

## SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

July 14, 2020

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present for the special meeting: Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, Chairwoman; Mr. Leroy McMillan; Mr. Steve Scott; and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost and Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board, participated via telephone conference.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, at 6:02 p.m.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Lewis entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

2. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL

- a. School Board Truth In Millage (TRIM) Timetable

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Propose Tentative Budget for Advertisement

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

3. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Request to Announce the Intent to Pre-Qualify Contractors

Fund Source: Varies by project but could be from state, federal, grant, insurance or FEMA

Amount: Varies by project but not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 per project

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Contract for Continuing Services for Roofing and Roofing Repairs

Fund Source: General Fund and Capital Projects Fund

Amount: Varies by Project

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.

### 4. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

#### a. School Reopening for the 2020 - 2021 School Year

Mr. Scott requested that the 2020 – 2021 school year start on August 31<sup>st</sup> in order to allow more time for staff to prepare for students, and to gather information from other districts who are opening school earlier in August. He stated that the district will still meet the state mandate to reopen schools in August. He stated that student and employee safety is first.

Mr. Milton stated that the school calendars can be revised. He stated that the district's current pay schedule will be the same if school starts on August 31<sup>st</sup>. He stated that he will task federal programs to look at what effects the August 31<sup>st</sup> start date will have on summer program in June. He stated that the district will meet the mandate of the Commissioner of Education by starting school on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve School made a motion to amend the Superintendent's recommendation to reopen schools on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

### 5. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mrs. Lewis stated that the Board promised to give the Gadsden community an update on plans to reopen school. She stated that the school reopening task force committee consisted of 89 members with Mr. Maurice Stokes as the facilitator. She thanked all the members of the school reopening task force. She stated that the Board wants what is best for Gadsden County students and the community.

The Board recessed the meeting at 6:20 p.m. to prepare for the Superintendent's FACEBOOK Live message to parents on school reopening. The Board reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

### 6. STATUS UPDATE ON SCHOOL REOPENING FOR 2020 - 2021

Mr. Milton shared a power-point presentation on FACEBOOK Live regarding the parent's guide to safely reopening schools. He stated that the district has overcome many challenges in the past. He stated that the district will continue to work closely with the Department of Education and the Health Department. He stated that the district has a crisis team. He stated that the district is doing their very best to do what is safe for all students and employees. He stated that the Commissioner of Education mandated that all schools will reopen brick and mortar in August. He stated that the Gadsden County School District's reopening plan will maintain a degree of fluidity as revised rules and regulations are presented by the Florida Department of Education, the Gadsden County Health Department as well as the Center for Disease Control. He stated that the district leaders and task force have worked extensively with the Gadsden County Health Department and CDC guidelines to inform all recommendations. He stated that district leaders will continue to use their guidance to create template notification letters, adjust hygiene protocols, and create proper spacing and flow of movement throughout each of the school buildings. He stated that with these safeguards in place, the Gadsden County School Board approved schools to start on August 31<sup>st</sup> with parents having two return options. He stated that the mental and physical health of our students and staff are the district's top priority. He stated that we are all concerned about creating an environment that is conducive to learning while mitigating the spread of COVID-19. He stated that due to the current dynamics, the district will reopen school on August 31, 2020. He stated that all of our schools will open through two options, face to face or through an innovative learning environment which is remote learning. He stated that

opportunities will exist for students to be on site five days per week as per the Governor and the Department of Education. He stated that safe social interactions are an important part of reopening schools fully after evaluating the district's progress and conditions. He stated that the Gadsden County School District will put reasonable safeguards in place to reopen schools. He stated that the district has leaned heavily on the CDC guidelines and made educational decisions at the local level in collaboration with staff, families, and calibration with surrounding school districts. He stated that it is possible that the district will be forced to shift between instructional delivery models if conditions change throughout the year. He stated that the district will be better prepared for shifts this year. He thanked everyone who was part of the team. He stated that the district did not choose this path, but will be ready for where it takes us! He stated that the district will reopen school utilizing the following options: a) Face to Face; or b) Innovative Learning Environment (Remote Learning). He stated that official Remote Learning Request Forms are available on the district's website and will be due to the schools no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>. He stated that more information will be provided on the district's website, the school websites, or by contacting the schools directly.

Mr. Milton stated that students participating in the Innovative Learning Environment Model will be assigned a dedicated distance learning teacher. He stated that this option will include a fixed schedule and will consist of both synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences. He stated that students in this model will begin every morning with a live, in-person morning meeting. He stated that synchronous instruction will be provided for all core classes. He stated that in addition to the core subjects, students in this model will have interactive read-alouds, art, music, PE, and Library at most of our campuses. He stated that specific schedules will get more defined as the district learn about family preferences. He stated that the face to face learning option will have preventative measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at school. He stated that physical distancing will be promoted throughout the day as possible. He stated that schedules will be developed to reduce the number of students in common areas during breaks, lunches, and reduce large gatherings. He stated that classrooms will utilize space by spreading desks and tables around the room, as well as using vacant classrooms and outdoor spaces, as available. He stated that staff temperatures will be checked at the main office daily. He stated that student self-screening will take place before starting each day. He stated that students exhibiting symptoms after arriving at school will receive temperature checks, consistent with the guidelines from the American Pediatrics Association. He stated that disinfecting of buses and implementing protocols will ensure the health and safety of students that utilize district transportation. He stated that windows or roof ventilation will be open to maximize ventilation during transport. He stated that students may sit with siblings or cohort classmates. He stated that final spacing plans are still in development. He stated that the district will follow the physical distancing guidelines per the most current health order as most feasible. He stated that however, the district will also recognize the need for social connection and interaction. He stated that parents should speak and work with their children about maintaining appropriate physical distance and boundaries and the importance of wearing a mask when physical distance is not possible. He stated that per the County Health Department requirements, drivers are to remain in their vehicles, to the extent possible, when dropping off or picking up students. He stated that when in-person drop-off or pick-up is needed, only a single parent or caregiver should enter the facility to pick up or drop off the child. He stated that all adults entering campus for in-person pick-up or drop-off must wear a face covering. He stated that under the current guidelines, face coverings are required for all staff members and students with some medical exceptions. He stated that hygiene practices will be reviewed regularly with students. He stated that staff will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes. He stated that the district will add hand sanitizer stations to high traffic areas on all campuses. He stated that the district will take essential actions to create a physical environment that promotes student and staff safety through established protocols and procedures. He stated that these will include daily disinfection of areas used by students and staff, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as door handles and restrooms during the day. He stated that staggered lunch times will be developed through the site-specific logistic planning to reduce the number of students at lunch time. He stated that hand sanitizer stations will be located near food service

areas to support personal hygiene. He stated that lunch options are being explored by each school that may include students eating lunch in the classrooms or outside some days. He stated that school schedules will be developed to reduce the number of students in common areas during breaks, lunches and reduce large gatherings. He stated that the district will provide schools with signage or markings to indicate spacing for any area where students may line up such as the lunch area. He stated that students will have the option to participate in on-campus sports and extracurricular activities as available. He stated that as high school athletics are governed by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), the district will adhere to the guidelines set forth by the organization.

Mrs. Lewis stated that school will reopen for students on August 31<sup>st</sup>. She stated that parents have two options for educating their children. She stated that option one will be face to face learning, and option two will be innovative learning environment (remote learning). She stated that the official remote learning request forms are available on the district's website and will be due to their child's school no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>. She thanked everyone for their participation. She asked if anyone had questions or concerns, please email Mrs. Mary Davis at [davism@gcpsmail.com](mailto:davism@gcpsmail.com).

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.