

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

January 28, 2025

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Bishop Kennedy Jackson, Pastor of Greater Faith Christian Center.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Key stated that a representative from the Division of Forestry was not able to make the meeting to present the Board with a check. He introduced Mrs. Crystle May with Quincy Main Street to give the Board a presentation. Mrs. May addressed the Board to give a quick re-cap from the last meeting. She stated that she and other community members would like to renovate the Old Quincy High School building located on King Street making it a community base place with a dance studio, apartments, and culture art destination. She stated that many contractors and developers have been contacted, and one was found that meet the needs of the community. She stated that she was able to reach out to Mr. Trent Wright a developer and he stated that the project was durable. Ms. Hannigon stated that she wanted to make sure that Ms. May was asking that the property be donated to Quincy Main Street. She stated that a workshop was needed to have more dialogue and to discuss putting some things on the table for the school district. She stated that the Board needed to think about what this exchange would look like and what it might look like legally. She stated that since there is a revenue generation that will take place with the apartments being offered. She stated that everything needed to be taken care of from one non-profit to another. She stated that conversation is needed to discuss making a donation and how it makes the district look overall. She stated that if no one is at the table, the residents should be here for the discussion.

Mr. McMillan stated that a workshop was needed to further discuss the request from Mrs. May. He stated that workshop advertisement should include an invitation to the community. He stated that Mrs. May will need to be very specific because we are talking about non-profits. He stated that there might need to be something in writing for the community to express their concerns.

Mr. Key stated that he did not intend for Mr. Hudson to mention him going to Gadsden County High School to repair a coil burst. He stated that the head custodian was snowed in and the principal and assistant principal live in Tallahassee, and he was passing through the area when he got the call. He stated that he told them he knew what the issue was and would check on the school. He stated that the issue was repaired very swiftly before it caused any major damage as it was previously two years ago. He stated that he appreciated the Board

for working with Mrs. Bruner. He stated that Ms. Kathy Snead is not a new name to the district; she contracted with the district during Mrs. Bonnie Wood time. He stated that he found that Mrs. Wood had procedures in place that were not continued for some reason. He stated that he wanted to tell the Board that there might be names they hear popping up that have been in the district helping financially. He stated that he appreciated the Board for their time and patience. He stated that the Board has done a lot when it comes to increases in raises. He stated that the Board gave raises for \$7 million along with the State to instructional and non-instructional staff. He stated that there is no mismanagement of funds or someone stealing money. He stated that some funds were placed in areas they should not have been placed; the issues are being corrected through the finance department. He stated that he appreciated the Board for pushing the pay raises forward.

Mr. Scott stated that he wanted to compliment the teachers that are still working on getting their proper certification. He stated that he was not signaling anyone out but there are more and more teachers working on getting their proper certification.

Mr. McMillan stated that he know the administrators especially in his district are working well with the teachers to help them become certified. He stated that he wanted to recognize Mr. Anthony Luckey for getting his certification. He stated that he has seen Mr. Luckey become a different person. He stated that he is pleased with Mr. Luckey and his administrator for doing what it took to get him certified.

Ms. Johnson congratulated the district's Teacher-of-the-Year, Ms. Ashley Uchebo. She stated that Ms. Uchebo teaches at Havana Magnet School.

Ms. Hannigon congratulated Ms. Uchebo on becoming the district's Teacher-of-the-Year.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

6. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. December 17, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Financial Workshop
- b. December 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

Mr. McMillan entertained a motion for approval of the minutes 6a – 6b. Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to approve the minutes 6a – 6b, seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2024– 2025

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Purchase Order Request for Applied Com-Tek, Inc.

Fund Source: 1100E 8100 3100 0201 99999 00000 00000

Amount: \$55,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Update of School Data Mapping Grant Award

Fund Source: 1100E 7790 3900 9001 51583 00000 00000

Amount: \$61,215.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Tallahassee State College (TSC) Field Placement MOU

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Travel Procedures

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #058-2425-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

a. Crossroad Academy Charter School Out-of-State Field Trip Request

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Crossroad Academy Charter School Out-of-State Field Trip Request

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.

*8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

d. Enterprise Fleet Management

Fund Source: Capital Outlay for Transportation

Amount: \$227,225.35 (Anticipated Annual Cost)

Mr. Scott made a motion to modify the proposal to approve a partnership with Enterprise Fleet Management for a lease of one vehicle to start with the Transportation Department, and adding additional vehicles. Attorney Minnis stated that would create a partnership with Enterprise Fleet Management and would allow additional vehicles to be added later. The motion died for lack of a second.

Ms. Johnson made a motion to defer action on a partnership with Enterprise Fleet Management until the proper reference checks are complete. The motion died for lack of a second.

Ms. Hannigon made a motion to approve the partnership with Enterprise Fleet Management to include bringing the item back at the next regular meeting and present information on reference checks, and at that time entertain the number of vehicles for the pilot program. Mr. Scott questioned whether the motion included a contract. Attorney Minnis stated that the contract would be to enter into the partnership with Enterprise Fleet Management, which will include an umbrella contract where the Board can decide the individual leases under that contract. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Key stated for the public that funding source was capital outlay for transportation, and not general fund money. He stated that the capital outlay funding is set aside for this purpose.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that because of the number of snow days, he wanted the calendar committed to reconvene to discuss the calendar to ensure that the district is meeting the hourly requirements. He stated that the district went to an hour count this school term instead of days. He stated that at the next meeting he would inform the Board if any changes were needed to the calendar.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Scott stated that he visited two schools earlier and talked with the instructional personnel. He stated that one of the things he kept hearing was that staff wanted to know if the snow days would have to be made up. He stated that teachers were concerned that students were already behind and too much learning time was lost.

Ms. Hannigon stated that she was concerned whether there was an update on the contract negotiations with the union. She stated that the Board has not received an update since the last executive session. Mr. Key responded that no decisions had been made at this time.

Ms. Hannigon questioned if the K-8 School could be added to the agenda, Mrs. Minnis stated that the Board is still under items for discussion. She stated that the rules and the law allow amendments to the agenda. She provided the exigency and importance of amending the agenda at the meeting to be placed on record. She stated that given the circumstances with the particular project, she thinks that it meet the exigency requirements. She recommended that the Chair ask for a motion to amend the agenda to include the K-8 School and take a vote.

Mr. McMillan entertain a motion to amend the agenda to add the K-8 School to include approval of option 2 with the change of square footage reducing the school to 35,000 square feet. Mr. Scott made a motion to amend the agenda to add the K-8 School to include approval of option 2 with the change of square footage reducing the school to 35,000 square feet. Ms. Hannigon seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

Ms. Hannigon wanted to add to the workshop updates from the Family and Community Engagement Office (FACE) regarding homelessness. She stated that she talked with the Superintendent enlisting the assistance of the public information officer to help with the things she want to do in District 5. She stated that she was looking for community ambassadors. She stated that in regards to the teacher-of-the-year, after being there for the presentation and seeing how everything is done on the State level, she would like to do more for teachers, possibly looking at recognizing a teacher each month.

Mr. McMillan inquired about the TSIA (Teacher Salary Increase Allocation) funds for the teachers in the form of raises. He wanted to know where the district was with the teachers receiving TSIA funds, and if the funds would have to be returned at some point if not used. Mr. Key stated that the funds would not have to be returned. He stated that the district would have to go before the State Board in March and explain why the funds have not been spent. He stated that an offer has been made but he cannot go into details because it is a bargaining issue with the teachers. Mr. McMillan stated that if he was a teacher and knew that there was money in the district for me, he stated that he would want it. He stated that he did not know what was stopping the district from releasing the money, but he did not want any roadblocks. He stated that he did not want to have to go to Tallahassee for this. He inquired about the 21st century afterschool program. Mr. Key stated that the district has some afterschool programs that are funded through UNISig and some are through the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. McMillan stated that grant funding is going to get tough. He stated that we need to do whatever we can for our students in afterschool to help with tutoring. Mr. Key stated that the Boys and Girls Club would be taking on that grant with the district's assistance.

13. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.