

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

April 25, 2023

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; Mr. Steve Scott; 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Pastor Marilyn Barnes of New Direction Christian Center in Quincy, Florida.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan added to the agenda item #8f – Student Expulsion Case #107-2223-0211, and item #9c – Open Word Worship Center, Inc. Mortgage and Security Agreement. 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. March 20, 2023, 5:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- b. March 28, 2023, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. March 28, 2023, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2022 - 2023

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Personnel 2023 – 2024

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

b. Labor Negotiations Settlement Agreement

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$8,750.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #86-2223-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #87-2223-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #91-2223-0052

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #92-2223-0211

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #97-2223-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #107-2223-0211

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

a. Request to Approve the Annual Certification of Facilities Data

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Purchase Order Request for Overhead Door of the Capital City
 Fund Source: Florida Job Growth Grant assigned to GTC
 Amount: \$70,000.00
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Open Word Worship Center, Inc. Mortgage and Security Agreement
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items preceded by an (*) asterisk were removed from the consent agenda and moved to the discussion portion of the agenda.

- *6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)
 - c. 2023 – 2024 Student and Teacher Calendar

Mrs. Dudley stated that the Student and Teacher Calendars are proposed calendars for the 2023 – 2024 school year. She stated that the proposed calendar was shared and selected by a majority vote of 80.5% to 19.5% in favor. She stated that the poll was conducted on 03/31/2023 and respondents were also provided an opportunity to share concerns and recommendations. She stated that she was concerned about the following: Spring Break conflict with Leon County; teacher holidays on federal holidays; 1/2 days and planning days having an impact on parents/guardians and the community.

Mr. Key stated that teachers are contracted for 196 days with 6 days of paid holidays and 5 professional development days. He stated that the calendar will become public following the Board’s decision.

Mr. McMillan stated that he do not want teachers to think they are being told that we are paying them to be off, but he understands the reasoning.

Ms. Johnson requested tabling the 2023 – 2024 student and teacher calendar in order to give the parents and community an opportunity to give input.

Mr. Key stated that the calendar was shared with teachers and staff to gather their input. He stated that the Board’s action was time sensitive.

Ms. Johnson stated that in the future make best practices to sure parents are aware of what is on the school calendars.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, President GCCTA, stated that this calendar has moved all paid holidays to federal and state holidays, which has never been done before. She stated that contention about the Classic and FAMU were granted by Ms. Roslyn Smith and also added Good Friday. She stated that there was a vote but an alternate calendar was submitted. She stated that it was not allowed that there was only one option provided.

Mr. McMillan asked for the members of the calendar committee: Mrs. McGriff stated that the calendar committee is comprised of a representative of each department, chair of unions, school board member, extended to the president of the union. She stated that the committee convenes at the district, bring in calendars and each mark down the days that are holidays and have to consider testing and payroll. She stated that once the committee has something prepared then there are discussions. She stated that the

decision is not a district decision. She stated that the calendar was sent to everyone including the 12 and 11 month employees had the opportunity to vote. She stated that this is where the vote number came from. She stated that once the board approves the calendar then it is sent to the parents.

Mr. McMillan apologized for there being no board representation at the calendar meetings. He stated that maybe more people should be invited.

Mrs. Mandela stated that she was at the meeting and she disagreed with the recommendation. She stated that the days were previously granted to show teachers they are appreciated.

Following discussion, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6c. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Agreement Between the School Board of Gadsden County and McMillan's Tax & Accounting Services

Fund Source: ESSER III

Amount: \$15,000.00

Ms. Johnson asked if the McMillan's Tax & Accounting Service were bid.

In response to Mrs. Dudley's concern regarding the start date being before the Board's action, Mrs. McGriff stated that she will make the correction to have the start date after Board approval. She stated that no service has been rendered as of today.

Mrs. Dudley asked if the funding source was ESSER III, Mrs. McGriff stated that it was a project manager line item because no one has been identified to fill the position, so it was moved from a full-time position to a contractor.

Following discussion Ms. Johnson made a motion to table agenda item #7a until a workshop could be held to further discuss ESSER III funding. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried with Mr. Frost, Mrs. Dudley and Ms. Johnson voting "aye". Mr. McMillan and Mr. Scott voted "nay".

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key recognized the following high school students who are dual enrolled. He stated that one student currently attends FAMU. He stated that six students of which four (Chloe Lee, Kyndal Jackson, Denijah Milton, and Tyler Watson) will receive their AA Degree; and two students (Amarielle Lawson and Me'Yauney Peoples) are juniors. He stated that he was scheduled to be at Greensboro Elementary School for "Jump for George's Event" with the students. He stated that on last Friday (April 21st) a Gadsden County High School student was involved in a car accident and passed; and one student was hospitalized. He stated that the Student Services Team was ready to assist students and staff at Gadsden County High School. He also stated that a teacher was hospitalized in serious condition following a car accident. He asked everyone to keep the families in prayer.

11. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that he was proud of all the students in the district.

Ms. Johnson stated that students are doing very well. She commended the district for keeping Board members abreast of what is going on and sharing information. She stated that she visited Gadsden Technical College (GTC) and was very impressed. She stated that she was grateful for the nurses at GTC. She stated that 98% of the students passed the Nursing Board Test.

In response to Ms. Johnson's concern regarding summer school, Mr. Key stated that all schools will be open for summer school except Stewart Street Elementary School and James A. Shanks Middle School.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she wants to live stream school board meetings in order to be transparent with the public. She asked board members to be in thought because she will bring it up in the future for vote. She stated that she appreciates everyone for attending the meeting. She stated that there is a teacher shortage nationwide not just in Gadsden County. She stated that the district has to think of innovative ways to recruit teachers. She requested an update on the Para-Teacher Program.

Mr. Key stated that there are currently 1 to 2 paraprofessionals in the Para-Teacher Program. He stated that he has already started talking with the university about a program for dual enroll students to become teachers.

In response to Mr. Scott's concern regarding reading academies this summer, Mr. Key stated that there will be reading academies this summer.

Mr. McMillan stated that the new school request for funding has gone through the House and Senate, and that the governor will need to sign. He stated that the district will receive \$35.8M over two consecutive years totaling \$71M. He stated that if more money is needed then the district will have to apply for a 3rd year. He stated that groundbreaking for the new school should take place this summer.

Mr. Key recognized the district's new hire, Deputy Tiffany Buckhalt as the School Safety & Security person with arresting powers.

Mr. Key requested an executive session following the meeting to discuss collective bargaining issues.

Ms. Adrienne Bishop Boles, Program Manager with DISC Village, and Ms. Chelsea Mack, Health/Wellness Coordinator with DISC Village, addressed the Board to share an overview of the youth outpatient programs. Ms. Boles stated that DISC Village is currently in the process of hiring staff to serve Gadsden County. She stated that services are provided to adults and youth. She stated that the Youth Outpatient programs empower teens to identify their needs in life and assess personal strengths to achieve short and long-term goals. She stated that passionate professionals collaborate with family members, school officials, and other community service providers to ensure their needs are met. Ms. Mack stated that a variety of services include health and wellness.

Mrs. Dudley stated that DISC Village have effective programs. She stated that she appreciates Ms. Brown for all her hard work.

12. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The Board convened in an executive session at 7:38 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining issue; and adjourned at 9:00 p.m.