

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

May 24, 2016

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman; Mr. Isaac Simmons; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; and Mr. Steve Scott. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent 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. Roger P. Milton, at 6:05 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Rev. Fredrick March, Canaan Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Ann Radke thanked the Superintendent and Board for their support with the REAL ESSENTIALS Life Management Program. Students (Jerod Byrd, Ardasha Hardy, and Chancey Harrison), shared with the Board REAL ESSENTIALS testimonies from their peers, and thanked the Board for allowing them to participate in the program. She stated that the REAL ESSENTIALS program's purpose is to educate adolescents on the skills and strategies of developing healthy relationships and healthy lives.

Mr. James stated that the district's graduation rate increased. He praised the students and faculty at both East Gadsden High School and West Gadsden High School. He stated that 91% of the students at West Gadsden High School graduated, and 96% of the students at East Gadsden High School graduated. He recognized Ms. Audrey Lewis as the co-chair of the Graduation Committee. He thanked Mr. Emmanuel Sapp, Mrs. Rolanda Jackson, and other staff for their dedication and hard work. He recognized Gadsden Elementary Magnet School for receiving a 92% passing rate in Reading, and Stewart Street Elementary School for receiving a 74% passing rate in Reading. The principal, teachers and students received certificates for attaining top FSA Reading scores.

Mr. Frost gave praised to the Gadsden School District students. He stated that Gadsden County has a great school system.

Mr. Scott commended the students, staff, principals, and administrators for their part in helping to increase graduation rates. He recognized Gadsden Elementary School for being consistent with receiving top test scores since 2004.

Mr. Simmons recognized Mrs. Kim Ferree and thanked her for her passion to the Gadsden district. He stated that it was a pleasure working with her.

Mrs. Ferree stated that it was an honor and privilege to work with the Superintendent and Board. She stated that the Board's passion for students is tremendous.

Mr. Simmons challenged Mr. Milton's leadership skills and wisdom to stay abreast of everything with the district and its budget.

Mr. Milton appreciated Mrs. Ferree for her work with district and wished her well.

Mr. Johnny Moore, Bus Driver, addressed the Board to express his lack of appreciation from the Superintendent and Board for bus drivers. He stated that he has not received a pay raise in ten years. He stated that he also has concerns regarding bus routes.

Mr. James stated that employees received a pay raise in 2007. He stated that he appreciate what all bus drivers are doing for the district. He stated that bus drivers deserve better compensation.

Mr. Frost thanked Mr. Moore for sharing his sentiments with the Board.

Mr. Milton stated that he value all bus drivers. He stated that he will have the Superintendent look into the issue of bus routes.

Ms. Monica Smart and Mrs. Tekayla Goodson addressed the Board with a concern regarding a situation for use of one of the school facilities. Mrs. Goodson stated she was concern with the unprofessionalism and the issue of leaders driving help away from the district. She stated that the Sow-A-See-Foundation supports the district's headstart program.

Mr. Milton stated that he value the services of the Sow-A-Seed Foundation, and asked for their continued support.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Milton pulled from the agenda item #7c – Head Start 2016 Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA). He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. April 26, 2016, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. April 26, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- c. May 3, 2016, 2:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- d. May 3, 2016, 4:00 p.m. - Student Hearing
- e. May 12, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – Executive Session

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2015 – 2016

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Personnel 2016 – 2017
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Payroll Schedule for 2016-17
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Curriculum Associates
Fund Source: Federal
Amount: \$336,022.07
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- b. Gadsden County School Board Head Start/PreKindergarten Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Application
Fund Source:HIPPY
Amount: \$170,000.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Head Start 2016 Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA)
Fund Source: Head Start
Amount: \$36,758.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #40-1516-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #45-1516-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #48-1516-0231
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #50-1516-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- b. Request to Delete From Capital Assets

Fund Source: Applicable Funds
Amount: \$99,973.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Request to Delete and Dispose from Capital Assets – Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment

Fund Source: All Funds
Amount: \$252,245.41

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. In-Service Program for Adding on Endorsement in Florida Gifted to a Florida Educator's Certificate

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.

*7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- d. Erate – USAC Related Contract(s) – Agreements

Fund Source: Erate/USAC & GCPS
Amount: Erate/USAC: \$434,160.00 (District: \$115,440)

Mr. John Thomas shared with the Board information on the E-rate – USAC Related Contracts. He stated that the E-rate – USAC Related Contract provide Telecommunication (Landline Voice, Wide Area Network) and Data Services (Broadband Internet Access) from TDS Telecom. He stated that TDS Telecom proposed agreement proposes a one calendar year contract beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017. He stated that the proposal also provides for a voluntary extension of services upon the anniversary date if both parties agree. He stated that the voluntary extension is renewable for one year increment for a total of four years. He stated that either party may opt out after one year. He stated that the maximum length of the proposed agreement is five years. He stated that the Intra-Tech Alliance and Allied Tek are one year contracts. He stated that all of the contracts are E-ratable and will be reimbursable based on the USAC schedule. He stated that Internet and Wide Area Network is 90%, Phone is 50%, and Internal Connections is 85%. He stated that Intra-Tech Alliance and Allied Tek will provide Internal Connections. He stated that the district would

be reimbursed for certain technological equipment and services with the E-rate contracts.

Mrs. Kim Ferree commended Mr. Thomas and Dr. Wiggins for their commitment to working with E-rate.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7d. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

a. Real Estate Brokerage Services

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: Percentage of Sales Charged at 6%

In reference to Mr. Simmons' concern regarding clarity on the Real Estate Brokerage Services, Mr. Hunter stated that the Real Estate Brokerage Services with PrimeSouth Properties Fezler, Russell & Ferrie, Inc. will assist in the promotion and sale of properties to potential buyers.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #9a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. FACILITIES UPDATE

None.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the district was off to a good start with test scores. He stated that the final test scores are scheduled to arrive June 3rd. He thanked Mrs. Ferree for her services to the district. He appreciated her for her work and wished her well.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost recognized Ms. Nancy Sierra, Receptionist, for her dedication and hard work; and he also recognized Mrs. Sonya Jackson, Principal of East Gadsden High School, for her dedicated work.

Mr. Scott thanked Mrs. Ferree for her knowledge of finance and her dedication.

Mr. Simmons recognized his colleagues. He stated that the Board is faced with many challenges. He stated that he is thankful to be a part of the Gadsden County School Board. He stated that he is beginning to see the fruits of the labor.

The Board appointed Mr. Steve Scott to serve on the Value Adjustment Board. The Board agreed to schedule a Joint Committee Meeting with the Board of County Commissioners. Board members scheduled an executive session for Thursday, May 26th at 1:00 p.m.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.