

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

February 9, 2021

5:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mrs. Karema Dudley; 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 5:02 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. PERSONNEL MATTERS

a. Extension of COVID-19 Leave

Fund Source: General Fund
 Amount: Based on Utilization

In response to Mr. Frost's request for an overview of the extension of COVID-19 leave, Mr. Key stated that the extension of leave is an agreement with GCCTA and GESPA to extend the leave to the end of year for employees that have not utilized any COVID-19 leave. He stated that if the employee has already utilized COVID-19 leave, they will use personal leave.

In response to Mr. Scott's concern regarding the difference from the last proposal to extend COVID-19 leave, Mr. Key stated that the only change was the ending date to June 30, 2021.

Following discussion Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #4a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

5. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Request for Board’s Approval to Begin the Process of Legal Collection on the Insurance Claim against Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Key requested Attorney Kurt Keefer address the Board.

Attorney Keefer requested the Board’s approval to allow him to continue the process of legal collection if the insurance claim was not resolved in mediation.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #5a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

- a. Request to Advertise Notice of Intent to Amend/Adopt Policies

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Key stated that the policy changes are from PAEC because of either legislative updates or changes in in the law. He stated that this item is requesting permission to advertise Notice of Intent to Amend/Adopt Policies.

In response to Mr. Frost’s concern regarding any financial obligation with the amending/adopting the policies, Mr. Key responded no, there aren’t any financial obligations to the district.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key referred to Dr. Sylvia Jackson to share with the Board information on Gadsden Technical Institute.

Dr. Jackson informed the Board that previously Gadsden Technical Institute had preliminary approval to process Pell grants, but have recently received notification that Gadsden Technical Institute has approval to process Pell grants. She stated that the state requires charging fees to adults and this will make Gadsden Technical Institute more accessible for adults. She shared with the Board a breakdown of GTI’s enrollment. She stated that dual enrollment is down, and that student enrolment normally ranges from 75 to 100. She stated that February is CTE month and even last year with COVID there were 153 certifications with 32 at Gadsden County High School, 16 at West Gadsden Middle School, 30 at James A. Shanks Middle School, and 75 at Crossroad Academy. She provided the Board with a CTE catalog to highlight some of the programs and classes in the district. She stated that Dr. Wiggins will post CTE highlights on the district’s website. She stated that for the past

three years CTE students who have earned a certificate or completed coursework with education endowment have been acknowledged during graduation ceremonies. She stated that certificates are important because they generate funds.

Mr. Frost stated that he was concerned about the enrollment being down. He stated that he wants a plan to get GTI back to where it used to be. He stated that the library has a sign for adult education. He stated that he was concern that there are only eight people in the adult education program. He stated that there are more people that need a GED. He also discussed other classes that are low in enrollment. He stated that in some classes there are only one student being taught in the morning, and in the secondary carpentry class there are no students. He stated that the district need to find ways to increase enrollment.

Dr. Jackson stated that some of the classes are combination classes, which will increase enrollment. She clarified that adult students represent post-secondary. She stated that the morning (AM) students do not qualify for dual enrollment but have met criteria to be in the program.

Mr. Frost requested an in depth discussion to increase the enrollment at GTI. He stated that he want to market the program because all students are not going to college. He stated that GTI is a vital part of the community.

Mr. Key stated that he is working to make changes to the high school master schedules that would allow students to attend GTI. He shared with the Board a handout of his 150 day plan. He stated that Best Standard Training takes place every Friday. He stated that the 21st Century Program is no longer in operation in the district. He stated that the district is moving forward to find other funding sources for students. He stated that he hopes to have the 21st Century Program straightened out in a couple of weeks. He stated that Parent Expo's will be held February 16 – 18th. He stated that this week is FTE week. He stated that a senior parent meeting was held at Gadsden County High School yesterday (February 8th), and one will be held for the seniors on the west side tomorrow (February 10th) at Greensboro Elementary School. He stated that the Gadsden County High School Girls Basketball Team are district champs, and the boys are playing their 1st round tonight.

8. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

9. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.