

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

June 23, 2009

4:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Judge B. Helms, Chairman; Mr. Isaac Simmons; and Mr. Roger P. Milton. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost and Mr. Eric F. Hinson were absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

This workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Judge B. Helms, at 4:05 p.m.

Mrs. Bonnie Wood recognized the following staff persons in the finance department for their dedication and hard work: 1) Ms. Wanda McCall; 2) Mrs. Anna McGriff-West; 3) Mrs. Diana Engling; 4) Mrs. Shirley Alday; 5) Mrs. Stephanie Byrd; and 6) Mrs. Melanie King. Each staff member received a plaque award.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Judge Helms thanked the staff persons of the finance department for their dedication and hard work.

2. FINANCIAL DATA REPORT

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board a power-point presentation outlining the synopsis of the economy. She stated that the recession was now 18 months old with expectations for more contraction in 2009. She stated that the housing market was awful and has not yet bottomed. She stated that the unemployment rate was moving sharply higher. She stated that economy contracted 5.7% in the first quarter of 2009. She stated that the third consecutive quarter showed negative growth. She stated that positive growth may resume in late 2009 or early 2010. She stated that the unemployment rate hit a 25-year high of 9.4% in May. She stated that the economy has shed nearly 6 million jobs since the recession began in December 2007. She stated a recent presentation by Commissioner Eric Smith showed a strategic error to award salary increases. She stated that the district should try to save for long term future planning. She stated that the district would possibly place over 70 positions on Federal Stimulus money. She stated that the Florida economy was unlikely to bounce in two years.

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board the following monthly budget status summary reports: 1) 110 – General Fund – encumbered \$2,512,664.67; 2) 300 – Capital Projects – encumbered \$623,400.20; 3) 410 – Food Service – encumbered \$81,688.23; and 4) 420 – Federal Projects – encumbered \$626,237.62. She stated that the Honeywell project is approximately 90% complete. She stated that the district will soon begin to see savings from the Honeywell project. She requested the Board remove from the regular meeting agenda the Section 125 plan of item #8h.

Mrs. Minnis stated that termination language in the Fringe Benefits contract states that either party must be notified by the other in writing 120 days prior to the ending date of the annual contract period. She stated that it would not be feasible for the Board to go with AFLAC at this time because of the Fringe Benefits contract. She suggested the Board submit a letter of termination to Fringe Benefits notifying them that the contract not be renewed after 2010.

Mrs. Wood stated that the insurance committee will meet again soon and stated that they are looking at a generic plan for contractor service to meet the IRS Section 125 Compliance.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:25 p.m.