

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

May 28, 2024

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, Chairwoman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Minister Daisy James from the Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Key thanked everyone for their prayers during the passing of his aunt and nephew. He thanked everyone for congratulations on behalf of his son's draft to the NFL. He stated that there have been some tough and exciting times. He congratulated all of the high school graduating seniors at Gadsden County High School and Crossroad Academy.

Ms. Johnson recognized the students who attended the Special Olympic Games in Orlando. She introduced Ms. Kesandra Brown, ESE Director. Ms. Brown stated that on May 18th the student athletes traveled to Orlando, Florida to compete in the State Special Olympic Games. She stated that the games were held May 17th and 18th. She stated that the athletes did an amazing job representing the district. She thanked the students and parents who attended the Special Olympic Games. She thanked the district staff and donors for the Gatorade. She thanked the legendary Hall of Fame Mr. Robert Jackson for attending. She stated that the students received 16 gold medals, 2 – second place medals and 2 bronze medals in the track and field competition. She stated that in the basketball competition the students received 4th place in individual skills competition, 1st place gold medal in the middle school junior level team, and 2nd place silver medal in the high school senior level team. She introduced the following students: Track & Field – Lewis Charleston, Travis Crews, Bryant Furmman, Carmelo James, Jyz'Juan Kenon, Traydan Maddox, Kendrick McCoy, Angel Molina, Manuel Molina, Daveion Moore, Terrill Shaw, Jr., Zyshawn Streeter, Jeremiah Wesley, Ti'Aynria Winbush, JaMarcus Wright, Iyana Young, JaKariya Young and Robert Jackson. 5 on 5 Basketball – Larry Green, Gerald Irvin, Jamiyah James, Omar O'Neil, and Brian Young. 3 on 3 Basketball – Jeremiah Barber, Jamarr Dickens, Malik Horne, JaMonta McCloud, and Jaquez Wesley. Skills – Kristopher McSwain. 2024 Regional Cheerleaders – Sarania Jones, Dakiya Newkirk, Yariah Thomas, Kirstyn Moore, Katrina Charleston, Princess Charleson, Sa'Miyah Williams, Shakayla Harrison, Ansleigh Scott, Ziya Tyler, Katelyn Street, Johnaye Hicks, Ziyah Livingston, and Aria Livingston.

Ms. Johnson thanked Coach Williams and Coach Miller for their support and assistance. She stated that the students, coaches, staff and parents had a great time in Orlando.

Mr. Frost congratulated Judge Kathy Garner for her hard work and dedication to the Gadsden County Youth Resource Fair on Saturday, May 25th. He congratulated his granddaughter (Amarielle Lawson) for her hard work in the classroom and being #3 in her senior class of 2024.

Mrs. Dudley recognized Mr. Matthew Bryant and the transportation department staff for transporting the seniors at Gadsden County High School to Stewart Street Elementary School to walk the campus for the last time as former students. She recognized Coach Cathy Johnson for having a passion to work with the ESE students. She thanked the parents, students, and staff for a successful school year. She stated that Class Night at the high school was beautiful and rewarding for some students. She recognized “Master Will” Devonta Hicks Murphy on his graduation from Tallahassee Community College Eagle Connection, his grandparents Mrs. Lynnette Davis Sweet and Mr. Sweet. Mrs. Sweet thanked everyone for their support and recognition of “Master Will”.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mrs. Judith Mandela, James A. Shanks Middle School Teacher, addressed the Board to question why teachers who received an effective evaluation were not recommended back for the 2024 – 2025 school year. She stated that the teachers not recommended back were told they could not transfer to another school. She stated that she wanted to know what the plan was for the teachers. Mrs. Dudley stated that the transfer date is approaching and she is concerned about teachers. Mr. Frost expressed his concerns and dismay regarding teachers not being recommended back with effective evaluations. He requested the names of the persons not being recommended back. Mr. McMillan stated that he was not sure if everyone was using the evaluation tool. He stated that he was tired of having the same issue every year. He stated that the district has to do better about building a team to help teachers. Mrs. Minnis stated that the Board was getting involved in personnel. She stated that there is a statute that gives principals the authority to build their team. She stated that the Board could review their policies. Mr. Key stated that there was nothing in personnel regarding recommendations for the 2024 - 2025 school year. He stated that he acts upon the principal recommendation. Mrs. Mandela stated that the GCCTA MOU contract was violated when some teachers received \$3,500 stipend and some stipends were prorated. Mr. McMillan stated that the Board did not send a letter to staff regarding the \$3,500 stipend. Mrs. Minnis stated that she would refer the issue to Labor Council regarding the \$3,500 stipend.

Dr. Tracy Stallworth addressed the Board to request copies of incident reports involving his daughter in 2022. He stated that he previously met with Mr. Key but he did not receive the response that he wanted. He stated that no documentation has been provided. Mrs. Dudley stated that the district has a bullying and harassment policy that is on the district’s website. She stated that as a parent she would have taken care of the issue in 2022. She asked the Superintendent to provide an incident report to Dr. Stallworth if there was one. Dr. Stallworth stated that his daughter has an IEP. Mrs. Minnis stated that the IDEA Act is different from bullying. Mrs. Dudley stated that Dr. Stallworth has valid concerns. She apologized to Dr. Stallworth for what happened to his daughter.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Dudley entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried unanimously.

6. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. March 27, 2024, 2:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. April 15, 2024, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. April 23, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Financial Workshop
- d. April 23, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

e. May 6, 2024, 5:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

f. May 6, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

a. Personnel 2023 – 2024

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Personnel 2024 – 2025

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. 2025 – 2026 School Year Calendars

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

b. Request Approval for ERATE Funded Services

Fund Source: USAC-ERATE/District

Amount: \$518,247.50 ERATE Portion: \$459,847.50 DISTRICT Portion: \$58,400

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. PAEC Skyward/ISCorp School District Agreement

Fund Source: Capital Outlay/General/Federal

Amount: \$66,203.31

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Purchase of New School Buses

Fund Source: School Start Time Implementation Grant

Amount: \$1,372,518.00 (9 buses at \$152,502.00)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #120-2324-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #122-2324-0211

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Alternative Placement – See back-up material

Case #125–2324-0211

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #127-2324-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #128-2324-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #129-2324-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

CASE #130-2324-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Purchase of the City of Quincy Pool Property

Fund Source: Insurance Dollars from Hurricane Damage to JASMS

Amount: \$110,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Board Approval of the District Five Maintenance and Facilities Plan

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items preceded by an (*) asterisk were removed from the CONSENT agenda at the beginning of the meeting and moved to the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

*8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) through its fiscal agent the Washington County School Board

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. McMillan stated that he needed clarity on the fund source and amount for PAEC. Mr. Mays stated that the funding source would be the general fund, and the amount would be \$50,000.

Following discussion, Mr. Leroy McMillan made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key requested an executive session following the meeting to discuss collective bargaining issues. He stated that financing was needed for the high school track and football field. He stated that the Board needed to discuss the reconfiguration of James A. Shanks Middle School and George W. Munroe Elementary School. He stated that summer programs will be housed at all the schools for the exception of Stewart Street Elementary School and James A. Shanks Middle School. He stated that a virtual meeting would be held on Friday (May 31st) at 9:00 a.m. in the Curriculum Library regarding the OPPAGA final recommendations.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Johnson stated that she was concerned about the district finances.

Mr. McMillan stated that teachers and paraprofessionals need competitive salaries. He stated that the student to employee ratio is too high. He stated that the district office and schools are overstaffed. He stated that the district has to be competitive. He stated that the district has good employees. He introduced Dr. Carol Garris and Ms. Lucy Ascarell with PAEC. He stated that Dr. Garris replaced Dr. Maria Pouncey.

Mrs. Dudley stated that the meeting was good. She stated that she like to hear of salary increases. She stated that we are a TEAM.

13. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

The Board convened in executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining issues; and adjourned at 8:25 p.m.