

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

May 9, 2017

5:30 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mr. Tyrone D. Smith; and Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis via teleconference. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, 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. Isaac Simmons, at 5:32 p.m.

2. STUDENT MATTER

a. Change of Placement of Previous Student Expulsion

Case #56-1617-0071

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #2a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

a. Approval of Job Description

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #3a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4. GADSDEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Dr. Sylvia Jackson addressed the Board with a request to rename Gadsden Technical Institute. She requested that the school name be changed from Gadsden Technical Institute to Gadsden Technical College. She stated that the name change will assist with rebranding the school as a post-secondary rather than secondary Adult Career and Technical Institution. She stated that the name change will allow the school to become more competitive with other post-secondary institutions that provide similar Adult Career and Technical Education applied learning opportunities. She stated that the identification of “College” will allow the school to attract more district and surrounding area high school graduates; especially those individuals who would not normally perceive themselves as having the opportunity to obtain post-secondary learning. She stated that the recommended name change does not affect the governance, accreditation, funding or educational programs of the school. She stated that of the 49 District Owned Post-secondary Institutions in the State of Florida, 38 have changed their names to Technical College. She stated that other district owned post-secondary institutions have followed the following steps to facilitate their name change: Advisory Board Approval, Superintendent Approval, School Board Approval, Council on Occupational Education Approval, and Submission of Name Change to FLDOE. She stated that the next steps would be to Rebrand – Use public advertising to increase the community awareness of Gadsden Technical College accreditation, post-secondary status, and capacity to accept PELL grants; Recruit from high school graduates and other adults in the community; Revamp the quality of instruction by ensuring that adult students have appropriate instructional materials and experiences to increase completions, licensures, and workforce placements; Remodel – Improve the esthetics of the school and create an atmosphere that is appropriate for adult learning; and Revitalize Gadsden Technical College relationships with K12 Education.

The Board members asked questions, shared their concerns and made comments during the presentation to change the name of Gadsden Technical Institute.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Board needed to take a look at all of Gadsden Technical Institute’s programs. He stated that he wanted to enhance the programs at Gadsden Technical Institute.

Mr. Scott requested a workshop to further discuss and review the programs at Gadsden Technical Institute.

The Board thanked Dr. Jackson and her staff for their presentation to change the school name of Gadsden Technical Institute.

5. OVERVIEW OF AUDIT FINDINGS

The Board members and Superintendent briefly reviewed and discussed the Operational Audit Report No. 2017-147. Mr. Simmons requested that workshops be held in the future immediately upon receipt of audit reports.

6. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that FSA testing was moving along well. He stated that there were no major glitches. He stated that interviews will take place Monday (May 16th) and Tuesday May 17th) for Principals at East Gadsden High School and West Gadsden High School. He stated that a representative from the Florida Association of District School Superintendents will conduct the interviews. He stated that he will advertise soon for a Professional Development Coordinator and Public Information Officer.

7. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Smith stated that he was excited about being part of the team and moving from good to great. He thanked the staff for providing school graduation schedules.

Mr. Milton stated that on Thursday (May 11th) East Gadsden High School will host the 8th, 9th, and 10th graders from West Gadsden High School. He stated that the spring football game was scheduled for Friday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m. at East Gadsden High School. He stated that West Gadsden High will host will host the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders from Gretna Elementary School.

Mr. Simmons thanked Mrs. Lewis for her participation in the meeting.

Mr. Scott cautioned everyone about spending additional monies.

Mr. Simmons stated that he meets with the Superintendent on a monthly basis to keep abreast of what is going on in the district and receive updates on school reconfiguration.

Mr. Simmons recessed the meeting at 6:55 p.m. to convene in an executive session to discuss a pending litigation matter.

The Board convened in executive session at 7:00 p.m.; and adjourned the executive session at 7:16 p.m.

8. The meeting reconvened at 7:18 p.m.; and adjourned at 7:20 p.m.