

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

December 17, 2024

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, Ms. Stacey S. Hannigon, 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 Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Minister Brenda Perry of Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Key congratulated the Gadsden County High School Football Team and coaches on a great season. He stated that the team represented the district in Miami last week against now three time champions Coco High School. He stated that there were no incidents that have been brought to his attention from any of the hotels, restaurants, or anything while there. He stated that the boys as well as the cheerleaders did very well. He stated that Gadsden County was represented very well after 50 years of no championship.

Mr. McMillan stated that he was proud of our boys and coaching staff. He stated that he wanted Mrs. Bruner to see what the cost would be for them to bring the trophy home next year. He stated that whatever the State says what we can spend let's do it.

Mr. Frost stated that he has been referring football for about 24 years. He stated that he has gone to a lot of places where coaches didn't have control over the kids. He stated that he went to one place, and has never heard so much cursing, but Gadsden County kids had good reports. He stated that our kids were well mannered and respectful.

Ms. Hannigon echoed what had already been said. She congratulated the football players, coaching staff and parents at Gadsden County High School on a job well done. She thanked the parents for instilling in the students what they needed to represent the district well, even off the football field.

Mr. Key gave a shout out to the parents and the community for supporting the Gadsden County High School Football Team in Miami. He stated that the community showed up in Miami. He stated that he did not have the list of supporters, but there were numerous people that gave donations. He stated that there were donations from \$10,000.00 and down.

Mr. McMillan thanked the Gadsden County Board of Commissioners for their donation of \$10,000 to support the Gadsden County High School Football Team. He stated that was a united community.

Ms. Hannigon stated that the high school football team will be the Grand Marshalls for the City of Quincy Christmas Parade on Friday.

Ms. Johnson asked if it was possible to get a list of everyone that donated so they could be recognized. She stated that when people come out and support our children, we want to let them know we appreciate them.

Mr. Key stated that he could get that list, but it will consist of a combination of boosters. He stated that he did not want to try to call names because there was more than one donor of \$10,000.

Ms. Johnson stated that she believed One Gadsden Foundation was one of the donors that donated \$10,000. She stated that's why she doesn't like to give out information if not correct, but would like to recognize those people.

Mr. McMillan stated that we need to make sure that those people who gave don't mind us putting their names on a list for donations. He stated that some people might not want their names on the list.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Judith Mandela addressed the Board to ask what was the district's new fund balance, if not known when will the district know. Mr. Key stated that he could not answer that at this time, he stated that the question should be addressed to him after the meeting. Mr. McMillan stated to Ms. Mandela that someone will get back to her with an answer.

6. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. November 19, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Financial Workshop
- b. November 19, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – School Board Organization Meeting
- c. November 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- d. November 25, 2024, 4:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- e. November 25, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- f. December 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

Mr. McMillan entertained a motion for approval of the minutes 6a – 6f. Ms. Cathy S. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes 6a – 6f. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

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

- a. Personnel 2024– 2025

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #034-2425-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #036-2425-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Purchase Order Request for Simpson Environmental

Fund Source: General Funds

Amount: \$28,500.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Purchase Order Request for Moore Doors

Fund Source: General Funds

Amount: \$47,169.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Approval of 2024 – 2025 Gadsden County School Controlled Open Enrollment Plan

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Approval of the 2024 – 2025 School Advisory Council (SAC) Membership Rosters

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Approval of the 2024 – 2025 Title I, Parent and Family Engagement Plans

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. 2024 – 2025 School Improvement Plans

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

- Greensboro Elementary School
- Stewart Street Elementary School
- Havana Magnet School
- George W. Munroe Elementary School
- Gadsden County High School
- Crossroads Academy

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 acted upon during the discussion portion of the agenda.

*8. STUDENT MATTERS

c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #038-2425-0051

The grandmother of Student Case #038-2425-0051 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

The Board approved deferring action on agenda item #8c until a hearing could be held.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key requested the Board convene in executive session following the meeting to discuss collective bargaining issues.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Ms. Johnson's request for a sports schedule for each of the schools, Mr. Key stated that he will provide the Board with a sports schedule.

Ms. Hannigon recognized Mr. Darryl Richardson, Bus Attendant, for escorting one of our students across the street to meet their parents. She stated that Mr. Richardson not only escorted the student across the street, but he gave them instructions on how to cross the street, a teachable moment. She stated that it may seem like something small but in the course of the day with all the hustle and bustle of what our bus drivers and bus attendants do, I thought it was commendable on his part to just take the time to have a teaching moment for that youngster. Mr. McMillan stated that Mr. Darryl Richardson graduated from James A. Shanks High School in the Class of 1977. Ms. Hannigon mentioned that herself and some of the other Board members had the chance to attend the FSBA Joint Conference in Tampa on December 2 – 5, 2024. She stated that it was a great experience for her coming in as a new Board member. She stated that it was a great opportunity where she learned a lot of things, and received a lot of materials.

Mr. Frost stated that he wanted to let people know that when they see us up here and we don't have any comments, it's not because we don't do our jobs. He stated that we get our Board packets about 7 days early and we go around and make sure we get our questions answered. He stated that as a Board member we are out in the community, pay the bills and make sure everything is right. He stated that when he asks for something from the Superintendent it's there and the staff is a mirror image of him. He stated that there might be some disagreement but we get the job done.

Mr. McMillan stated that because we have a new Board member, the Board need to consider a refresher course in order for us to maintain our Master Board status. He stated that he thinks Ms. Hannigon will benefit from it. He asked Mrs. Davis to get in touch with Ms. Andrea Massena at the FSBA Office to get more information. He stated that some students would like for the Ala Carte to return to the schools. Mr. Key stated that once procedures are put in place, it will be revisited. Mr. McMillan stated that in Gadsden County we have to do things right, and once we do everything else will fall in place.

Ms. Johnson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

13. The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

The Board convened in executive session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining issues and adjourned at 7:10 p.m.