

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

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

July 21, 2020

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan; and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. Present via telephone conference: Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, Chairwoman; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; and Mr. Steve Scott. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, at 6:00 p.m.

2. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

- a. Personnel 2019 – 2020
- b. Personnel 2020 – 2021

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #'s 2a & b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

3. VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD

Following the consensus of the Board, Mr. Steve Scott agreed to continue serving as the Board's representative on the Value Adjustment Board.

4. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that the start date for schools to reopen will be August 31st. He stated that the calendar committee met and a draft calendar will be presented to the Board for approval on Tuesday, July 28th. He stated that parents have two options for their child to return to school. He stated that students can return to school face to face or in an innovative learning environment (remote learning). He stated that forms are available on the district's website for parents who choose the option for remote learning. He stated that the virtual forms are due to the schools by July 31st. He stated that a draft of the school reopening plan will be submitted to the Department of Education by July 31st. He stated that faculty and staff will be emailed information on the school reopening plan. He stated that there are a lot of uncertainties. He stated that the district will do their very best for all students and employees to be safe. He encouraged everyone to work together. He stated that he is accessible 24 -7 to address any issues or concerns.

5. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding where the district was with sports for the coming school year, Mr. Milton stated that the Florida High School Athletic Association met yesterday and concluded that fall sports will be as scheduled. He stated that practice for fall sports could begin July 27th. He stated that each school district has priority to schedule sports for their individual schools.

Mrs. Lewis requested that parent training be included in distance learning for students.

Mr. Milton stated that Dr. Sylvia Jackson, Mrs. Vicki Muse Johnson and Mrs. Ella Mae Daniel will ensure that parent training is included in distance learning for students.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, President of GCCTA, addressed the Board to request that the school reopening plan for faculty and staff be presented to them and the community. She stated that there have many questions and concerns posted on social media regarding school reopening. She stated that members of the teachers union and the community want to know about the school reopening plan. She stated that many people are concerned about what is being done to safely reopen schools. She stated that the teachers and community need some level of assurance on how to safely return to school.

Mr. McMillan stated that he is not a fan of social media. He stated that it is not professional to put questions out to the community that are addressed to the Board. He stated that the Board will respond to questions and concerns if presented in a professional manner.

Mr. Milton stated that there are a lot of members on the school reopening task force. He stated that there is a lot of school reopening information to be reviewed from a legal stand point. He stated that there will be a presentation to faculty and staff regarding the plan to reopen schools safely. He stated that all issues will be addressed in a timely manner. He stated that he respects and thank all individuals for their hard work.

Mr. Smith stated the COVID-19 positive numbers are increasing in Gadsden County. He requested the Board consider remote learning for students as much as possible. He stated that as a Board member and community member, he doesn't think that opening schools face to face with students will be good. He stated that the Board should consider remote learning for students.

Mrs. Lewis shared Mr. Smith's concern regarding the district providing remote learning for all students. She stated that the school reopening task force is continuing to work hard and address questions and concerns by the staff and community.

Mr. Frost stated that Mr. Milton will make himself available to staff and community members. He stated that the school reopening task force has many groups of individuals working to develop a safe plan for students and staff to return to school safely. He stated that the state has mandated that all schools open in August.

Mr. Smith stated that he understands the state's mandate to open schools in August, but he wants to open remotely only. He stated that students returning to the classroom face to face could be catastrophic.

6. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.