

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

August 12, 2014

4:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Ms. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. Also present were Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board, was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 4:06 p.m.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. AMIKids, Inc.

Mr. Milton stated that the Board had previous discussions regarding AMIKids, Inc. He stated that the Board's concern with AMIKids, Inc. was the cost to fund the program.

Mrs. Smith stated that the Board was not questioning the quality of the AMIKids, Inc. Program, but the cost as well as sustainability.

Dr. Phildra Swagger with AMIKids, Inc. thanked the Board for the opportunity to re-address AMIKids, Inc. She introduced the following AMIKids, Inc. staff: Mr. O. B. Stander, Director of Education with AMIKids, Inc., in Tallahassee; Mr. Shannon Baker, Executive Director; Savona Winbush, former graduate of Asikis, Inc.; and Ms. Oretha Thomas, Grandmother of Javonta Winbush.

Mr. Stander stated that the general AMIKids, Inc. contract consist of the following: a) forty-five (45) students in grades 4-12 with habitual disruptive behaviors; b) three methods of enrollment – District Hearing Officer, assigned by local juvenile courts, and parent choice; c) students enrolled for one school year; d) the student calendar mirrors the Gadsden County calendar with 180 student days and 196 teacher workdays; e) July 1 – June 30 contract paid on 12 equal payments; f) funding based on 85% FTE; and f) startup includes technology lab setup. He stated that the proposed staffing would consist of a total of nine individuals. He stated that the program/contract cost was \$450,000. He stated that the net terms was 10 days by invoice of 12 equal payments, auto-renewal. He stated that the following AMIKids, Inc startup resources to the district were negotiable: a) startup curriculum - \$40,000; b) smart technology computer lab - \$100,000; and c) transportation - \$20,000. He stated that there were 10 - 15 Family Functional Therapy slots to add therapeutic and social service interventions to the families of students enrolled in the alternative education program (approximately - \$100,000 in services). He stated that AMIKids, Inc. was committed to begin a partnership with the district with expansion for next year.

Representative Alan Williams addressed the Board to express his sentiments for the AMIKids, Inc. Program. He stated that Asikis, Inc. will give added value to the Gadsden County School District. He encouraged the Board to accept the funding for AMIKids, Inc.

The Board members asked questions, made comments, and shared their concerns regarding the AMIKids, Inc. Program. They thanked Dr. Swagger, Mr. Stander, and Representative Williams for their time.

Mr. Milton encouraged Board members to speak with the Superintendent regarding any further questions or concerns referencing the AMIKids, Inc. Program.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:20 p.m.