

## SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

July 27, 2021

4:30 P.M.

The workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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

1. Call To Order

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 4:30 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mr. Mays, Interim Chief Financial Officer, stated that the district was closing out the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year. He stated that the district was opening the new fiscal year 2020 – 2021. He stated that a budget meeting was scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to get Board approval for the proposed tentative budget. He stated that the advertisement was sent to the local newspapers. He stated that resolutions to adopt the proposed millage rate and budget will be adopted at the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. He stated that the proposed operating budget was 6.0% less than last year. He stated that the notice of proposed tax increase has a difference in what the property appraiser certified and what DOR certified. He stated that because the district has an increase in the amount of money it is generating, a different type of notice had to be prepared. He stated that this is not an increase from the millage, but usually this increase is from reappraisals by the tax collector. He shared with the Board a guide to what must be followed when utilizing and spending tax dollars. He stated that the software Manatee will no longer be used by the district. He stated that the office managers will be lower and upper level accountants. He stated that the district is in the process of transitioning all internal processes. He stated that in the future time clocks will be used as a way for employees to share/save time. He stated that the time clock can be used via phone or computer to keep real live time and will feed back into Skyward and eliminate leave forms.

3. Facilities Update

Mr. Hunter shared with the Board the following handouts: a) carpet replacement is in the process. In response to Mrs. Dudley's question regarding the carpet being replaced in Building 7, Mr. Hunter stated that the carpet was being replaced because of an issue with the carpet; b) gearing for emergency replacement at PK building that will be replaced before students return, deep cleaning is finishing up, the interior has been completed; c) Restart grant coming up September, October, and November that must be finalized. The district has applied for the grant in the amount of 5.8M to help get classes back to normal and has been used for roofing, freezer replacement, generator at administration building, file records portable at IT, and IT conducted fiber update around district; d) Gadsden Elementary Magnet School portables will be arriving Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Talquin has worked out power, water and sewer, IT has already discussed cabling. The awning between the buildings is on backorder. Mr. McMillan asked if there was a backup plan for opening school should the portables not be ready. Mr. Hunter stated yes the plan is being discussed with the Superintendent who will present the

information to the Board at the meeting on Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>; e) Mr. Key stated that he visited West Gadsden Middle School and he asked if the carpet was to be replaced or cleaned. Mr. Hunter stated that some of the carpet will be cleaned and some replaced; f) Mr. Key asked what was the basic cost being spent by facilities in a year. Mr. Mays stated that the older schools' upkeep around 3-4M. He stated that maintenance is around 6M. Mr. Hunter stated that he tries to keep it between 3M and \$800,000; g) the Gretna Elementary School for sale contract is fully executed and the title search will be conducted followed by the closing.

#### 4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

None.

#### 5. School Board Requests and Concerns

In response to Mr. Scott's concern whether masks will be required when school starts, Mr. Key stated yes because a lot of students are not vaccinated. He stated that inside, masks are required. He stated that social distancing will be as recommended by CDC guidelines. He stated that the Commissioner is encouraging the opening of all schools with in person learning.

Mr. McMillan asked if the district was following CDC guidelines, or if the City or District will come up with their own.

Mr. Key stated that CDC guidelines do not require masks inside if vaccinated, and if the district is following CDC guidelines then inside students are not required to wear masks, but we are requiring masks inside. He stated that the Governor is discussing the issue of not requiring masks.

Mr. McMillan stated that he was told by two parents that, if masks are required they will remove their students from the district.

In response to Mrs. Dudley's concern about a facelift at Shanks Middle School in the front of the school, Mr. Hunter stated that he wasn't aware of a needed facelift at Shanks Middle School.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she was concerned about the paint and windows terrible look at Shanks Middle School and wanted to know how the district could take care of this issue before the start of school.

Mr. Hunter stated that paint has been provide to Stewart Street Elementary School, Havana Magnet School, but he hasn't received a request from Shanks Middle School. He stated that he will have staff look at the windows at Shanks Middle School. He asked for community involvement to help because he doesn't have the staff to do the painting. He stated that he will provide the paint.

Ms. Johnson asked if sanitizing and cleaning has been completed at the schools.

Mr. Hunter stated that he had contracted with companies or staff has sanitized and cleaned schools. He stated that he is in the process of making sure the cleaning supplies stock is available. He stated that masks have been delivered to the schools. He stated that he will follow up to make sure everything is stocked before teachers return.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding the locks on the doors, Mr. Hunter stated that Havana Magnet School and Greensboro Elementary School exterior doors will be changed. He stated that staff is doing in-house work at Shanks Middle School and other requests will be handled via work orders. He stated that all exterior doors will be replaced.

Mr. Key stated that replacing the doors is an ongoing project and cannot be completed before school starts. He stated that he is looking for someone to do lawn maintenance.

Mr. Frost stated that he is going to Shanks Middle School and look around, because he know there are some small things that can be repaired without a contractor.

Mr. McMillan stated that schools did not get in this condition overnight. He stated that there need to be a preventative maintenance program. He stated that the Chattahoochee City Commissioners and Mayor helped with the appearance of Chattahoochee Elementary School. He stated that the community has also worked on the Chattahoochee Elementary School project. He stated that people have to know that they are needed and they will get onboard. He stated that the Chattahoochee City Council and businesses want to pay for a marque at Chattahoochee Elementary School. He stated that PTA is the function to get parents involved.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she will do her part and she will speak with the City Manager. She stated that she agrees everyone has a responsibility, and that Mr. Hunter cannot do it all.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:37 p.m.