

## REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

December 15, 2020

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; 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 Bishop Willie C. Green, Pastor of Quincy & Community Deliverance Church of God in Christ.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Frost recognized Mrs. Inez Holt, a retired educator. He thanked Mrs. Holt for her concern for the students and Gadsden County.

Mr. Key encouraged the Board to visit school campuses. He congratulated Coach Fuller and the Gadsden County High School football team for their accomplishments to the final four playoff in Jacksonville, Florida. He recognized MSG. Charlie Roberts for his heroic actions delivering life-saving measures to one of the staff members at Gadsden County High School. MSG. Roberts was presented with a certificate of recognition.

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Dudley presented Mr. Key with a Christmas gift and wished him a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Key presented each of the Board members with a Christmas gift and wished them a Merry Christmas.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. November 17, 2020, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Organization Meeting
- b. November 17, 2020, 5:00 p.m. - School Board Workshop
- c. November 17, 2020, 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 2020 – 2021

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Board Approval of Contract with the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office

Fund Source: General Fund 1100 Fund – Safe Schools Allocation  
Amount: Estimated \$356,400.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Memorandum of Understanding between Mildred Toliver, School Turnaround at The Rensselaerville Institute, Inc. and the School Board of Gadsden County

Fund Source: Kellogg Foundation  
Amount: \$200,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Florida Building Code – 7<sup>th</sup> Edition

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Request for Approval of FY 2020-2021 State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) Inspection Reports for Fire Safety, Casualty Safety and Sanitation

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Purchase Order Requests Regarding new Walk-in Cooler and Freezer at the western end of the Warehouse at 203-B Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Fund Source: Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations (2019) Hurricane Michael Project # 200-1050A-0C001  
Amount: \$719,473.55

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. School Field Trip Request (Out-of-State) – Gadsden County High School

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items preceded by an (\*) asterisk were removed from the CONSENT agenda at the beginning of the meeting and moved to the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

\* 7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- b. Memorandum of Understanding between Gadsden County School Board and North Florida Medical Centers, Inc. (NFMC)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

In response to Mr. Scott's concern regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between Gadsden County School Board and North Florida Medical Centers, Inc, Mrs. Karen Watson stated that the mission of NFMC is to increase the quality of dental healthcare for elementary students at no cost to the parents, guardians, or the School Board.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

- a. Adoption/Approval of Policy Revisions

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter stated that during the Christmas break work will be done at George Munroe Elementary School and James A. Shanks Middle School to resolve water issues; and at Gadsden County High School renovating the stage. He stated that he is currently gathering quotes to redo the gym floor at Gadsden County High School. He stated that the master electrician at the maintenance department will be leaving in three months. He encouraged everyone to include the maintenance department in reporting COVID activity. He stated that the Chattahoochee Southside property for sale sign was removed. He stated that with the Board's approval he wants to put the sale sign for the Chattahoochee Southside property back up in January.

Mr. Frost stated that the maintenance department should be included in the line of communication when there is COVID activity. He thanked MSG Roberts and staff for their efforts in being safe. He stated that he appreciates the lawn maintenance workers for their good work.

Mr. Key stated that there is district protocol on COVID exposure. He stated that he will address the issue with staff.

Mr. McMillan stated that the district's lawn looked good and he is expecting great things from the maintenance department.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that in a recruitment effort to get certified teachers, the district should work toward getting teachers certified. He stated that staff should speak with their principal or supervisor if they are not feeling well and stay home. He stated that everyone need to protect themselves by wearing masks and practicing social distance. He encouraged everyone to limit the spread of COVID and keep schools safe. He recommended no Christmas gatherings for schools and the district office. He stated that he will be visiting school campuses weekly. He stated that parent services will be assisting the district in finding truant students. He stated that the district's spring reopening plan has been submitted to the Department of Education.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Frost's request for clarification on teacher certification extensions, Dr. Sonya Jackson stated that the Department of Education allow teachers to extend time for certification. She stated that a letter of request must be made from the teacher to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will submit the letter of request to the Department of Education. She stated that if the Department of Education grants the teacher's request for certification extension, the teacher will have more time to work on getting certified.

Ms. Johnson stated that she visited Gadsden County High School and Havana Magnet School. He stated that it is very imperative to have sanitizer available to all students and staff at all schools. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Bishop Willie C. Green thanked the Board for allowing him to speak. He stated that he was concern about having copies of Board items available for the public to view during the meetings. He stated that he is the Chair of a group called Making Gadsden Better, Inc. He stated that their goal is to have all elected leaders work collaboratively and hard for the betterment of the citizens. He stated that the key to making Gadsden better starts with education. He stated that he is advocating to help make the school system better. He stated that he will make specific requests to the group to make Gadsden County better. He applauded the new Superintendent and School Board members on their commitment to serve.

Mr. Frost challenged Dr. Green to be a voice to get students to return to the district. He stated that the district need mentors. He stated that he hopes to have a good working relationship with Making Gadsden Better, Inc.

Dr. Green stated that he cares about the success of Gadsden County. He stated that there is a program to target students who are on the verge of dropping out. He stated that he needed the Board's support.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she is looking forward to working with Dr. Green and Making Gadsden Better, Inc.

Mr. McMillan stated that he was looking forward to working with Making Gadsden Better, Inc. He stated that he sought election to the School Board to make a difference. He stated that the Board is going to do what is best for all children.

Attorney Minnis stated that School Board Policies are advertised in the newspapers and are presented to the public. She stated that School Board Policies are available on the district's website.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.