

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

September 27, 2022

6:00 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; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; and Mrs. Karema D. Dudley. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 6:02 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Pastor Roosevelt Rogers, III of Old Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Key recognized the Gadsden County High School Journalists. He stated that the student newspaper is one of the top in the United States. He stated that the community meeting last week was great and very successful. He stated that more community meetings will be held. He introduced the following new employees: Ms. Kesandra Brown, Exceptional Student Education Director; Dr. Miranda Baggett, Reading Specialist for the district but primarily assigned to the “D” and “F” schools; Ms. Kamela Weeks, Professional Development; Dr. Kisha Jarrett, Principal at James A. Shanks Middle School.

Dr. Kisha Jarrett shared with the Board an update of James A. Shanks Middle School. She stated that the mission of the school is to provide a safe, nurturing, and productive environment in which to educate all students in order to become responsible lifelong learners who possess skills, knowledge and self-confidence needed to become college and/or career ready. She stated that the vision of the school is with high expectations of all stakeholders. James A. Shanks Middle School will create a culture of excellence by providing a rigorous, relevant benchmark-based curriculum for the development of skills necessary for students to compete in a dynamic, global, and multicultural society. She also shared with the Board the school’s progress monitoring report, reading baseline progress monitoring data, math baseline progress monitoring data, early warning systems, student/teacher attendance, discipline, school accountability report, goals for 2022 – 2023; instructional practices, and the district’s managed turnaround option plan.

Mr. Scott welcomed the new employees and staff to the district.

Mrs. Dudley recognized Ms. Kesandra Brown for being prompt in handling a situation. She also recognized Mr. Gary Russ for obtaining his professional certification.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Scott, seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. August 16, 2022, 4:30 p.m. - School Board Workshop
- b. August 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2021 – 2022

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Personnel 2022 - 2023

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Minimum Wage to \$15 per Hour

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: Based on Utilization

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Amended 2022 – 2023 Articulation Agreement School Board of Gadsden County, FL and Florida State University

Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: Standard State University Tuition Rate Per Credit Hour

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. 2022 Amendment to Agreement for Professional Clinical Services

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Contracted CPA Services for Finance Department

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$95.00/hour not to exceed \$35,000.00 per fiscal year

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. The Youth Mental Health Awareness Training Plan and Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. 2022 – 2024 School Health Services Plan

Fund Source: Required Documentation No Cost to District
Amount: \$0.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #05-2223-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Purchase Order Requests for Sonitrol of Tallahassee

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$31,997.04 for School Locations
\$15,468.00 for Administrative Locations

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. 2022 – 2023 Controlled Open Enrollment Plan

Fund Source: FEFP
Amount: Undetermined – Based Upon Enrollment

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Gadsden Technical College Out-of-State Field Trip

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. GCHS US Government Honors Class Out of State Field Trip

Fund Source: School Partner
Amount: \$2,079.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. GCHS FFA/Agriscience and Biotechnology Class Out-of-State Field Trip

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items preceded by an asterisk (*) were removed from the CONSENT agenda at the beginning of the meeting and acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

*8. STUDENT MATTERS

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #06-2223-0051

The parent of student #06-2223-0051 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to defer action on agenda item #8b until a hearing was held on Tuesday, October 4th at 4:00 p.m.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #07-2223-0051

The parent of student #07-2223-0051 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to defer action on agenda item #8c until a hearing was held on Tuesday, October 4th at 4:30 p.m.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Key stated that the schools will be open tomorrow (Wednesday, September 28th). He stated that he was continuing to monitor the weather for the remainder of the week. He invited everyone to a volleyball game between Shanks and West Gadsden. He stated that a portion of the ticket sales will go towards the American Cancer Society to fight breast cancer. He stated that the game will be held at Gadsden County High School Gymnasium, Tuesday, October 4th at 5:00 p.m.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Scott requested that the Board be contacted as soon as possible with hurricane updates and information on schools.

Mr. Gary Russ, Vice President of GCCTA, addressed the Board to applaud the hiring of Ms. Kamela Weeks in Professional Development and his principal, Dr. Kisha Jarrett. He stated that teacher support was needed in the classrooms. He stated that the Board needed to move forward with having compassion and empathy for teachers because some teachers are not financially able to continue paying to take certification test. He stated that teachers need their supply monies early because some teachers pay for classroom items out their pockets. He stated that this might be his last year in the classroom. He stated that he is finishing his Masters in Social Work. He thanked the Board and Superintendent for their support.

Mr. McMillan requested the Board pay for one round of testing for teachers.

Dr. Sylvia Jackson stated that there was a special grant in 2016 for teachers to get reimbursed for one round of testing.

Mr. McMillan stated that he wants teachers to stay in the district. He stated that he will help and support teachers.

Mrs. Dudley stated that the district is looking for ways to give teachers their supply monies early. She stated that it is very important to support teachers. She stated that the Board value teachers. She stated that she is an advocate for teachers and support staff.

Mrs. Mandela, President of GCCTA, addressed the Board to thank Ms. Johnson and Mrs. Dudley for bringing up the idea of doing everything possible to clean the schools. She stated that the district plans for ESSER II funds have monies set aside for cleaning.

13. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.