

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

April 27, 2010

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Roger P. Milton; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Mr. Eric F. Hinson. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, 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. Isaac Simmons, at 6:10 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Judge B. Helms.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

None.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Simmons entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Roger P. Milton, seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. March 23, 2010, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. March 23, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. April 6, 2010, 4:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- d. April 6, 2010, Immediately following student hearing at 4:00 p.m. -
Special 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 2009 – 2010
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - b. Personnel 2010 – 2011
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS
 - a. Approval of bills and vouchers - See back-up material
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - b. Budget Amendment Number Nineteen
Fund Source: 378 (1.5 Mil) Capital Outlay Funds
Amount: \$.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - c. Budget Amendment Number Twenty
Fund Source: 410 (Food Service) Funds
Amount: \$.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - d. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-One
Fund Source: 432 (Targeted ARRA Stimulus) Funds
Amount: \$-3,900.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - e. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Two
Fund Source: 431 (State Fiscal Stabilization) Funds
Amount: \$3,900.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - f. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Three
Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- g. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Four
Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$32,447.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- h. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Five
Fund Source: 431 (State Fiscal Stabilization) Funds
Amount: \$14,195.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- i. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Six
Fund Source: 394 Class Size Reduction Funds
Amount: \$0.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #71-0910-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #72-0910-9102
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #73-0910-9102
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #77-0910-9106
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #78-0910-0231
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Kitchen Hood Replacement at St. John Elementary – Bid #0910-12

Fund Source: 378 Funds
Amount: \$52,713.39

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. HVAC Full Service Agreement with Brooks Air Systems at East Gadsden High School

Fund Source: 110 Funds
Amount: \$44,160.00

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 acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

*8. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

- a. IRS Section 125 Compliance

Fund Source: All Funds with Payroll
Amount: \$-0 to School Board; \$4.00/month for employees who enroll in Flexible Spending Program beginning October 1, 2010 due to use of Flexible Spending Card

Mr. Helms asked for an overview of the IRS Section 125 Compliance.

Mrs. Wood stated that the district issued an advertised request for proposals of IRS Section 125 Complains and received two bids; one from Fringe Benefits Management Company, and one from AFLAC. She stated that both companies made presentations before the Insurance Committee on April 13th, during which they described their services and the related costs. She stated that after a thorough review of the data, the Insurance Committee unanimously recommended that AFLAC be awarded the contract for IRS Section 125 Compliance.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Head Start Cost-of-Living Adjustment Funds

Fund Source: Head Start (Federal)
Amount: \$14,640.00

Mr. Helms requested an explanation of the Head Start Cost-of Living Adjustment Funds.

Mrs. Carolyn Harden, Head Start/Prekindergarten Program Director, stated that the Head Start Cost-of-Living Adjustment Funds proposal was an increase of 1.84% for operating costs.

Mrs. Wood stated that in lieu of a salary increase for staff, the Gadsden County School District's Head Start Program would like to request authorization to use available cost-of-living funds for the following purposes: to increase funds in the dental budget, to increase funds in the disability budget, and to cover the increased cost of supplies, both office and classroom.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Milton made a motion to rescind the previous action on agenda item #'s 9d & 9g. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

***9. STUDENT MATTERS**

d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #74-0910-0231

The parents of student #74-0910-0231 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9d until a formal hearing was held on Tuesday, May 4th at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #79-0910-0051

The mother of student #79-0910-0051 addressed the Board to request a hearing. The mother was represented by Mr. Salvador Torres as the interpreter.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9g until a formal hearing was held on Tuesday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

***6. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

a. Personnel 2009 - 2010

Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to add and addendum to agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

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

- a. Approval of School Board Rules 2.96 (Preventing Fraud) and 2.97 (Procurement Card)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Curtis Montgomery addressed the Board to thank the Chairman and Superintendent for their response to a previous letter regarding the disciplinary action taken in respect to his grandson at West Gadsden High School. He stated that the letters were identical and did not address some of the issues. He stated that he still does not agree with the findings. He stated that he requested to review the records of the students involved, and he requested a legal opinion of the student suspension being reduced. He stated that he wants due process for his grandson.

Mr. Simmons stated that he had no knowledge of the Superintendent's response letter to Mr. Montgomery, and the Superintendent had no knowledge of his response letter.

Ms. Jeanie Garguilo addressed the Board to thank them for a recent transfer from Carter Parramore Academy to Hope Academy. She stated that the students at Hope Academy are impressed and want to move forward with learning.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the district is approaching graduation. He stated that he is eagerly waiting the test scores. He stated that the district's main thrust would be to move toward technology. He stated that Senate Bill 4 was passed by the legislature. He announced that Mrs. Elizabeth Turner was quickly approaching retirement, as well as Dr. Verna Norris, and Mrs. Ella Ponder.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Helms requested a list of graduation activities for all schools.

Mr. Hinson stated that a workshop was needed to discuss the district's gifted programs. He stated that he wanted to ensure that in-school suspension teachers are playing their roles in the classrooms. He announced that the summer basketball league with the Board and County Commissioners was soon to kickoff.

Jerome Maples stated that students suggested that the district provide a salad bar for lunch. He stated that books are still needed in some of the classrooms.

Mr. James stated that the district spent more than what was allocated for books. He stated that books were provided for the students. He stated that the Board needs to address the use of cell phones in the classrooms.

Mr. Frost stated that he had visited several schools. He stated that the Board needs to address the issue of overage students in classrooms. He stated that he appreciates Mrs. Turner for her valuable service to the district.

Mr. Milton commented on Senate Bill 4. He stated that he wants to be proactive and include algebra in the after school programs at the middle schools.

Mr. James stated that prior planning was critical.

Mr. Simmons stated that he will meet with the Superintendent to schedule a workshop to discuss school bus transportation safety. He stated that his goal is to facilitate Board meetings in an amicable and respectful way. He stated that he wants to improve the communication between the Superintendent and Board.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.