

## SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

May 2, 2023

5:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 5:03 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. ESSER III FUNDING

Mrs. Tammy McGriff Farlin shared with the Board a power-point presentation on ESSER III Awareness Training. She stated that the goals for the training were to build an awareness of grant development; provide an overview of the goals and assurances of ESSER III; review the budget narrative of ESSER III; offer plans to fulfill approved activities; and questions, clarifications and insights. She stated that the Grant Development & Award begins with RFP/RFA Notifications and guidance from FDOE webinars; Planning with input from schools, input from participating private schools and input from charter schools; Grant Development – application submitted by established deadline, reviews conducted by FDOE and revisions made by Gadsden’s staff; and Application Approval – FDOE program office approval, FDOE Grants Management Office Approval, DOE 200 issued and school district notified. She stated that the (ARP) ESSER III (American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Plan information must be certified by the Superintendent. She stated that the Planned Expenditures are to retrofit/upgrade elementary playgrounds; establish wellness centers to address mental health & wellness; address learning loss through before, during, after school and summer programming; expand learning environments (field trips, visits); promote high school graduation; support recruitment, retention and professional learning; secure progress monitoring licenses; provide charter school allocation; and contract for project management.

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, made comments during the presentation on ESSER III Awareness Training.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Board need to be more aggressive and take care of all employees.

## 5. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS

- a. Agreement Between the School Board of Gadsden County and McMillian's Tax & Accounting Services

Fund Source: ESSER III  
Amount: \$15,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement Between the School Board of Gadsden County and Southeastern University, Inc.

Fund Source: FEFP  
Amount: As Determined by Enrollment (3-credit course: \$200.00 per student;  
4 credit course: \$266.68 per student)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #'s 5a and b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

## 6. Educational Items by the Superintendent

On behalf of the Superintendent, Dr. Sylvia announced that Gadsden County High School Top Ten/College/Military/Career Reveal was scheduled for Wednesday, May 3rd beginning at 1:30 p.m. She stated that the district staff donated \$1,800 toward the funeral cost for former student (Zah'Quandra Holton).

## 7. School Board Requests and Concerns

Mr. Frost thanked Mrs. Farlin and Mr. Mays for providing and sharing information on ESSER III funding.

Ms. Johnson stated that everyone need to be treated fair and respected.

Mr. Scott thanked Mrs. Farlin and Mr. Mays for sharing information on ESSER III funding.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding the Board scheduling a meeting to meet with Attorney Dietzen to discuss negotiations, Mrs. Minnis stated that she will meet with Attorney Dietzen to draft a memorandum to clarify the guidelines for negotiations.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, GCCTA President, addressed the Board and stated that ESSER III require stakeholders to include the unions to meet and have meaningful conversations. She stated that conversations should have taken place earlier to discuss the plans for ESSER funding. She asked if the ESSER III plans included incentives for teachers. She stated that the non-instructional union did not ratify the \$2,500 bonus that was given to the non-instructional staff.

Mr. Frost stated that the Board is not perfect. He stated that the Board is working very hard. He asked Mrs. Mandela to send her emails to represent what she was saying, and not direct to the Board.

Mr. McMillan stated that everyone should be working together. He asked everyone to stop taking things personally, and work together to up-build the students. He thanked Mrs. Mandela for her concerns.

8. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.