

FOCUS AREA REVIEW GOVERNMENT BODY MEETING

HEAD START PRE-K OFFICE
500 WEST KING STREET
QUINCY, FLORIDA

The meeting was held on May 6, 2026, at 11:22 a.m.

Minutes: Patricia Popoca-Leonides

Present: Review lead Dr. Princess Walton, Fiscal Reviewer Anthony Pierce, School Board Member Mr. Steve Scott (District 2), School Board Member Mr. Leroy McMillan (District 3), and School Board Member Ms. Cathy S. Johnson (District 1).

What was the purpose? A review was performed (Focus Area Review).

Board members were asked:

Can you introduce yourself, let's say, your name, your role on the governor body, and how long you've been in the government body? "Anything else that you may want us to know.

They Answered:

Ms. Cathy Johnson- I'm from Havana; I was on the town council. I know the voting community, not just the African American community, but I know a lot of the Caucasian community and the Hispanics in our community. I've taught parenting classes, so I know the importance of children getting their education. I visit different churches because I am a health coordinator as well. I work with programs like PAMS, which is a program where they can get free medication. Many people don't have health insurance. I also do a second harvest food drive for the community.

Mr. Steve Scott - I was a middle and high school social studies teacher for 33 years. 12 years on the board

Mr. Leroy McMillan - President - Chair since 2018. I'm running for reelection; as of now, I don't have any opponents. I'm a 35-year military veteran.

Board members were asked:

Share a little more about your role and work, how you work with the government body, and how you support the program and meet the needs of your communities?

They Answered:

Ms. Cathy Johnson - I was on the town council; I always feel that I am in the community. I'm on the grounds. I know the importance of children getting their education. When I'm talking to young ladies in the project area, I talk to them about voting because their vote counts and depends on everything else that we do. So, I'm one of those people; I go out and talk to them, and I go to various churches. One thing I ask people all the time when I'm talking to them is, how old is this child? Are you in school? And this is where your baby can go to school. I'm always trying to introduce the resources to them. Always trying to relate to them. I am very active in my community.

Mr. Leroy McMillan - I sat around for a year to decide what it was that I really wanted to do. And I'm originally from here, educated here, but I left for 35 years, and upon coming back or returning to my community, just dealing with the kids in the community and the kids in my church, I saw a need for what I consider, or what I think was, leadership in the community, someone that was going to be concerned about these kids and building strong relationships in the community. And so that's one of my major focuses. And quite naturally, I do visit schools, and not just to show my face; I'm concerned with the progress of these children and trying to set good examples and expose them to something other than basketball and bad music. We must expose them to different things outside of Gadsden County. There are children in this community that never left Gadsden County, not even to go to Tallahassee. It's a sad situation. So, I do my best to get out and actually serve people, as opposed to trying to be in the community.

Mr. Steve Scott - I remember being asked why I got into education. And my answer would still be the same. I saw what education could do for you, and I saw the lack of education. Growing up in Gadsden County and graduating high school in 1971, which was right after integration, I started seeing the challenges in all the schools. I realized that I did not come from an elite, wealthy family in Gadsden County. I was intending to be an attorney, and I thought, well, let me give teaching a try; that will help pay the bills. In the meantime, I was hooked. I was seeing those children come through every year, and I was concerned; I wanted to be a part of the programs that bring the county up. And it couldn't happen without leaders in education. Currently, thinking that they are five board members from all over the district. "Nobody is

an educator" doesn't make sense. It has to be somebody that comes with an education background. And of course, part of that happens by knowing the policies and procedures and being able to see what was happening with the children at the lowest level, the very beginning level, and to try to make a bigger impact and to carry it on top. We all have the same goals; our strategies are different.

Board members were asked:

Can you share what type of data and reports that you have received from the program, and how do you use that data to provide oversight to the program? For example, monthly financial statements, credit card statements, and enrollment reports. Do they share that information?

They Answered:

Ms. Cathy Johnson - We do get a report from Head Start about what's going on in the Head Start program. Mr. Steve Scott: Yes, they share this information, financial and fiscal information, newsletters, and the community needs assessment for unemployment rates, homelessness, education, and level of education for parents.

Board members were asked:

Anything dealing with meals or snacks served in the program?

They Answered:

Mr. Leroy McMillan - We have a program for children to take snacks home after school.

Board members were asked:

Have you seen the financial statements/credit card statements?

They answered:

Mr. Steve Scott - Yes, I have seen them. They come up in the workshop meetings as well.

Board members were asked:

Have you participated in the development, funding and evaluation of the Head Start Program? Did you have a part in the self-assessment?

They answered:

Mr. Leroy McMillan - From time to time, I'm able to sit with Ms. Denson and talk with her about what we believe we need in this community as far as providing for our kids in the Head Start program, such as Head Start having their own site. We are building a new K-8 school, and we want to take them out of this building and put them in a better-conditioned place; solely I get to sit down and help, develop, and maintain.

Board members were asked:

What about the financial findings, do they share that information? Do you have input over like the financial fund?

They answered:

Mr. Leroy McMillan - I am aware of what's going on, and Ms. Denson does a good job of keeping the Superintendent and all his assistants abreast of what's going on. If there's a need for us to know, then surely the Superintendent will let us know.

Mr. Steve Scott - We have to be a part of the grants, the different parts of the grants, and the budget that's allocated for the program.

Board members were asked:

Are you aware of any current issues that may come up?

They answered:

Mr. Steve Scott - One of the issues is this building; we are building a new K-8 school and combining a lot of schools. So, we have those issues, but they normally would come through the Superintendent versus the Superintendent to us. The Sunshine Law plays a big part in what we can discuss with each other.

Ms. Cathy Johnson - If there is something that we need to know right away, we get a text. "Hey, we got this situation". Might not say what it is, but you know it's something. We will then receive a call and know what it is that's going on.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.