

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

March 24, 2020

6:00 P.M.

The following Board members were present via telephone conference: Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Leroy McMillan; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Steve Scott; and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. Also present via telephone conference were Mr. Roger P. Milton, 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 Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Omitted.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Lewis recognized and thanked the school food service staff, transportation staff, faith-based partners, and community members for their commitment to provide meals to students during these challenging times. She reminded the Board of the following from the February 25th minutes: a) revisit the organization of Information Technology Services to increase the efficacy of data collection and reporting. The organizational chart provided did not reflect the intent of Objective SP5 in that no change was made to address a need for better accountability and accuracy of FTE data collection and reporting; b) FTE data collection and reporting and further maximize FTE funding for the district; c) implement an effective strategy to ensure that teachers of mathematics, science, social studies and computer literacy are on track to complete 60 hours of ESOL training; d) ELL endorsements and additional funding; additional FTE funding for students if teachers of courses have EL students and the teachers have met the ESOL endorsement requirements; e) continue to fine-tune parent engagement and implement frequent monitoring procedures; f) provide additional specialized instructional services to teachers of science in fifth and eighth grades; and g) detail and improve record-keeping for digital devices based on availability of those for exclusive student use versus those available exclusively for teachers and administrators. She stated that a facilities workshop was needed. She stated that the Superintendent has spoken with Mrs. Ella Mae Daniel in reference to professional development for teachers to assist them with receiving certification.

In response to Mr. Milton's comments regarding professional development for teacher certification, Mrs. Judith Mandela, President of the GCCTA, stated that she met with Mrs. Daniel and a plan is in place to assist teachers with receiving their certification.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Lewis removed from the agenda item #10a – School Field Trip Request (Out-of-State) Stewart Street Elementary School. She entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. February 25, 2020, 3:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. February 25, 2020, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. February 25, 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 2019 – 2020

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. 2020-2021 Calendars

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Membership in P.O.W.E.R Buying Group for fiscal year 2020 – 2021

Fund Source: 4100 School Food Service
Amount: Approximately \$2,500,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Membership in BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative

Fund Source: All funds can benefit
Amount: -0-

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Approval of a Contract with PAEC to facilitate the Board Approved U. S. Department of Education (USDE) Grant Award for Elevate Florida (ERF) a.k.a. School Climate Transformation Grant

Fund Source: Federal
Amount: \$739,286.00 year 1
\$725,631.00 year 2
\$703,631.00 year 3
\$692,631.00 year 4
\$681,443.00 year 5
Total: \$3,542,602.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Approval of the 2019 – 2023 GESPA Contract

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Education Partnership Agreement: Panhandle Area Educational Professional Development Center and The Gadsden County School Board

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

g. Scott v. Gadsden County School Board

Fund Source: General
Amount: \$90,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #56-1920-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #63-1920-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #64-1920-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #71-1920-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #73-1920-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #74-1920-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #75-1920 – 0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. FACILITIES UPDATE

None.

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.

*7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Financial and Federal Single Audit for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

Fund Source: All Funds

Amount: See Report #2020-138

In response to Mrs. Mandela's request regarding a workshop to further discuss the financial and federal single audit, Mr. Milton responded yes, a workshop will be scheduled to further discuss the financial and federal single audit for fiscal year ended June 30, 2019.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- c. Annual Membership in the Florida School Boards Association for 2020 – 2021
Fiscal Year

Fund Source: 1100 General Fund

Amount: \$10,455.00

In response to Mrs. Mandela's concern regarding the district paying for the annual membership in the Florida School Board's Association, Mr. Milton stated that the membership is very valuable and provides training and resources for the district. He recommended the continuation of the membership in the Florida School Boards Association.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting. He also thanked everyone for what they are doing during this pandemic time. He stated that April 15th was the anticipated date for students to return to school. He stated that he is committed to extending the feeding program for students beyond the April 15th date if students are not returning to school. He stated that the

district is ready to provide mental health services for students and parents. He stated that EdPackets will be available for students at the end of the week. He stated that parents will pick up their students EdPacket at their school. He stated that the district is working to do distance learning with students to continue their education. He stated that all thoughts and suggestions are welcome, and to please contact him or one of the Area Directors. He stated that Comcast is providing free internet service for students during this challenging time. He stated that the district's educational plans will be submitted to the Department of Education. He stated that social media was one of the primary source of communication. He stated that the district will make it through these challenging times. He stated that the district staff and 12 month employees are on a restricted work schedule. He thanked GCCTA and GESPA for working with the district. He encouraged everyone to take care of themselves, be safe and healthy.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost thanked the Superintendent and staff for their hard work. He stated he visited some of the feeding sites. He encouraged individuals to contact the Superintendent and staff with their concerns.

Mr. Scott thanked the Superintendent and staff for their dedication and hard work. He encouraged everyone to be safe during this pandemic and challenging time.

Mr. Smith expressed his gratitude to the Superintendent and staff. In response to his concern regarding the timeline to return EdPackets for grading, Dr. Sylvia Jackson stated that parents are to return their student's EdPacket for grading on April 15th, and the district is working on Plan B for grading.

Mrs. Lewis thanked everyone for their hard work. She stated that she visited the feeding sites in Midway – Eugene Lamb Park, and Havana Magnet School. She thanked Mrs. Natalie Roberts and New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church for hosting a feeding site. She thanked Mrs. Stacey Henderson for hosting a feeding site in the Richbay Area. She stated that these are some trying times, but we will get through it. She encouraged everyone to pray much, stay healthy and practice social distance.

Mr. Emanuel Sapp (concerned citizen) commended the Superintendent and staff including federal programs, parent services, Mrs. Vicki Johnson and Mr. Greg Downing for their hard work. He stated that a website has been established for individuals to donate to the Gadsden Education Foundation. He stated that the Governor makes the call when schools are to reopen. He stated that a plan was needed to use the gym for a medical facility for students, parents and staff to use. He stated that the discussion on high school graduation need to continue. He stated that this administration cannot be criticized for anything. He stated that the Superintendent must follow orders from the Governor.

Mrs. Lewis stated that there are constant updates on the district's website and social media. She thanked Dr. Sheantika Wiggins for her hard work.

Mr. Gabrielle Showers (concerned citizen) thanked the Superintendent and staff for being proactive. He stated that there are a lot of uncertainties. He stated that he is willing to work with the district. He encouraged everyone to work together during these challenging times.

The following individuals participated on the telephone conference call: Mrs. Bonnie Wood, Mr. LaClarence Mays, Dr. Sylvia Jackson, Mrs. Sharon Thomas, Mrs. Tammy McGriff Farlin, Mrs. Edna Hussein Forehand, Mrs. Judith Mandela, Mr. Emanuel Sapp, Mrs. Jasmine Allen, Mrs. Rebecca Stoll, Mrs. Natalie Roberts, Mrs. Latisha Hutley-Figgers, Mr. William Dennington, Mr. Eric Toussaint, Mrs. Tammy Starks, Mrs. Shaundra McGlockton, Mrs. Annie Trueblood, and Mrs. Neshanta Jordan.

14. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.