

SCHOOL BOARD FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

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

February 25, 2025

4:30 P.M.

The workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, Ms. Stacey S. Hannigon, 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.

1. Call To Order

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 4:32 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mrs. Bruner stated that corrections have been made as requested by the Department of Education. She stated that she and the finance staff are working closely with the Department of Education auditors. She shared with the Board an overview of the 2024 – 25 revenue summary report. She stated that the ESSER grant and another federal Title IV grant would soon close out. Ms. Johnson inquired as to whether the ESSER grant and the Title IV grant were frozen. Mrs. Bruner stated no, it is the district's portal used to draw funds through the state. She stated that the information is placed on a spreadsheet and then submitted to the State. She stated that although information has been entered for the prior year, no bank reconciliation has been done because the State asked the district to prioritize the grants. She stated that the auditors and the State are both aware of what is going on. She stated that auditors from DOE are at the district office this week. She stated that there was nothing to point out on the expenditure report. She stated that staff is making sure everything is properly coded and the office managers are trained. Mr. Frost wanted to know what the biggest problem in the finance department was. Mrs. Bruner stated that the most part was procedures and making sure the policies matched what was in place. Mr. McMillan asked Mrs. Bruner if she could say with confidence that the Board was financially stable. Mrs. Bruner stated yes. She stated that an estimated balance was not available at this time because there are deposits to put in the system. She stated that she hoped by the next Board meeting she would be able to give an estimated balance to show where the district is financially.

3. Facilities Update

Mr. Hudson shared with the Board an update on the schools and other district buildings. He stated that February was a busy month. He stated that the maintenance department is going through many annual inspections such as the sprinkler systems and fire alarms. He stated that the heat exchangers needed repairing on the generators at Greensboro Elementary School. He stated that the architects took pictures to get things started for the new K-8 school. He stated that a chiller leak at the high school was found and will be repaired during Spring break. He stated that SREF – Inspections (State Required for Educational Facilities) ensure that the district is in compliance with DOE requirements. He stated that all problems are handled after the inspections and reports are generated. Ms. Hannigon requested a copy of the presentation by Mr. Hudson. Mr. Frost wanted to know if there was a switch that could be turned on and off for the AC and heat systems. Mr. Hudson stated that the different buildings have different systems and are run completely different. He stated that it is a little complicated. Mr. McMillan stated that in a couple of years the district will not have to worry about that because the district is trying to make attempts to use heat pumps. Mr. Hudson stated that a heat pump system at the new school will likely run about 40+ years.

4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

Mr. Gary Russ-Sills, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator shared with the Board a presentation on the McKinney Vento Act (Families In Transition Systems of Support). Mr. Russ-Sills stated that the McKinney Vento Act also known as families in transition. He stated that the word homeless is trying not to be used for the sake of the children. He stated that the McKinney-Vento Act makes sure homeless children and youth have access to a free and an appropriate education. He stated that districts must ensure the following: students are kept at the school of origin to the extent possible; work to eliminate the barriers to exclusion or delay in enrollment; ensure that information is posted about Family & Community Engagement to include educational rights; schools must enroll the students immediately, even without some documentation. He explained what is and isn't homelessness: fixed – stationary, permanent, which is not subject to change; regular – used on a regular, consistent basis (i.e. nightly); adequate – sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs, typically met in home environments; shelter/transitional housing – domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, youth shelters, FEMA trailers; hotels/motels – staying in motels/hotels due to lack of adequate alternatives; staying with others/doubling up – staying with other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or etc.; unsheltered – staying in cars, parks, public space, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations. He stated that through a mutual understanding, the district could offer continuous support to our students and schools to close the gaps that exist within our community. He stated that collaborative partners could connect families with resources and assistance that enhances their well-being, academic success and health outcomes. He stated that together we can address systemic issues and develop initiatives to combat them collectively instead of individually. He stated that as we work together, we can experience levels of growth and sustainability that works to make our future great. He stated that the district can support our families: a) uniform requests and clothing supply – when there is a need for students, the district work to ensure that we are able to provide adequate clothing to support student self-efficacy and families' capacity to encourage regular attendance; b) rapid re-housing program working with partners, helps to assist families in transition to find reasonable and accessible living arrangements, which may include assistance with deposits and housing payments; c) food pantry access – throughout the community, the district work with partners to have access to food pantries to help in providing non-perishable foods to students and families in transition; d) connection to community resources – having a comprehensive list of community and collaborative partners, affords the district the opportunity to access resources needed on a regular basis and serves as a dedicated commitment to serving our students, families and community; and e) community resource fairs – actively engaging with the community allows for families to interact with resources, as well as for the community partners to connect with families that may be in need. He stated that by helping a student to remain resilient, it will help to empower them to remain resilient and persevere through whatever life may throw their way. He stated that this could lead to academic achievement, prosocial behaviors and a strong sense of self-efficacy. He stated that a \$150 stipend may be used to donate to the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) department for resources and initiatives that benefit the district. He stated that there is a full explanation of the McKinney Vento Act on the district's Facebook page. Mr. Key stated that Mr. Matthew Bryant, Director of Transportation, would share with the Board updated information about Enterprise Fleet Management. Mr. Bryant stated that he obtained some reference information in regards to Enterprise Fleet Management and the relationship between other companies and districts. He stated that Mr. Boris was present to answer any questions. He stated that references listed were Columbia County, City of Quincy, Board of County Commissioners, and the City of Chattahoochee. Ms. Hannigon inquired about maintenance in regards to the contract. Mr. Boris stated that it is up to the district to do the maintenance themselves, or the vehicle to other mechanics. He stated that everything up to 100,000 miles, Enterprise can take care of the transmission and engine repair. He stated that the district is not limited to vendors for maintenance. He stated that if the vendor were out of network, the district would pay for the maintenance and then submit the bill to Enterprise for a refund. Ms. Hannigon inquired about when going from maintenance to repairs, will the district still use our own people or vendors through Enterprise. Mr. Boris stated to use Enterprise vendors for towing, etc. Ms. Hannigon inquired about the rental for a vehicle. Mr. Boris stated that the district can rent for a discounted cost. He stated that these are the district vehicles, they belong to the district. He stated the district will have a resale value of the vehicles, and can do modifications if needed. Ms. Hannigon stated that in reference to what Board member Scott shared previously, has any thought been given on how many vehicles to identify if there is not a vote on all 16 vehicles. Mr. Bryant stated that maintenance fleet and shop truck vehicles are in need

the most. He stated that he will search information on the vehicles. He stated one thing to look at is that the cost of the vehicles can change. Mr. Boris stated that there are different brands and makes of vehicles. He stated that usually the numbers go up and down every two years. He stated that the earlier the year the better it is. Mr. Frost stated that the district would be repairing old vehicles that need replacing. Mr. Boris stated that the district will be looking at four vehicles per year at a cost of \$227,000.00 for six years. He stated that the district will be replacing one or two and putting money in the others. Mr. Scott asked Mrs. Bruner if the district could afford it, Mrs. Bruner responded yes. Dr. Sylvia Jackson stated that for 16 vehicles including maintenance over a 6-year period, the district will be looking at \$1,240,000, which would be about \$71,000 per vehicle. Mr. McMillan stated that he recommend that the Superintendent add Enterprise Fleet Management to the agenda for the next Board meeting. Mr. Key stated that maintenance and transportation vehicles need replacing. He asked if at the end of five years the vehicles would belong to the district. Mr. Boris stated no, because it's a lease and Enterprise still hold the title to the vehicles. He stated that the goal would be to recycle your vehicles. He stated that the district will be able to purchase the vehicles at a lower cost. Ms. Hannigon asked if a special meeting could be called to further discuss the agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management and vote on the number of vehicles. Mr. McMillan stated yes, if the Superintendent calls for a special meeting.

5. School Board Requests and Concerns

None.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:46 p.m.