

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

September 27, 2022

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; 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 introduced Mr. Melvin Collins, Chief Payroll Clerk, who started work in the finance department September 19, 2022.

Mr. Collins stated that he previously served and worked for over 23 years with the Department of Economic Opportunity. He stated that this is a great opportunity to assist the district. He stated that he is a resident of Gadsden County.

Mr. Mays shared with the Board information on the 2022 – 23 FEFP Calculations, Safe Schools Allocation. He stated that the funds are for guardians and SRO's for safe schools. He stated that funds cannot be used anywhere but for safe schools. He stated that the Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program for the district awarded \$87,318 but about \$77,000 was available to the teachers because of the amount Crossroad Academy received. He stated that the payments will go out Thursday via check. He stated that some counties are using a new system that is on a "platform" allowing them to roll the funds out quicker. He stated that the district is looking for different ways to get the funds out to teachers early. He stated that he will present to the Board next month a budget amendment of \$22,444,204 to adjust \$3.5M reduction. He stated that another budget amendment will be presented to the Board in January.

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding the \$2,500 teacher stipend, Mr. Key stated that was coming to the Board in October for action. He stated that it is only for in-field teachers at certain schools.

In response to Mr. McMillan's question about if the district's finances were in good shape, Mr. Mays responded, yes.

3. Facilities Update

Mr. Hunter stated that more people are interviewing for positions in the maintenance department. He stated that the district will not know anything regarding the new school funding until March, but work is continuing on the design of the new school.

In response to Mr. McMillan's concern about where the district is on acquiring the property where the pool is located. Mr. Key stated that he was waiting to schedule a date to meet with the commissioners and the city manager to discuss the issue.

Mr. Hunter stated that the property is vacant next to the maintenance department and the owner is wanting to sell the property. He stated that it looks like the district will be okay from Hurricane Ian but are stocked for shelters in case there is a need for use of the shelters.

Mr. Key stated that Hurricane Ian was taking a more eastern route and the district will not close schools tomorrow (September 28th). He stated that the district will give an update daily on Hurricane Ian.

Ms. Johnson asked for an update on cleaning up the current schools, the scoreboard in Havana, and the ventilation system at James A. Shanks Middle School. She wanted to know what could be done now to help alleviate some of the problems.

Mr. Hunter stated that staff are working hard to keep them clean but most of it is surface dust. He stated that it is the Board's decision to decide if they want to spend lots of money on campuses that will not be used much longer.

Mrs. Dudley asked if the dust issue was a custodial issue and if services could be contracted. Mr. Hunter stated yes, he will get contractor quotes for the Board.

Mr. McMillan stated that James A. Shanks Middle School looks better now with the new administrator than it has in a long time. He stated that the new administrator takes pride in the school and what she is doing.

4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

None.

5. School Board Requests and Concerns

None.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:18 p.m.