

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

April 4, 2019

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Steve Scott, Chairman; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Leroy McMillan, and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, 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. Steve Scott, at 4:30 p.m.

2. Discussion on Student Discipline

Mr. Scott welcomed everyone to the workshop to discuss student discipline. He stated that the workshop was an open dialogue forum and the Board wished to hear from everyone. He stated that learning does not take place when there is student discipline.

Mr. Bruce James stated that the Student Code of Conduct governs discipline. He stated that surveys were completed to see how many teachers at each school had read the Code of Student Conduct Handbook. He stated that this workshop was the perfect forum to discuss student discipline.

Mrs. Lewis stated that over a year ago she shared with the Board a power-point presentation on student discipline. She stated that the Board needs to know how to better support the schools. She stated that one of the main issues is how familiar the principals, teachers, parents, and students are with the Code of Student Conduct Handbook. She stated that there has to be consistency with best practices. She stated that the Board needs to make a statement regarding student discipline.

Mr. Milton stated that there is a committee that reviews the Student Code of Conduct Handbook. He stated that it is very imperative to hear from the individuals with the boots on the ground. He thanked everyone for attending the workshop. He thanked the Board for listening and having the workshop to discuss student discipline. He stated that it takes everyone working together to be successful and to have safe and secure schools.

The following individuals from the audience participated in the discussion of student discipline and shared their concerns: Dr. Ronald Peterson – perception is reality that there are unsafe schools, a need for a true Alternative School, counseling and anger management, consistency in decisions, and remove certain students to another location; Major Willie A, Jackson – follow the process in place with the Student Code of Conduct Handbook; Mr. Ronte Harris – questioned what will it take to get the good students back, and create a comprehensive alternative school; Ms. Pamela Jones – comprehensive high school, attendance, discipline attitudes, and identify students with discipline issues early; Ms. Judith Mandela – read excerpts from teachers regarding student discipline, ISS no record in Skyward, no follow-up of what happens, inconsistent with policies, and no support or guidance; Mr. Keith Dowdell – build relationships with students, town hall meeting in every community, copy Student Code of Conduct for every parent; Mr. Michael Landrum – do not operate out of fear, advocate for the students and parents; Mr. Maurice Stokes – image of schools, student mental health, and academy on campus; Mr. Mark Allen (WGMS Coach) - resolve issues in classroom; Mr. William Denington - recommended everyone read the book titled “Left A Bang”; and Ms. Andrea Goldfarb - build relationships, character education, need self-contained classes on all campus, and behavior management training.

3. Educational Items by the Superintendent

Mr. Milton shared comments regarding student discipline. He stated that other school districts are experiencing the same discipline issues.

4. School Board Requests and Concerns

Mr. Frost invited principals, teachers and staff to contact him with student discipline issues. He stated that everyone was in this together to handle student discipline issues.

5. The workshop adjourned at 6:10 p.m.