

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

February 28, 2023

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; Mr. Steve Scott; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; 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 Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Pastor Allen Jones of Neal's Temple Holiness Church, Havana, Florida.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

The Superintendent and Board recognized Gadsden Technical College students for their accomplishments for competing in the NAHB International Builders Show in Las Vegas and placing nationally. Student Antwon McNeil shared his experience attending and competing at the NAHB International Builders Show. Mrs. Kerwyn Jones-Wilson and Coach Winton Suber were recognized and congratulated on their work with the students. Mr. Saxton stated that the students received a life experience by going to Las Vegas and placing nationally, it was more than competition. A plaque to commemorate the occasion was received by the school.

Mrs. Kesandra Brown introduced the ESE students who advanced to the North State Basketball Tournament: JaMonta McCloud, Iyana Young, Jorge Gonzales, Malik Horne, Gerald Irvin and Brion Young. She stated that the team placed third. Coach Annie Trueblood and Assistant Coach Michael Ray were also recognized. Each of the students received an award and trophy. Also recognized was Mr. Robert Jackson for his induction into the Special Olympics Hall of Fame. The Superintendent and Board members congratulated the students and Mr. Robert Jackson.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan added to the agenda item #'s 9e – Student Expulsion – Case #71-2223-0231 and Student Expulsion - Case #72-2223-0231. He entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. January 24, 2023, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. January 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL

- a. Annual Financial Report and Final Amendment

Fund Source: All Funds
Amount:

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. TCC Early College Program Agreement 2023 – 2024

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. School Hardening Grant – Gadsden County High School

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #50-2223-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #52-2223-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #62-2223-0211

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Board Approval for Amendments to the Contractual Agreement with Rostan Solutions, LLC for Professional Services Dealing with FEMA

Fund Source: Eligible for FEMA Reimbursement of 75% of Cost and Florida Division of Emergency Management of 12 ½% of Cost, initial cash flow is provided by Insurance Recovery funds

Amount: Hourly payment based on utilization of services – Status of FEMA Projects – in appeals process

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Stewart Street Elementary School Out-of-State Field Trip Request

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Approval of 2022 – 2023 School Advisory Council (SAC) Membership Rosters

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items preceded by and (*) asterisk were removed from the consent agenda and moved to the discussion portion of the agenda.

- *6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

- a. Personnel 2022 - 2023

In response to Mr. McMillan’s concern regarding the status change for some teachers, Mr. Key stated that some of the teachers were previously adjunct teachers but are now full-time teachers.

Following discussion, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- *9. STUDENT MATTERS

Mr. Key pulled from the agenda item #9e – Student Expulsion- Case #71-2223-0231.

The parent of student case #58-2223-0091 requested to address the Board.

Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to reconsider the previous vote on agenda items #9e and 9c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #58-2223-0091

The parent of student case #58-2223-0231 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9c until a hearing could be held. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #71-2223-0231

Mr. Charlie D.; Frost made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9e. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to reconsider the previous vote on agenda item #9f. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried unanimously.

- f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #72-2223-0231

The parent of student case #72-2223-0231 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9f until a hearing could be held. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karema D. Dudley and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key recognized the district's CTE teachers.

Mr. Saxton, Director Career and Technical Education, stated that the month of February was celebrated as Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. He stated that CTE month is observed in February each year to recognize the accomplishments of students and educators and highlight the collaboration among local leaders, businesses and industry partners that contribute to the success of CTE programs across the nation. He stated that there are five proven benefits of Career and Technical Education: exploration of real career opportunities; development of career skills; industry credentials and certifications; improved graduation rates; and bridges to future education. He stated that district middle and high school CTE programs have highly qualified administrators and instructors; 54 CTE courses for 8 – 12 graders, 25 dual enrolled CTE courses at Gadsden Technical College, 4 career and technical student organizations, 2021-2022 school year 208 industry certifications and licensures; and Florida Statute 225,932.04 CAPE Funding awarded to the district. He stated that at Gadsden Technical College there are highly qualified administrators and instructors, 29 CTE courses for 10 – 12 graders and adults, 25 dual enrolled CTE courses, 2021-22 school year 35 industry certifications and licensures, 12 active Occupational Advisory Committees, 1 Career and Technical Student Organization, and 2022 COE Annual Report Targets Achieved 100% placement rate and 100% licensure rate. He stated that the goals and objectives are to increase the number of dual enrolled students, expand program offerings, offer evening classes, and upgrade facilities.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost recognized Mr. Isaac Simmons, former school board member. He thanked him for attending the meeting.

Ms. Johnson recognized the faculty and staff at Havana Magnet School for hosting the Sneakers Ball. She stated that the students did an awesome job. She recognized Midway Head Start for their Black History Program. She stated that the students presented the Wax Museum. She recognized Ms. Trueblood and the Special Olympics. She congratulated Ms. Trueblood on her retirement. She stated that the Black History celebration for the county was beautiful and phenomenal.

Mrs. Dudley recognized Ms. Trueblood and congratulated her on her retirement. She stated that the Parent Night for 5th students at Stewart Street Elementary School was very informative and she appreciated the parents for coming out. She recognized Ms. Ja'Nya McNealy, School Guardian, for being very knowledgeable of what is going on with the students. She requested Mr. Maples update the district's website to include contact information for Board members. She stated that transparency is very important for the public. She stated that Mr. Maples will be getting information and proposals on live streaming meetings. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Scott recognized Ms. Valencia Denson, Head Start PreK Director, for the Head Start Focus Review. He stated that the district was complimented by the reviewers.

Mrs. Shaia Simmons, former teacher, addressed the Board to share her concerns about about recess being added to the Master Scheduled; a committee to address ESSER funds; a financial office evaluation; addressing the parent and visiting policy; Raptor systems should be working at all times; have the Public Information Office request proposals from different individuals on live streaming meetings; employees not being paid on time; and the decrease in maintenance funds.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, GCCTA President, addressed the Board. She congratulated Mrs. Trueblood on her retirement. She stated that in appreciation for teachers in the form of the proposed calendar, holidays are being taken away. She stated that paid holidays should be designated by the Board. She stated that a counselor was hired at Chattahoochee that did not receive the bonus.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she had not seen the proposed calendar but will follow-up on Mrs. Mandela's concern.

Mr. McMillan announced that the Board convene in an executive session following the meeting to discuss collective bargaining issues.

14. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

The Board convened in executive session at 7:00 p.m.; and adjourned at 7:35 p.m.