

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

December 15, 2015

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Mr. Isaac Simmons; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; and Mr. Steve Scott. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, 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. Roger P. Milton, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Bishop Reginald Washington, Pastor of AGAPE Christian Center.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Wayne Shepard thanked the Superintendent and Board for allowing him to be part of the district for 28 years. Mr. Shepard also thanked his staff at the maintenance department. He presented each of the maintenance staff with a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Shepard introduced the new Director of Facilities, Mr. William Hunter.

Mrs. Lewis recognized Dr. Shirley Aaron who received the 2015 Education Award with the Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle Women of Distinction.

The Superintendent and Board recognized Mr. Finley Cook of Cook Brother Incorporated. Mr. Cook presented the Board with a plaque commemorating their work done on the new PreK wing at Havana Magnet School. Cook Brother Inc. received the Golden Eagle Award for Educational Institutions for the \$3 million to \$10 million range in Tallahassee at the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), Excellence in Construction Banquet. Mr. Cook also presented a check to Principal Delshuna Jackson and Havana Magnet School in the amount of \$1,000.

The Superintendent and Board thanked Mr. Cook; and congratulated Mr. Hunter and Dr. Aaron for their achievements.

Mrs. Lewis commended Ms. Taylor, Mrs. Sharon Thomas, Mrs. Mary Williams, and all departments that participated in the Parent Involvement Meeting on Saturday, December 12th at Stewart Street Elementary School.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was pleased to have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Shepard. He stated that he is looking forward to working with Mr. Hunter.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Milton added item #8e – Extension of Student Suspensions to the agenda. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Isaac Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Audrey Lewis and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. November 17, 2015, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. November 17, 2015, 5:30 p.m. – Organizational Meeting
- c. November 17, 2015, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- d. November 23, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- e. November 23, 2015, 1:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #17-1516-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #18-1516-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #19-1516-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #21-1516-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Extension of Student Suspensions – See back-up material

Case #23-1516-0231

Case #24-1516-0071

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Roofing Project at Quincy Area Three Buildings 98-11 & 99-64

Fund Source: 420
Amount: \$20,180.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Lowest & Best Quote for Siding & Walkway Covers at Quincy Area Three Building 98-11 (Head Start/PreK)

Fund Source: 420
Amount: \$15,720.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. School Field Trip Requests (Out-of-State) Havana Magnet School

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. School Field Trip Requests (Out-of-State) East Gadsden High School

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 acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

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

- a. Personnel 2015 – 2016

In response to Mr. Scott's request regarding the clarification on the title for Mrs. Pauline West, Mr. James stated that the corrected title should be Human Resource/Staff Development Director.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a with the above noted correction to change Mrs. West's title to Human Resource/Staff Development Director. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

a. Barkley Security Purchase Order #188633

Fund Source: General Funds
Amount: \$25,000.00

In response to Mr. Simmons' question whether the \$25,000 was included in the original contract amount for Barkley Security, Mrs. Ferree stated that the \$25,000 was under estimated but was included in the original contract.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Recommended RFP Award #1516:09 Security Officer Services – Barkley Security Agency, Inc.

Fund Source: All Funds
Amount: \$80,850.00

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern regarding whether or not the Security Officer's bid was awarded to the lowest bidder, Mrs. Ferree stated that only two security officer's bids were received. She stated that one of the bidders lacked security experience. She stated that the bidder was not disqualified. She stated that the bid was awarded to the most conforming bidder.

Mrs. Minnis stated that all bidders will be notified of the Board's action regarding the security officer's bid.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Shepard stated that the new boiler installed at James A. Shanks Middle School was up and running. He stated that he has introduced Mr. Hunter to all the principals and staff.

Mr. Hunter thanked the Superintendent and Board for the opportunity to work with the district.

Mr. Ronte Harris, President of Gadsden County Classroom Teachers' Association, stated that he was a proponent of closing down schools in order for students to receive a quality education and employees to receive an increase in salaries. He stated that the district did not have to worry about layoffs and firing teachers, because they're already leaving to look for better pay in other counties, and parents are sending their children off for a better education. He stated that the district should be reduced to a size that is comparable to the students and staff, find the money and pay teachers better salaries. He stated that the Board needed to take action to ensure that all employees are treated professionally.

Mr. James stated that he and the Board are committed to giving employees a raise. He stated that he will make personal visits to each of the schools beginning January.

Mr. Milton stated that the treatment of people is very vital. He stated that customer-care is a priority of the Board. He stated that a budget committee has been formed, and the Board is committed to giving all employees a salary increase.

The following teachers addressed the Board to voice their frustration with their pay, working conditions, poor treatment from administrators, and meager school supplies hindering adequate education for students: Ms. Patricia Kunkler, Ms. Talia Cotton, Ms. Latrecia Bailey, and Ms. Felicia Trumpler.

Mr. Emmanuel Sapp addressed the Board to encourage families to keep students in the district. He stated that additional revenue is forthcoming. He stated that the progress of a child matters the most.

Mrs. Amy McBride addressed the Board to request the consideration of a Behavioral Modification Counselor to assist students with discipline issues.

Coach Corey Fuller stated that he was an advocate for teachers. He requested the Board's assistance with athletics.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James thanked the teachers for sharing with the Board, and he made a commitment to help raise salaries. He stated that teachers are important to the district. He stated that the district has great teachers and he doesn't want to lose them. He stated that he and the Board will work very hard to help teachers. He stated that school grades will be issued without school gains. He stated that preliminary school grades will be available in February, and the factual school grades will be available in July.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mrs. Lewis stated that many of the Board members around the State of Florida are not satisfied with the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). She stated that the district needs to place someone to be in charge of individuals working with students regarding safety and discipline issues.

Mr. James stated that Mr. Bruce James will be the point of contact for individuals who work with students regarding safety and discipline issues.

Mr. Frost stated that he was in favor of giving employees a salary increase. He stated that the district cannot survive if students continue to leave. He stated that the district is losing students because parents are sending them to different counties. He stated that the district lost approximately 80 students to the opening charter school this year. He stated that the district can't keep all of these schools open with little students in them.

Mr. Scott stated that dedicated teachers are needed to help bring students back. He stated that he was frustrated with students leaving the district. He stated that the district cannot spend what it does not have.

Mr. Simmons stated that the district has formed a budget committee to find ways to give employees a salary increase. He stated that the district will work to have competitive salaries.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

The Board convened in executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining issues; and adjourned at 8:30 p.m.