

SCHOOL BOARD FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

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

August 22, 2023

4:30 P.M.

The workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; Mr. Steve Scott; and Mr. Charlie D. Frost. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others.

1. Call To Order

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 4:40 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mr. Mays stated that the final budget hearing would be held on September 7th at 6:00 p.m. He stated that the district is working to close out fiscal year 2022 – 2023.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding student enrollment, Mr. Key stated that the student warm body count fluctuated from day to day, but student enrollment had increased on some days and that a more accurate account for student enrollment will be given on September 7th.

In response to Mrs. Dudley's concern regarding teachers receiving their supply allocation, Mr. Mays stated that the finance department was continuing to work on the teacher supply allocation. He stated that the allocation had changed and that the minimum pay for teachers would be \$300.00. He stated that disbursements for the teacher supply allocation should be mid-September.

Ms. Johnson stated that she was concerned that a former employee received pay a number of times after resigning. She stated the district needed some accountability, policies and procedures in place. She stated that a check and balance system was needed. She stated that a letter was mailed to the former employee to return the funds.

Mr. Scott stated that when there is not an accurate or ample way to recover the funds, we say that taxpayer's money is thrown away.

In response to Ms. Johnson's statement that by law, there is a policy in place to have the responsible person repay the funds, Mrs. Minnis stated that she was not sure of a case law in Florida. She stated that based on experience this would be more of a discipline issue.

Mr. Key stated that things have been put in place to ensure this does not happen again.

3. Facilities Update

Mr. Key introduced Mr. Brenton Hudson as the new Director of Facilities. He stated that Mr. Hudson has hit the ground running and working along with Mr. Riley and others in the maintenance department.

Mr. Hudson shared with the Board a brief introduction of himself. He stated that he was excited about the new Quincy K-8 School. He stated that he is a State Certified General Contractor. He stated that replacement of the marquee at Gadsden County High School needed Board approval. He stated that the company Daktronics was an approved State vendor.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding the bid for replacement of the marquee, Mr. Mays stated that the bidding process requires three quotes, and Daktronics is one of the State vendors.

Mr. Scott stated that he was concerned about using ESSER funds to pay for the replacement of the marquee. He stated that playground equipment needed ordering for the schools.

Mr. Key stated that the replacement of the marquee can be covered through ESSER funding and used as a communication issue. He stated that currently the district is looking for bids to replace all playground equipment.

Ms. Johnson stated that the fieldhouse at Gadsden County High School needed an upgrade. She stated that the dryer was not working. She stated that the principal would provide a checklist of things that need repairing.

Mr. Key stated that principals provide a checklist at the end of each school year of things that need repairing. He stated that the boosters were asked to sponsor the lockers.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding the kitchens being extremely hot, Mr. Hudson stated that placing portable AC units in all the cafeterias has helped.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding the scoreboard at Havana Magnet School, Mr. Key stated that he was working to get Coca Cola or Pepsi to pay for a new scoreboard at Gadsden County High School and then move that one to Havana Magnet School.

Mr. Hudson stated that Kelly Brother Sheet Metal would begin work on the AC unit at Stewart Street Elementary School.

Mr. McMillan asked if the Board could continue with Kelly Brother Sheet Metal for a change order to work on the electrical and ceiling grids, Mr. Key stated that a change order does not require re-bidding.

In response to Mrs. Dudley's concern regarding how the classrooms are being kept cool, Mr. Key stated that temporary AC units are placed in the classrooms.

Mr. David Kelly stated that the work could begin soon. He stated that classrooms have been identified. He stated that students would be moved around the campus and the work completed in phases. He stated that he is a graduate of East Gadsden High School.

Mr. Key stated that the Board would receive information for the approval of additional temporary AC units.

Mr. Hudson stated that vendors would bid for work on Gadsden County High School's football field and the track field. He stated that vendors and research is being done to replace all playground equipment.

Mr. McMillan stated that two ovens at George W. Munroe Elementary School are not operational. He stated that the milk cooler is not working.

Ms. Johnson stated that one of the cookers at Havana Magnet School is not working. She stated that one of the knobs is off. She stated that there is rubber around the doors in the kitchen that need replacing.

Mrs. Dudley thanked Mr. Hudson for the work he is doing. She stated that she is confident the district is moving in the right direction.

4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

Mr. Key stated that the district was in need of school buses. He stated that school buses could not be purchased with ESSER funding. He stated that some of the buses could be repaired and some would have to be purchased. He stated that some districts are renewing their fleet.

Mr. Bryant stated that he has looked into options to purchase three used buses, one 77-passenger bus, one with a wheel chair lift, and the other would be used as a spare.

In response to Mr. Frost's concern whether the buses were compatible to what the district already has when it comes to servicing, Mr. Bryant responded yes.

In response to Mr. McMillan's concern whether or not one could use a wheel chair lift for another lift, Mr. Bryant stated that it depends on the year and range.

5. School Board Requests and Concerns

None.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:49 p.m.