasing the property, but were with the following issues regarding the contract: 1) does not like 20 year commitment for School Board, suggested the company borrow money and pay for the property now because the district needs the money; 2) finance for 20 years for 1%; and 3) setting an example for future purchases and selling for 10% of the appraised value.. He stated that the contract has a lot of personal property involved and has been through lawyers, but he did not see in the contract the leasing of the football field and felt that something needed to be done because the Board is responsible for accidents when leasing property. He stated that he wants the responsibility of leasing the football field removed from the contract before Board approval.

Mr. Milton stated that the lease is between the School Board and the Havana Community Development Corporation, Inc., and the issue of leasing the football field should be removed from the contract.

Mr. James recommended that the Havana Northside High School property be sold to the Havana Community Development Corporation, Inc. He stated that he does not feel it would be in the best interest of the Board to maintain the property. He stated that he feels that the price is adequate and it is his vision to see the building used for the community and not just sitting and being vandalized.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8e. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried with Mr. Hinson, Mr. Milton, Mr. Simmons and Mr. Frost voting "aye". Mr. Helms voted "nay".

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #36-1011-0211

Ms. Pamela Reed, parent of student #36-1011-0211, addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Mr. Helms made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9a.

The parent stated that she wanted her child to attend Carter Parramore Academy.

Following discussion, Mr. Helms withdrew his motion, and the Board agreed to have student #36-1011-0211 attend Carter Parramore Academy.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #39-1011-0711

Ms. Janice Williams, parent of student #39-1011-0711, addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Mr. Hinson stated that he has spoken with the parent earlier and she wanted her child to attend Carter Parramore Academy.

The Superintendent made a recommendation to allow student #39-1011-0711 to be expelled to Carter Parramore Academy for the remainder of the 2010 – 2011 school year. He stated that student #39-1011-0711 should not be on any other campus during the expulsion.

Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to allow student #39-1011-0711 to be expelled to Carter Parramore Academy for the remainder of the 2010 – 2011 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Frost withdrew his second for agenda item #9a. All Board members were in favor of student #36-1011-0211 attending Carter Parramore Academy.

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

- a. Discussion and Request to Advertise the Board's Intent to Amend School Board Policies 2.25, 4.11 (Student Progression Plan)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested an overview of the changes to the Student Progression Plan.

Dr. Sylvia Jackson stated that the changes were in red and relates to Exceptional Student Education laws.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to schedule a workshop on Tuesday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m. to further discuss the changes to the Student Progression Plan.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that recommendations to the budget were needed because the stimulus dollars will end this year. He stated that the budget committee presented recommendations for savings. He stated that he has reviewed some of the recommendations and some of them have merit, such as adding a new wing to Havana Middle School. He stated that this would make Havana Middle School a K-8 school. He stated that Mr. Shepard will put a drawing together and he will present to the Board and the community. He stated that no decisions have been made, only in the discovery process.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Hinson stated that he was interested in seeing what the Superintendent was speaking of relating to adding a wing to Havana Middle School to serve K-3 students. He stated that he was glad to have the Havana Northside High School project behind the Board. He stated that he did not want rumors to start, and he stated that until the Board decides what direction to move in, nothing will happen.

Mr. Frost stated that there has been a lot of talk in the community concerning school closings. He stated that the Board has not made any decisions to tear down or close any schools. He stated that in regards to the operations of the schools, he stated that the district would continue to operate just as it has been doing.

Mr. Hinson stated that the only entity that could close down a school was the School Board, and that would take at least three votes. He stated that he wants whatever is in the best interest of the students.

Mr. Simmons stated that it was important for quarterly meetings to be held in each district. He stated that school districts all across the state were facing the same financial problems. He stated that this year is going to be a challenge. He stated that everything hinges on what the state legislature does. He pointed out that Gadsden County had a lot of competition for students and needed to market the district's positive attributes. He stated that the district needed to start working on solving the problems before they arise, by getting parents involved. He stated that as a school district we are in partnership with our parents and I think we can make a difference.

Mr. Helms announced that a Parent Town Hall Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 27th beginning at 5:30 p.m. at James A. Shanks Middle School Cafeteria for community conversations to help close the achievement gap, and give the School Board ideas on how to make students more successful. He stated that the Superintendent was going to have to make some tough decisions. He stated that he has full confidence that the Superintendent will make the right decisions in the best interest of the students.

Mr. Milton stated that he supports the budget committee recommendation to have one high school. He stated that although no decision has been made, it will eventually happen. He stated that now was the time for discussing the issues and not waiting until decisions had to be made.

Mr. James stated that nothing will happen until he makes a recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Willie Chukes addressed the Board concerning Havana. He stated that Havana has been plucked over the years and he asked that Havana be thought about before closing schools. He asked the Board to think about the employees.

Ms. Minnis asked the Board to convene in executive session to discuss a pending litigation matter.

13. The Board recessed the regular meeting at 7:15 p.m.; convened in executive session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss a pending litigation matter; adjourned the executive session at 7:44 p.m.; reconvened the regular meeting at 7:46 p.m.; and adjourned at 7:47 p.m.