

## SCHOOL BOARD FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

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

January 23, 2024

4:30 P.M.

The workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, Chairwoman, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, Mr. Steve Scott, 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. Mr. Leroy McMillan was absent.

1. Call To Order

The workshop was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, at 4:30 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mr. Mays shared with the Board financial updates. He stated that the general fund original budget was \$44,143,588.70, revised budget was \$45,210,771.06, year to date activity was \$20,551,051.35, encumbered \$8,789,625.02, unencumbered \$15,870,094.69, and 65% of the general fund budget expended. He stated that the insurance recovery funds revised budget was \$1,030,168.28, year to date activity was \$188,834.75, unencumbered funds \$841,333.53, and 18% expended. He stated that there will be an amendment to the food service funds. He stated that 46% of the federal funds have been expended. He stated that 86% of the ESSER Cares funds have been expended. He stated that 54% of the CRRSA ESSER II funds have been expended. He stated that 8% of the ARP ACT ESSER III funds have been expended. He also shared with the Board the bank balances as of January 23<sup>rd</sup>. In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding a raise for non-instructional staff, Mr. Mays stated that something is being worked on for the non-instructional staff. Ms. Johnson inquired about the lockers for the fieldhouse at Gadsden County High School. Mr. Mays stated that the preamble work need to be done before the lockers could be installed at the fieldhouse. Mr. Frost stated that he would like to have the locker room updated before lockers are installed. Mr. Scott stated that he was concerned about auditing services for the district finance. Mr. Mays stated that Mrs. Minnis was charged with finding a firm. Mrs. Minnis stated that one firm was contacted but there was a conflict. She stated that she will contact another firm and also reach out to the Florida School Boards Association. Mr. Scott stated that an audit should have been done four years ago. Mrs. Dudley stated that Mrs. Minnis is completing her research to find an auditor. She stated that she was concern about raises for the non-instructional staff and a 3.2% fund balance. She stated that Mr. Mays was working on something for the non-instructional staff. Mr. Key stated that it is not feasible to do a pay raise now with a 3.2% fund balance. He stated that it would be feasible to do another stipend or bonus for employees. Mrs. Dudley stated that she needed clarity on the salary increases and stipends.

3. Facilities Update

Mr. Hudson stated that there were no current facilities updates. Mr. Frost inquired about who controls the temperature thermostats at the schools. Mr. Hudson stated that Brooks Heating & Air has 90% of the controls. Mr. Frost asked Mr. Hudson to get a quote on an artificial turf for the high school football field. Mr. Key stated that quotes have been received. Mr. Scott asked for an update on the King Street pool. Mr. Key stated that he was waiting to hear from the city manager. He stated that All State and DAG are on hold and have a meeting scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the new K-8 school. Mrs. Dudley stated that she wished to be a part of the meeting. Mr. Key stated that he has not received an appraisal. Mr. Frost stated that he did not mind

waiting to ensure there was no doubt of where the new school will be built. Mrs. Dudley stated that she wants the Board to make a good sound decision regarding the location of the new school. She stated that she visited Stewart Street Elementary School and stated the playground equipment was needed. Mr. Hudson stated that bids are out for the playground equipment. Mr. Key stated that the process with federal funding was no piggyback. He stated that the Department of Education stated that the district could not piggyback on the playground equipment. He stated that Board approval has taken place, the RFQ to bid the playground equipment did not get approval. Mrs. Dudley asked about the HVAC system at Stewart Street Elementary School. Mr. Hudson stated that a contract should be executed by the end of February. Mr. Key stated that when using general funds piggyback can take place from another company, but when using federal funding you cannot. He stated that bidding must take place unless certain qualifications are met with federal funding.

4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

Mr. Key stated that the Board needed to be mindful of the 3.2% fund balance. He stated that something can be done with ESSER funding. He stated that renovating the locker room will come from general funds.

5. School Board Requests and Concerns

Mr. Frost stated that he was concern about the crosswalk from Greensboro Elementary School to West Gadsden Middle School. He stated that there was once a crossing guard there. He stated that is a safety issue. Mr. Key stated that the issue has already been looked into. He stated that there are approximately six students who walk to school. He stated that the bus drops the other students off. He stated that some of the student prefer to walk home.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:11 p.m.