

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

February 23, 2010

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Roger P. Milton; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Eric F. Hinson; and Judge B. Helms. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent of Schools 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. Isaac Simmons, at 6:07 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Audrey Lewis Potter recognized Mr. Kenneth Edwards on behalf of the Harborlite Corporation for donations given to parents as gifts for students who were caught reading during the Superintendent's "Stop, Drop and Read" campaign.

Mr. James recognized his wife, Mrs. Betty James, for her book being displayed in the Governor's Office celebrating Black History Month. He stated that a reception was scheduled on February 24th to honor the Artist Dean Mitchell. He also recognized Trey Zanders, student at Gadsden Elementary Magnet School, for winning an essay contest from the Governor's Office. He stated that Trey will receive a four year scholarship for winning the essay contest.

Ms. Jowity Cichy shared with the Board an update on the Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Initiative. She stated that the Gadsden County Tobacco Free Partnership is a non-profit organization that works to improve the health of all the Gadsden County residents through the development, promotion and maintenance of tobacco free initiatives. She stated that SWAT members fight for goals by leading projects. She stated that as a member, youth decide how to fight and how to use activism to cause social change. She stated that SWAT is currently active in three schools in Gadsden County.

Mr. Helms recognized Mr. Billy Blitch and Ms. Jowity Cichy as member of the Quincy Kiwanis Club. He stated that recently the Quincy Kiwanis Club held a “Tales for Tots Reading Campaign” for students at George W. Munroe Elementary School.

Mr. Hinson recognized the Havana Lions Club for donating monies to a family that was burned out in Hampton Heights. He invited the Board to the Gadsden Leadership Law Academy Gala on Friday, March 19th, 7:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory. He stated that the gala is a black tie affair and admission is \$50.00.

Jerome Maples, Student Board Representative, recognized Jeremiah Hernandez and the newly organized Distinguished Gentlemen Group at West Gadsden High School. He also recognized West Gadsden High School staff for encouraging students to read more.

Mr. Milton recognized Ms. Dorothy Thomas and Mr. Tyrone Smith with Communities In Schools. He stated that the 21st Century Program has been invited to participate in the Walt Disney Give-A-Day Get-A-Day for volunteering. He stated that the 21st Century Program has also been invited to Washington D.C. during the summer to share their after-school activity program. He stated that students attending Tallahassee Community College who need work study hours can serve hours in Gadsden and be paid by TCC. He stated that he is working on a partnership with FSU and FAMU.

Mr. Simmons entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Judge B. Helms, seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. January 21, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. January 26, 2010, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. January 26, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- d. February 2, 2010, 5:50 p.m. – Special Board Meeting
- e. February 2, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Approval of bills and vouchers - See back-up material

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Budget Amendment Number Sixteen

Fund Source: 110 (General) Funds
Amount: \$-1,626,743.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Budget Amendment Number Seventeen
 Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
 Amount: \$282,824.52
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Budget Amendment Number Eighteen
 Fund Source: 410 (Food Service) Funds
 Amount: \$0.00
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- e. Crossroad Academy Monthly Financial Reports–January 2010
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

- b. District Participation in PAEC
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Transfers – See back-up material
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. BIDS

- a. Bid #0910-11 - Re-roofing Project at St. John Elementary
 Fund Source: 378
 Amount: \$28,290.00
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Certification of Facilities Data
 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 2009 - 2010

Mr. Helms requested that more information be provided on the personnel agenda by including the leave of absence ending date. He stated that he wanted to know the total number of periods per day teachers taught out-of-field.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

a. Required Letter to Comply with Section 1011.051

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: Not Applicable

Mr. Simmons stated that his questions regarding agenda item #8a were answered earlier by staff.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #41-0910-0231

Mr. Frost asked whether or not student #41-0910-0231 was an ESE student. He stated that information on the student's data sheet lists the student as an ESE student. He requested the Board defer action on agenda item #9b in order to give staff ample time to clarify whether the student was an ESE student or not; and if so receive corrected student data information. He stated that he was also concerned about receiving recommendations and correspondence from a staff member who is on leave. He stated that he has no way of contacting the staff member when he has questions or concerns.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to approve agenda item #9b with the noted correction to update the student data sheet from an ESE student to a regular student status. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

a. Wellness Policy Certification

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested an overview of the Wellness Policy Certification.

Mrs. Wood stated that Board approval is requested for the annual review of the District's Wellness Policy. She stated that in addition, the Board is requested to solicit input from the public for any revisions to its Wellness Policy 2.95.

In response to Mr. Helms concern whether the Wellness Policy Certification would reduce health insurance, Mrs. Wood stated no.

Mrs. Wood stated that the Wellness Policy Certification is an important part of the food service program. She stated that with the Wellness Policy Certification the district is in compliance with food service for the State of Florida.

Mrs. Katura Montgomery addressed the Board regarding the district's suspension policy and code of conduct. She presented the Board with a letter addressing her concerns.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that FCAT Testing will begin on March 9th. He stated that everyone is working hard preparing students for the FCAT. He stated that the District Leadership Team Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 24th beginning at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Helms stated that he had received the 2010 Florida School Board Member Survey. He encouraged Board members to complete the survey and return to the Florida School Boards Association by March 1st. He reminded the Board of the Florida School Boards Association Legislative Days March 24th – 26th.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Hinson stated that he wanted to ensure that the principals have input on bridging students. He thanked Mr. Shepard and his staff for making sure there was adequate heat for the students during the extreme cold days. He stated that he wanted to schedule a meeting with the Superintendent to discuss Havana Northside High School. He reminded the Board of the Gadsden Leadership Law Academy Gala on Friday, March 19th, 7:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory. He stated that the gala is a black tie affair and admission is \$50.00.

Jerome Maples stated that the student councils are going well in the schools.

Mr. Hinson recognized the East Gadsden High School Soccer Team for progressing to the Regional Finals.

Mr. Frost stated that he was concern about a staff member being out sick and making administrative decisions. He stated that administrative decisions needed to be coming from someone else within the district.

Mr. James asked Mr. Frost to contact him with his concerns.

Mr. Simmons reminded the Board of a workshop scheduled on Tuesday, March 2nd at 4:00 p.m. to further discuss the district's preliminary and tentative audit findings for fiscal year ended June 30, 2009.

Ms. Peggy Kenon, parent of student #41-0910-0231, addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to rescind the previous Board action on agenda item #9b to allow the parent of student #41-0910-0231 to have a hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

The Board scheduled a hearing for Tuesday, March 2nd at 3:00 p.m.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.