

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

February 27, 2024

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, Chairwoman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, at 6:01 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening was led by Pastor Julius Harris of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Havana.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Key recognized Judge Kathy Garner for bringing resources to help students who are in great need. He recognized Major Dr. Willie Jackson, Director of Gadsden Technical College. Major Jackson stated that February is CTE month. He stated that it is great to recognize success, and greater when dollars come with it. The following CTE instructors received a monetary award from the Superintendent and Board: Gadsden County High School - Mr. Eric Toussaint, Mr. Jamaal Holt, Mr. James Bradwell, and Mr. Willie Brown. Mrs. Alesia Grimsley was also recognized.

Mr. Key requested the Board convene in an executive session following the meeting.

Ms. Johnson recognized the following individuals: Pastor Julius Harris, Coach Jamaal Holt, One Gadsden Foundation, Mr. Eric and Mrs. Tammy Hinson. She stated that she participated in the Black History Festivities, Children's Day at the Capitol, and attended the One Gadsden Foundation Gala.

Mr. Scott recognized and celebrated the late Coach Robert L. Jackson for his achievements and success in Gadsden County.

Mr. Frost thanked everyone for their love and support shown during the passing of his father, Mr. Charlie Frost, Jr.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she attended the One Gadsden Foundation Gala, which was a beautiful event. She recognized Mrs. Catina Simmons-Russ, Mr. Clay Barkley, and Ms. Frances Harrell for inviting her to the Black History Program at Carter Parramore Academy. She also recognized Mrs. Chelsea Franklin, Principal of Gadsden County High School.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Davonta Knight, President of GCCTA, addressed the Board to get relief on an issue with the grievance process and arbitration. He stated that the goal is to settle the issue at the lowest level possible without going to arbitration. Attorney Minnis stated that the Board does not get involved in the arbitration process. She stated that the issue should be addressed with the labor counsel. Mrs. Dudley asked if the Board could have a

conversation with the union to avoid arbitration. Mr. McMillan stated that he understands Mr. Knight wanting to resolve the issue without arbitration. Ms. Johnson asked if the Board could hear from legal counsel for an update. Attorney Minnis stated that an executive session could be scheduled for the Board to receive an update on the grievance process.

#### ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

#### 6. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. January 8, 2024, 4:00 p.m. – Redistricting Governmental Workshop
- b. January 11, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – Student Hearing
- c. January 11, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – Student Hearing
- d. January 11, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Student Hearing
- e. January 11, 2024, 7:30 p.m. – Student Hearing
- f. January 16, 2024, 4:00 p.m. – Redistricting Governmental Workshop
- g. January 23, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Financial Workshop
- h. January 23, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- i. January 29, 2024, 3:30 p.m. – Student Hearing
- j. January 29, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – Student Hearing
- k. January 29, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – Student Hearing
- l. January 29, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Student Hearing
- m. January 29, 2024, 7:30 p.m. – Student Hearing
- n. January 30, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

#### 7. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

- a. Personnel 2023 – 2024

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

#### 8. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) Administrative Law Judge Services Contract

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$200 per hour (for hours actually worked)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

#### 9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #90-2324-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

## 10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Approval of the 2023 – 2024 School Advisory Council (SAC) Membership Rosters

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Approval of the 2023 – 2024 Title I, Parent and Family Engagement Plans (PFEP) for schools

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

## 11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that Crossroad Academy Charter School Boys Basketball Team was playing in the State Final Four on Friday (March 1<sup>st</sup>). He stated that if they win the game Friday, they would advance to play for the championship on Saturday (March 2<sup>nd</sup>). He thanked the staff and principal (Ms. Camry Floyd) of Chattahoochee Elementary School; and Dr. Kisha Jarrett along with one of the teachers at James A. Shanks Middle School for attending the meeting. He stated that he met with the Department of Education regarding the district's fund balance. He stated that the Board needed to discuss the district's fund balance because it is decreasing. He stated that Havana Magnet School and Gadsden County High School received a letter grade of "C". He stated that James A. Shanks Middle School letter grade of "I" was not challenged because not enough students were tested. He stated that the district received a letter grade of "C". He stated that the graduation rate is higher than during pre-COVID. He stated that there is still a lot of work to be done such as cleaning up data. He stated that Ms. Caroline McKinnon has returned to the district. He stated that she brings a lot of experience to the assessment department.

## 12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Johnson recognized the Special Olympic Athletes in the district. She stated that students would be participating in Special Olympic Games on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. She stated that she would be coaching basketball. She stated that the Board needed to review the Proximity Program information. She stated that she shared the information with the Board at a previous meeting.

Mr. Scott shared the achievements and successes of the late Coach Robert L. Jackson. He stated that Coach Jackson was a great mentor to the students of Gadsden County. He made a motion to name the football field at Greensboro Elementary School the Robert L. Jackson Football Field in honor of his hard work. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried unanimously.

Mr. Frost stated that the district needed to start recruiting students to return to the district. Mrs. Dudley stated that education is a business and parents want the best education for their students. She stated that we have to listen to our students. She stated that we live in a global society.

Mrs. Dudley made a motion to schedule a retreat for Board members to review and discuss the district's 5-year strategic plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried with Ms. Johnson, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Scott and Mrs. Dudley voting "aye". Mr. Frost voted "nay".

Mrs. Dudley reminded the Board of Master Board Training on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Board scheduled a workshop on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the new K-8 school.

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

The Board convened in executive session at 7:06 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining issues; and adjourned at 7:35 p.m.