

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

October 27, 2020

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present for the workshop: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Vice Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mr. Tyrone D. Smith; and Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board. Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, Chairwoman; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others were present via telephone conference. Mr. Charlie D. Frost was absent.

1. Call To Order

The workshop was called to order by the Vice Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 4:37 p.m.

2. Insurance Information from Florida School Boards Insurance Trust (FSBIT Manual)

Mrs. Wood shared information with the Board from the Florida School Boards Insurance Trust (FSBIT) Manual. She stated that the Board should ask their Risk Management Personnel questions such as: what are the district's health insurance claims' trend for the past five years; is the district fully insured or self-insured; does the district know what the major causes of its medical claims are; what medical providers are used the most by district employees; are district employees satisfied with those providers; does the district have a comprehensive claims' cost reduction strategy; what is the district doing to prevent a claim in our other various lines of coverage; how many instructional hours have been taught by subs because of workers compensation injuries at each school, by school site, by department; what are the workers compensation cost by school site and department for the past three years; casualty – training programs to prevent casualty claims; property – facility hardening, initial/remodeling construction safety considerations/improvements; after a claim has occurred, how are we managing the claim to get it resolved quickly and at a minimum cost.

Mr. John Pat Thomas, Pat Thomas Insurance & Associates, stated that FSBIT will provide training to the district's safety person to oversee safety issues. He stated that the training will be provided at no cost to the district.

Mr. Scott requested a workshop be scheduled to discuss insurance questions and plans for FSBIT.

3. 2019 – 2020 General Fund Revenue, Expenditures and Fund Balances from Annual Financial Report

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board excerpts from the 2019 – 2020 Form 348 of the Annual Financial Report for discussion purposes. She stated that the Annual Financial Report included the revenue, expenditures and fund balance information. She stated that approximately 362 classroom teachers and other certified staff will receive salary increases. She stated that teachers and other certified staff would receive retro pay back to July 1st.

Mr. Milton stated that he had received notification that GCCTA has ratified their 2020 - 2022 contract with the new salary increase for eligible teachers and other certified personnel. He stated that the district was still awaiting the Department of Education's approval. He thanked Mrs. Mandela for her hard work as a teacher and as the President of GCCTA. He reminded the Board and GCCTA that he has pushed for many years to

get some of the things done in the contract. He stated that employees have to buy into the fact that their jobs depend on students. He stated that people have to take pride in their jobs. He stated that he wished the salary increase was much greater.

In response to Mrs. Mandela's concern about what happens if DOE does not agree with the district's teacher salary increase, Mr. Milton stated that GCCTA will be informed of DOE's decision and a meeting will be scheduled to make changes.

In response to Mrs. Mandela's concern regarding the district's fund balance for the 2019 -2020 and the 2020 - 2021 year, Mrs. Wood stated that the unassigned fund balance of the general fund, representing the net current financial resources available for general appropriation by the Board, totals \$2.1 million at June 30, 2020, or 4.6 percent of the general fund expenditures as compared to an unreserved fund balance of \$4.2 million, or 8.7 percent of expenditures at June 30, 2019.

Mrs. Wood stated that the food service revenues have decreased compared to last year. She stated that the district must find ways to deliver meals to students during this challenging time.

Mr. Milton stated that he was concern that there has been a loss of revenue in food service and transportation. He stated that the district will be reimbursed for transportation by the number of students who ride the bus. He stated that the district will be held harmless for the October FTE count.

Dr. Ron Peterson, Principal of George W. Munroe Elementary School, addressed the Board to request consideration in raising the millage rate to get people to spend more money; and to speak with principals to get more students back to the classroom. He stated that COVID should not shake the district from educating students.

Mr. Milton stated that temporary certifications are a requirement for teachers through December 31st for teachers to receive a salary increase, and if not the salary will reflect back to full-time substitute pay. He stated that he has tasked the Area Directors to work with principals on getting students safely back to the classrooms. He stated that raising the millage rate was part of the plan four years ago. He stated that the hurricane changed things. He stated that the timing must be right for tax increases and you must state what the money will be used for in relation to infrastructure.

Mr. Smith thanked Mrs. Wood for her informative information on the district's finances. He stated that raising the millage rate is something for the Board to consider. He stated that most counties have raised taxes for the purpose of education.

Mrs. Wood stated that GESPA negotiations are underway. She stated that the district's financial, operational and FEFP audit are going on. She stated that the end of the month pay for employees will include open enrollment changes. She stated that Mr. Matthew Bryant is the district's Coordinator of Safety & Inventory. She thanked Mr. Milton for giving her an opportunity to work with him. She stated that it has been an honor to work with him. She stated that she appreciates everything he has done for the district.

Mr. Milton stated that it has been an honor to work with Mrs. Wood and all staff. He stated that everyone should continue to have faith and work together.

4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

None.

5. School Board Requests and Concerns

None.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:55 p.m.