

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

November 22, 2011

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Judge B. Helms, Chairman; Mr. Eric F. Hinson; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Roger P. Milton; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mr. Rick Figelo, Attorney for the Board; and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Judge B. Helms, at 6:02 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. James recognized the East Gadsden High School Football Team for their winning season in the playoffs. He stated that East Gadsden High School Football Team will play against Euley High School on Friday night. He encouraged everyone to come out and support East Gadsden High School Football Team.

Mr. Frost stated that Mr. Lamar Kirkland had surgery, and he asked everyone to pray for him to have a speedy recovery.

Mr. Hinson invited the Board members to attend the State playoffs if East Gadsden High School Football Team were playing. He stated that one of the school food service workers at East Gadsden High School recently had surgery on her arm.

Mr. Helms announced that the Kiwanis Children's Christmas Party was scheduled for Tuesday, December 13th at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall beginning at 12:00 p.m. He stated that 120 students would benefit from the Kiwanis fruit sale proceeds. He stated that the Assistant Chief of the Quincy Police Department, Mr. Glenn Sapp, will be playing the role of Santa Claus at the Kiwanis Children's Christmas Party.

Mr. Hinson recognized the Havana Kiwanis Club. He stated that on December 13th at 12:00 p.m. the Havana Kiwanis Club will distribute dictionaries to the students at Havana Elementary School.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Helms removed from the agenda item #8g – Contract for Sale and Purchase with Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc. for property located at 50 Mine Road, Midway, Florida. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Eric F. Hinson, seconded Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. October 25, 2011, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. October 25, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Budget Amendment Number Eight

Fund Source: 410 (School Food Service) Funds
Amount: \$0.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Budget Amendment Number Nine

Fund Source: 434 (Race To The Top) Funds
Amount: \$0.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Budget Amendment Number Ten

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$-646,417.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Program Cost Report for 2010-2011

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Contracts For Capital Outlay Funds

Fund Source: Capital Improvements and Class Size Capital Outlay Funds
Amount: \$34,597.33

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Contracts for General Fund
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$37,920.31
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Contracts for Federal Projects
Fund Source: Title I Regular and Title II
Amount: \$73,980.10
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Purchase Orders to McGraw Hill School Education
Fund Source: Federal Programs
Amount: \$17,500.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Contractual Agreement Between School Board of Gadsden County and PSTB Consulting, LLC
Fund Source: Federal Programs
Amount: \$6,000.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- g. Contract for Sale and Purchase with Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc. for property located at 50 Mine Road, Midway, Florida
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: As Per Agreement
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #15-1112-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #16-1112-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #21-1112-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #23-1112-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #24-1112-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- b. Project Priority List (PPL) List
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. School Advisory Council Rosters
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.

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

- a. Personnel 2011 - 2012

Mr. Hinson stated that he wanted to ensure the district had budget for personnel.

Mr. Helms requested that the leave of absence ending date be corrected to read 06/11/2012.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #6a with the correction to change the leave of absence ending date to 06/11/2012. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried with a vote of 4 to 0 (Mr. Helms, Mr. Hinson, Mr. Milton, and Mr. Simmons).

Mr. Frost stepped out of the meeting for a brief moment and did not cast a vote.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

d. Crossroad Academy Quarterly Financial Reports

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested an overview of the Crossroad Academy Quarterly Financial Reports.

Mrs. Wood stated that the Crossroad Academy Charter School Audit was approved with no exceptions. She stated that Crossroad Academy Charter School is a high performing charter school. She stated that in accordance with Florida Statutes, the Charter School is required to provide the Sponsor quarterly financial statements.

In response to Mr. Helms' concern regarding whether the district received any reimbursements from Crossroad Academy Charter School, Mrs. Wood stated yes, the district receives reimbursement for transportation and food service.

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. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

e. Services Agreement Between Gadsden County School District and Apalachee Center

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Hinson stated that he had a personal interest with the Apalachee Center and requested to abstain from voting on agenda item #8e.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8e. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously with Mr. Simmons, Mr. Frost, Mr. Milton, and Mr. Helms voting.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- h. Contract for Sale and Purchase with Open Word Worship Center, Inc. for property located at 62 Lonnie Clark Road, Greensboro, Florida

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: As Per Agreement

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concerned about the length of the Open Word Worship Center, Inc. Contract being too long. He requested that the contract be for twenty (20) years and the Board defer action or approve the contract for 20 years.

Mr. Helms expressed his concerns regarding the percentage for financing and the length of the contract for Open Word Worship Center, Inc. He stated that the district was not in the banking business.

Mr. Simmons stated that the property located at 62 Lonnie Clark Road had been vandalized and there was a lot of damage to the property. He stated that he was supportive of selling the property for \$205,000.00 with a twenty (20) year pay back.

Mr. Frost stated that he was in support of selling the property for a reduced number of years.

Mr. Milton stated that he was in favor of selling the property for twenty (20), or thirty (30) years.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to defer action on agenda item #8h. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

***10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY**

- a. Department of Education Spot Survey To Declare Some Portable Classrooms Surplus

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms suggested the district sell the 13 portables that are not presently being used.

In response to Mr. Hinson question of how many of the unused portables were housed at Havana Elementary School, Mr. Shepard stated, none.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Charter School Capital Outlay Plan

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested an explanation of the Charter School Capital Outlay Plan.

Mrs. Wood stated that Section 1013.62, Florida Statutes requires the sponsor review and approval of charter school's capital outlay plan. She stated that beginning with fiscal year 2011 – 2012, this process will be accomplished online.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated he receives quarterly reports from Assistant Superintendent Rosalyn Smith. He stated that the State test cut scores will be increased. He stated that the graduation rate scores have not been released. He invited the Board to the district's Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 16th at 12:00 p.m.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Frost's concern whether the Board's salary was mandated by the State, or if the Board had an option to accept the State's recommendation, Mr. Helms responded, the Board has an option.

Mrs. Wood stated that the Board is obligated to use the State's recommendation in the absence of a recommendation from the Board.

Mr. Frost recognized the students at Carter Parramore Academy. He stated that the students are good. He stated that students attend Carter Parramore Academy for academic reasons. He stated that disciplinary rules apply to all students district-wide. He expressed his sentiments for employees who work for the district and allow their child or children to attend school in another district. He stated that the 21st Century Program was doing well at Carter Parramore Academy.

Mr. Milton stated that more emphasis needed to be placed on the extended day programs. He stated that the after-school programs have a direct impact on student learning. He stated that the district needed to pilot a 3rd Grade Saturday Camp for Reading.

Mr. James stated that because the district has so many educational programs, there need to be an educational audit to see what is effective. He stated that he will present to the Board an educational program audit.

Mr. Simmons stated that the State is raising the test bar by design. He stated that he is opposed to the State raising the test bar. He stated that he think the reason the State is raising the test bar is because there are too many "A" schools. He stated that in an effort to undermine education, the State raised the test bar. He wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Hinson stated that he has recruited approximately 1000 students to attend FAMU. He stated that very few of the students score 23 on the ACT. He stated that the top students are scoring an 18 on the ACT. He requested Board members receive their Board packets earlier, possibly on Wednesday before the meeting date. He stated that teachers at Havana Elementary School and Havana Middle School need SMART Boards. He stated that more resources are needed at Havana Elementary School and Havana Middle School. He stated that the district can recruit the best teachers. He stated that he wanted to ensure that the district address all unethical issues. He stated that the vocational programs at Gadsden Technical Institute needed to be enhanced. He stated that Carter Parramore Academy has a credit recovery program. He stated that the district needs to make it mandatory for every student who attends Carter Parramore Academy also attend Gadsden Technical Institute to receive a vocation. He wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Helms stated that the December Board meeting was scheduled for December 13th. He stated that the district's Christmas luncheon was scheduled for Friday, December 16th beginning at 12:00 p.m. He stated that Legislative Liaison was needed for the Florida School Boards Association.

Mr. Simmons was appointed to serve as the Board's Legislative Liaison, and Mr. Hinson was appointed to serve as the Alternate Legislative Liaison.

Ms. Alicia Burns (SAC Chair at Havana Middle School), and Ms. Michelle Sampson addressed the Board to share their concerns regarding a parent portal, teachers not being responsive to parents, and transportation for students to attend the after-school program at Havana Middle School. Ms. Burns stated that students are unable to attend the after-school program because they do not have transportation.

Mr. Milton stated that he was the Program Director for Tallahassee Community College Quincy House. He stated that the TCC After-school program was funded for 80 students at Havana Middle School. He stated that all issues and concerns should be addressed with the Program Director. He stated that he will meet with Major Jackson, Principal of Havana Middle School to address the issues. He stated that there are plans to provide after-school transportation for students in January. He stated that when the students are picked up after school, parental contact is made with the staff. He stated that after-school transportation will be provided if a large number of students participate in the after-school program.

Mr. Helms wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.