

## SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

December 11, 2017

5:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Steve Scott, Chairman; Mr. Tyrone D. Smith; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott, at 5:00 p.m.

#### 2. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Mrs. Lewis welcomed everyone to the meeting. She stated that Gadsden County was concerned and focused on student discipline. She requested an introduction of individuals representing the different agencies present for the meeting.

The following individuals shared introductions: 1) Ms. Ashley Mollema, Youth and Family Counselor – CCYS; 2) Ms. Stephanie Morris, Chief Prosecutor – State Attorney Office; 3) Thomas Gano, Assistant State Attorney – State Attorney Office; 4) Ms. Cheryl Roberts – Assistant State Attorney – State Attorney Office; 5) Ms. Selina A. Peet, Program Supervisor – Apalachee Center, Inc.; 6) Ms. Jerri Lynn Stone – School Health Coordinator – Department of Health; 7) Ms. Anne Radke – Real Essentials – Crossroads Academy; 8) Mr. Johnnie Pennick, Jr. – Career Coordinator – AMIKids Gadsden; 9) Mr. Don Gibson – Instructor – Gadsden Technical Institute; 10) Ms. Carolyn Francis – Volunteer Coordinator – Gadsden County Schools; 11) Major Willie Jackson – Principal – James A. Shanks Middle School; 12) Ms. Maresha Alexander – Life Coach, Guidance Counselor – Gadsden County High School; 13) Ms. Jari V. Lewis – Resource Teacher – Gadsden Elementary Magnet School; 14) Ms. Delshuana Jackson – Principal – Havana Magnet School; 15) Mr. Rick Soskis – Gadsden ACLLE Action Network; 16) Ms. Pauline West – Principal – Carter Parramore Academy; 17) Mr. Edgar Griffin - Behavioral Specialist – Carter Parramore Academy; 18) Mr. Keith Dowdell – Assistant Principal – Gadsden County High School; 19) Dr. Ronald Peterson – Principal – George W. Munroe Elementary School; 20) Ms. LaRonda Frazier-Lee – Principal – Gadsden Central Academy; and 21) Ms. Cheryl Moody – Assistant Principal – West Gadsden Middle School.

In response to Mrs. Lewis' question of what are your greatest barriers to discipline and attendance, the following individuals shared their response: Dr. Ronald Peterson, Ms. Anne Radke, Major Willie Jackson, and Ms. Selina Peete.

In response to Mr. Scott's concern about the number of students that have been served this year by the different agencies, the following responses were given: Apalachee Center – 45 students, Ms. Radke – 40 students, CCYS – 12 students; AMIKids – 18 students (up to 36); and Major Jackson – 56 students being mentored.

Mr. Scott stated that he was concerned that there are not enough individuals to serve students, which could be a cause for student discipline issues.

Ms. Peet, Apalachee Center, stated that more student referrals are needed in order to serve more students.

Mr. Milton thanked all agencies represented and staff for attending the meeting. He stated that there must be a connection with the parents to assist with discipline issues. He stated that the district has received grant funding to assist with student discipline issues at the following schools: James A. Shanks Middle School, George W. Munroe Elementary School, West Gadsden Middle School, and Gadsden County High School. He requested the Board advocate and lobby for alternative graduation requirements. He stated that conversation was needed to discuss the possibility of revamping programs at Carter Parramore Academy and Hope Academy. He stated that the mindset and expectations are high at the magnet schools. He stated that the mindset and expectations need to be changed at all schools. He stated that every student can learn.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the district is working to change its culture. She stated that she want every student to succeed. She encouraged everyone to share with others that the Gadsden district is serious about curtailing student discipline.

Mr. Smith suggested gathering information from the various agencies and compiling into one pamphlet. He stated that all administrators and leaders need to be aware of all the services available to students.

Mr. Scott encouraged the district to compile the list of agencies to provide to principals to help them become proactive in using the services available to students and parents. He also encouraged staff to call to request services.

Mr. Rick Soskis stated that Apalachee Center is unlimited in the number of students they can serve. He stated that there need to be consistency among the principals. He stated that character education could be taught during the first two weeks of the school year.

Mrs. Lewis stated that a lot of valuable information was provided. She thanked everyone for sharing their comments and information. She stated that the district is moving from good to great.

### 3. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that the district will call upon the various agencies to help with students. He stated that Gadsden Elementary Magnet School had received the School of Excellence Award, and recognition was scheduled for Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. He stated that Havana Magnet School received the recognition of being selected as a National Title I Distinguished School, and that a Title I Parent Engagement Celebration was scheduled on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2:00 p.m. He stated that there will be early release for students on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (December 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>). He invited Board members to the Annual Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at noon. He stated that students and staff will return from the Winter break on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. He stated that the district will meet with an external partner the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

### 4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Smith stated that he was well received by the school sites of the Teacher of the Year, Rookie Teacher of the Year, and School Related Employee of the Year winners.

5. Mrs. Lewis announced that the Teacher of the Years for the 2018 -2019 year was Ms. Pamela Bryant from Havana Magnet School, and the School Related Employee of the Year was Ms. Shandra Wright from Greensboro Elementary School. She congratulated Ms. Bryant and Ms. Wright on their accomplishments.

Mr. Milton thanked Mr. Bill Stinson, Ms. Edna Hussein, and Mr. Rick Soskis for providing valuable input to the School of Hope Funding Grant.

Mr. Scott reminded the Board of the upcoming meeting tomorrow (Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>) – Workshop – 4:30 p.m.; and Regular Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

6. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.