

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

April 15, 2024

4:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Vice Chair, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, 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. Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, Chairwoman, was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Vice Chair, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 4:05 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. 2025 – 2026 School Year Calendars

In response to Board members' concerns regarding employees not being off for Good Friday, Mr. Key stated that the district was trying to end the school year Friday before Memorial Day instead of the Tuesday after Memorial Day. Ms. Johnson stated that Mrs. Dudley was concern about the process for the school calendars. Mrs. Farlin stated that the Board's policy was followed regarding the 2025 – 2026 school year calendars. Mr. McMillan stated that he previously was part of the calendar committee and wished to be again in the future. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to adjust the 2025 – 2026 school calendars for employees to have Good Friday off. Mr. Key stated that the adjustment to the calendar will add a work day to the teacher calendar.

b. Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPAs and Advisors Audit Agreement

Mr. McMillan stated that it was the Board's request to have an audit on the use of the district's funds received from the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA), and the insurance proceeds as a result of Hurricane Michael. He requested the Board to review the CRI contract agreement and to have the item placed on the April 23rd Board meeting agenda. Mrs. Minnis stated that no bid or RFQ was needed because the CRI agreement was bid earlier, but no one responded.

c. New K-8 School Property

Mr. McMillan stated that previous discussions were held regarding the new K-8 school property. He stated that the Key Farms property was no longer available. He stated that he received a call from Senator Simon and stated that the district was not in danger of losing funds, but need to put the shovel in the ground. He stated that some thought needed to be given to acquire the pool property, and to raze James A. Shanks Middle School and place students in other schools within the district. Mr. Scott stated that the architect stated that the new school could be built while students are on campus. Mr. Key stated that the district is exploring options such as to have the 4th graders at George Munroe Elementary School, and move all students to one location on campus or other sites. Mr. Frost stated that he was ready to move forward with building the new school. Mr. Key stated that he had a conversation with the City Manager and the city is ready to move forward with the pool property. Ms. Johnson asked if the pool property will be purchased at the estimated value. Mr. Key stated that the price will be negotiated or swap properties with Ward's Lot. Mr. McMillan asked if the city was interested in the old Gadsden Elementary Magnet School site, Mr. Key responded "no".

Mrs. Denise Hannah, citizen, addressed the Board and stated that "It is Finished".

5. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that with the help of the Board the district will move forward with building the new K-8 school. He stated that the district will continue to look at ways to minimize students on the campus of James A. Shanks Middle School while the new school is being build. He thanked the Board for their commitment to the students.

6. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Johnson congratulated the ESE students for a job well done at the Special Olympics on April 6th. She stated that some of the students will be participating in the Special Olympic events at the State meeting in Orlando on May 17th & 18th. She stated that donations are needed to assist the students.

Mr. Frost recognized Mrs. Cummings, West Gadsden Middle School Principal, for showing compassion and caring for students by returning to the school to get a book bag for one of the students.

Mr. McMillan stated that Career Day at Greensboro Elementary School was a success. He stated that the students were exposed to many different careers. He stated that students needed to be prepared for something other than testing.

7. The workshop adjourned at 4:40 p.m.