

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

December 11, 2012

4:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Roger P. Milton; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Ms. Audrey D. Lewis. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, 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 4:05 p.m.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN GADSDEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LEON
COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Mrs. Smith shared with the Board a power-point presentation outlining the information on the Magnet Schools Assistance Program. She stated that the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) is a federal grants program administered by the United States Department of Education. She stated that the MSAP helps desegregate public schools by eliminating, reducing, and preventing minority group isolation in elementary and secondary schools. She stated that the 2012 data indicates Gadsden Public School District has the following minority groups, including adult students: African American - 76.2%, Hispanic - 17.7%, White 4.4%, Others - 1.5% and Asian - .2%. She stated that the United States Department of Education Funding (national competition). MSAP has received federal assistance since 1970. She stated that priority is to encourage either new magnet schools or existing magnet schools that are being significantly revised. She stated that funding occurs every three (3) years. She stated that it is expected that approximately \$100 million will be available. She stated that the local educational agency funding period is for three (3) years and funding range from \$500,000 to \$3.8 million per year. She stated that budget categories include: personnel, fringe benefits, equipment, supplies, contractual services/renovation and installation (not construction), professional development and travel. She stated that a local educational agency must adopt and implement a School Board approved voluntary desegregation plan approved by the Office of Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Education, or is implementing a court ordered desegregation plan. She stated that the MSAP will address district-wide diversity issues and/or minority/racial isolation issues, assist with systemic education reforms, increase student enrollment by recruiting, and retaining more students, and expand capacity and provide school choice. She stated that an inter-district

agreement/partnership is allowable and will provide additional proposal evaluation points. She stated that the Gadsden County School District will benefit in the following ways: provide additional resources to implement systemic educational reforms, provide additional high quality professional development, increase interaction among students of different social, economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds, provide additional resources to clean-up and beautify a school campus, increases support and resources for teachers, and increases school capacity. She stated that the following budget costs not included in the MSAP are transportation, food services, construction, overloading budget with FTEs (Projections for FTEs must be accurate). She stated that the first steps in planning for MSAP are to have a court ordered desegregation or voluntary plan, select a site location and theme, collect community support/survey/data, and parent/student focus groups: home-school, private schools, Out-of-Zone students, etc. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to share information regarding the Magnet Schools Assistance Program.

During the Magnet Schools Assistance Program power-point presentation Board members shared their concerns, asked questions and made comments. They thanked Mrs. Smith for the presentation and requested they be provided with updated information through the planning phase of the MSAP.

3. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the district is trying to do a better job of marketing its programs. He stated that the district was noted for having the most highly effective teachers in the State of Florida. He shared with the Board a copy of the City of Midway Charter School Contract for their review. He encouraged the Board to schedule a workshop to discuss and review the City of Midway Charter School Contract.

Mr. Simmons agreed to schedule a workshop at the December meeting for Board members to discuss and review the City of Midway Charter School Contract.

Mr. James stated that at the December 18th Board meeting he will submit a recommendation regarding the Traneisha Galloway Charter School of Business And Integrated Technology Application. He stated that a legislative bill has been proposed to provide additional funding for districts with a number of low income students (Title I). He thanked Mr. Helms for sharing with him his concerns for the district. He stated that he anticipates that the district will receive a letter grade of "B" for one of the high schools.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Simmons requested a schedule of the upcoming Florida Turnaround Leadership Workshops.

Mr. Helms recognized Mr. Hinson as Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commission. He stated that the district's Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 21st beginning at 12:00 noon.

Mr. Simmons stated that he attended a basketball game at East Gadsden High School and was not pleased with the exotic dancing by girls.

Mr. James requested an audit of all the finances for the district's athletic programs.

Mrs. Wood stated that Ashmore & Ashmore will provide an audit on all the district's internal funds accounts. She stated that she will present a written report to the Board.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concerned about the violence between schools at games. He stated that the coaches needed to provide interventions before such violent activities occur.

Mr. Helms stated that there have been previous problems between West Gadsden High School and the Blountstown teams. He stated that the Florida High School Athletic Association is currently investigating an altercation between the two schools.

Mrs. Wood invited the Board to a Food Service Spaghetti Cookout at Carter Parramore Academy on December 19th beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Simmons stated that the workshop was very informative.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:40 p.m.