

Regular Meeting 10/06/2020 05:00 PM

Gadsden City Board of Education

Approved 11/3/2020

Attendees

Voting Members

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff, President - District 3

Hon. Allen Millican, Board Member - District 7

Dr. Nathan Carter, Board Member - District 2

Mr. Mike Haney, Board Member - District 4

Ms. Adrienne Reed, Board Member - District 1

Non-Voting Members

Mr. Tony Reddick, Superintendent

Mrs. Christie Knowles, Board Attorney

Ms. Nancy Foster, Superintendent Administrative Assistant

Absent Members

Mrs. Nancy Stewart, Vice President - District 6

Mr. Mark Dayton, Board Member – District 5

- A. Call to Order, Opening Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance
 President Z. Andre' Huff called the meeting to order. Mr. Mike Haney opened with prayer
 and the pledge of allegiance.
- B. Reports COVID-19 "Now That We Are Back"

Superintendent Reddick reported an update of students returning to in person class and COVID-19. Students had the opportunity to return to face-to-face instruction on September 28, 2020. Schools operated on a staggered schedule for the first week, which allowed one-fourth of the schools population to be in attendance each day. This allowed students to become acclimated to their new learning environment and for teachers to practice the instructional techniques they have been planning since August 6th. Students were instructed on how to follow the guidelines for social distancing, cleanliness, and sanitation while in the school building, including strategies for entering and exiting. The staggered schedule also allowed for smaller numbers of students in the classroom to address concerns regarding grades and moving forward.

The latest survey expected 63% of students to return for face-to-face instruction. Every safety precaution that has been made available to the system, will be in place. Hallways have been clearly marked for students to file on the right side of the direction where they are headed, and there are markers on the floors encouraging six feet of distance between them. Students are "required" to wear masks at all times in and outside of the classroom,

unless there is a confirmed medical exception. Hand sanitizers are placed strategically in hallways, and teachers have sanitation supplies in their respective classrooms. Classrooms and common areas are sprayed for disinfection regularly throughout each day, and air purifiers have been installed in every air condition/heating unit. More than 4,000 desk/table partitions have been delivered to schools.

Many are concerned of what happens if there is one or more COVID cases at a school. When do we shut down a class, or even a whole school? The CDC defines an "exposure" as close contact (less than 6 feet) without a mask for 15 minutes. The procedures, rules and physical layout of the schools have been carefully designed so that such an "exposure" will not occur.

COVID-19 cases will be addressed as per the CDC guidelines:

- If a student is not tested, but has symptoms that could be flu, strep, or any other illness as determined by a provider, the student may return to school after 24 hours resolution of fever with a note from the provider indicating the student has an alternate diagnosis and is safe to return to school.
- If a student has symptoms but is not tested, and there is no alternate explanation for illness, the student must remain home for at least 10 days from the first day symptoms appeared and be fever free for 72 hours without fever-reducing medicine and with improved respiratory symptoms.
- If a student has symptoms but tests negative, consideration must be given for a false negative, and if there is no alternative explanation, the student must insolate for at least 10 days from the first day symptoms appeared and remain 24 hours fever-free without medication and with improvement of respiratory symptoms. The student may, however, return to school after a negative test with a note from a provider stating the student is believed to have an alternate diagnosis. If the student had no symptoms before testing negative, s/he may proceed with attending school, unless there is a known close contact with a confirmed case. In that case, the student must quarantine for 14 days.
- If a student has symptoms and tests positive, s/h3 must remain home in isolation for at least 10 days from the date symptoms began and remain fever free for 24 hours without medication and show improvement of respiratory symptoms. If the student showed no symptoms and tested positive, s/he must isolate at home for 10 days from the date the test was taken. If symptoms develop during isolation, then the time starts over from the first day of symptoms.
- If a student is in close contact (6/15 rule) with a confirmed case and becomes symptomatic, s/he must quarantine for 14 days. If no symptoms are present, student must still quarantine for 14 days before returning to school.

Please note: Quarantine keeps someone who was in close contact with a COVID case away from others, while Isolation keeps someone who is sick or has a positive test without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.

Because there should not be any "exposure" at our schools, it is hard to imagine having to shut down an entire school, or the entire school system, unless there is a major community

outbreak, and the shut-down is ordered by a high authority.

C. Board Action

1. Approval of Minutes of the Budget Hearing #1 (9/1/2020) and minutes of regular meeting including budget hearing #2 (9/8/2020)

The minutes of the #1 Budget Hearing held virtually on September 3, 2020, and the regular meeting including Budget Hearing #2 held virtually on September 8, 2020 were presented to the board for approval.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Hon. Allen Millican

Voting

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Dr. Nathan Carter - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

2. Rescind Resolution

Superintendent Reddick recommended the board approve to rescind the Emergency - Suspension of Policy granted to the Superintendent during the special called board meeting dated March 20, 2020.

Motion made by: Hon. Allen Millican

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Dr. Nathan Carter - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

3. Surplus Property

Superintendent Reddick recommended the board approve the designated inventory listed from Board of Education, Adams Elementary, Donehoo Elementary and Gadsden Middle Schools as surplus inventory.

Motion made by: Dr. Nathan Carter

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Dr. Nathan Carter - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

4. Personnel Actions

Superintendent Reddick recommended the following personnel actions be approved:

Resigning:

Vernon D. Bradley - Mitchell Elementary Custodian effective 9/30/2020 Angelica Ostos - Systemwide EL Translator/Liaison Paraprofessional effective 10/1/2020 Jeffery Washington - Floyd Elementary Custodian effective 9/11/2020

Declined Position:

Maria G. Barrientos - Systemwide EL Translator/Liaison Paraprofessional effective 9/9/2020 Caroline Keith - Mitchell Elementary CNP Worker effective 9/9/2020

New Employees:

Leslie Kimbril - Litchfield Middle English Language Arts Teacher effective 9/28/2020 Michella Cylar - Emma Sansom Middle School Title I Aide effective 10/07/2020 Hilary McMahon - Eura Brown Elementary CNP Worker effective 9/23/2020 Laura Jean Turgeon - Floyd Elementary Custodian effective 9/21/2020 Shawnta Garrett - GCHS CNP Worker effective 10/8/2020 Misty Walden - Emma Sansom Middle Custodian effective 10/14/2020 Carl C. Byars - Systemwide Tutor effective 10/07/2020

Sustitute Teachers:

Cheryl Putman Brandi Guest Ashley Moore

Support Substitutes:

Kristy Robinett-Podrue

After School Programs Substitutes:

Hope Gaskin Kelly Gregg Brandi Batton Guest Jerresa McGee Deborah McKiven Aisha Rice Taja Underwood Shereka Wright

Motion made by: Hon. Allen Millican Motion seconded by: Dr. Nathan Carter

Voting

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes Hon. Allen Millican - Yes Dr. Nathan Carter - Yes Mr. Mike Haney - Yes Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes 5. Monthly Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation

CSFO Cory Skelton presented the board with the monthly financial for examination and approval. The financial data and cash balances presented are based on the reconciled bank statements to the general ledger as of August 31, 2020.

Motion made by: Hon. Allen Millican Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Dr. Nathan Carter - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

6. Election of two (2) voting board delegates (and an alternate) for AASB Annual Convention

Mr. Mark Dayton and Dr. Nathan Carter were nominated by board members present, to represent our board as voting delegates at the AASB Annual Convention. Ms. Adrienne Reed was nominated to serve as alternate.

Motion made by: Hon. Allen Millican Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Dr. Nathan Carter - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

D. Information Items

1. Old Business

Superintendent Reddick reported the board is moving forward with the Capital Plan for the baseball/softball/tennis project at the high school. The plans have been discussed with the architects. Both fields will be located on the grounds at the high school that are currently being used for field parking. Projected start for construction would be late spring 2021.

2. New Business

Policy Introduction: Supervision of Low Risk Juvenile Sex Offenders
 The introduction of Supervision of Low Risk Juvenile Sex Offenders was introduced to board members for adoption.

Pursuant to Annalyn's Law, the Superintendent shall be notified by local law enforcement when a low risk juvenile sex offender is enrolled or attending school within the board's jurisdiction for the purpose of appropriate supervision during the school day and during school activities.

Section 1. Definitions

In this policy, these terms shall have the following meaning:

- a. "Plan" refers to the "individualized student safety plan" developed following the Student's adjudication and/or enrollment in the school to serve as a behavior contract between contract between the Student and the School.
- b. "School" refers to "all school property and school-sponsored functions including, but not limited to, classroom instructional time, assemblies, athletic events, extracurricular activities, and school bus transportation" related to the Student's current school of record.
- c. "Student" refers to "the low risk juvenile sex offender" designated by a juvenile court judge as having a low risk or re-offense.
- d. "Teachers and staff with supervision over the student" or "Supervision team" refers to school officials or staff who have a specific responsibility for the Student, including the school principal, the Student's assigned teachers and/or coaches, the Student's counselor, and if applicable, the Student's bus driver, during the subject school year and who will be privy to information regarding the Student's status. Teachers and staff with only passing and/or general contact with the Student shall not be privy to information regarding the Student's
- e. "Victim" refers to the victim, if known by and attending the same school as the Student, of the offense for which the Student was adjudicated delinquent.

Section 2. Notification

Current Student

In the event a currently enrolled Student is adjudicated delinquent and designated "low risk" by the juvenile court, local law enforcement is expected to notify the local Superintendent and principal of the Student's school in writing.

Newly Enrolled Students

In the event a Student seeks to enroll in the district as a new student, and that Student has been previously designated as a low risk juvenile sex offender, local law enforcement is expected to notify the local Superintendent and principal of the Student's school in writing.

• Students That Change Schools Within the District

In the event a currently enrolled Student transfers to another school in the district or is promoted to another school in the district, the principal of the original school should notify designated law enforcement of the change as soon as practicable.

Following that notification, the principal of the original school should orally or in writing brief the principal of the new school regarding the original Plan and the transferring Student's status and circumstances. Regardless, the principal of the prior school must provide the Student's records and Safety Plan to the principal of the new school as soon as practicable.

The new principal should review the Plan and meet with the Student, the Student's parent or guardian, and the anticipated new Supervision Team to determine whether the current terms are sufficient or should be adjusted based on the Student's circumstances.

School Staff Changes

In the event the principal or a member of the Supervision Team leaves his position or is no longer responsible for supervising the Student, a replacement team member should be named, if necessary and appropriate, and briefed by the principal or the most senior member of the Supervision Team regarding the Student's status and Plan.

The student, his parent or guardian, and other members of the Supervision Team should be notified of changes to the Supervision Team within a reasonable timeframe.

Section 3. Plan Development and Maintenance

Upon proper notification from law enforcement, the Student's principal or designee will call together the anticipated Supervision Team to meet with the Student and/or the Student's parent or guardian to develop an appropriate Plan. This meeting should take place within 10 school days or as soon as practicable. In the even the Students' parent or guardian is unable or unwilling to meet, the principal or designee and the Supervision Team should meet with the Student within a reasonable timeframe to develop an appropriate Plan.

In the event the Victim attends the same school as the Student, the plan should include measures to reduce the likelihood of Victim and Student interaction.

The terms of the Plan and any updates to it must be memorialized in writing and approved by the principal or designee before being distributed to the Student and the Student's parent or guardian, as well as the Supervision Team.

The principal or designee should meet with the Student, the Student's parent or guardian, and the Supervision Team at least annually, but as often as deemed necessary by the principal or designee to assess the Student's status and to determine whether adjustments should be made to the Plan.

Section 4. Supervision

The Student will be subject to the general Student Code of Conduct and any other conditions deemed necessary by the principal or designee as incorporated in the Student's Plan.

Members of the Supervision Team should report any suspected violations of the Plan to the principal or designee.

The school officials and staff responsible for supervising the Student on a daily basis should do so in a manner that is discrete and unobtrusive.

Section 5. Students with Disabilities

Discipline of Students with disabilities will be subject to applicable limitations and requirements imposed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and implementing regulations.

Section 6. Violations of the Plan

In the event the Student violates the Student Code of Conduct or the Plan, the Student may be subject to discipline pursuant to board policy and/or reassessment of the Plan's conditions.

Section 7. Challenges to the Plan

In the event the Student and/or his parent or guardian object to conditions of the Plan or the application of a sanction, a challenge must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent or his designee to consider whether adjustment of the Plan or response modification is warranted. The Superintendent's decision shall be final. A response that constitutes disciplinary action will adhere to the applicable School disciplinary policies and procedures and the Student will be afforded the process due thereunder.

Section 8. Confidentiality

Information received by school officials or staff related to the Student's delinquent status must be treated as confidential from other students, staff members, officials and stakeholders. Any document identifying the Student's status should be safeguarded from unintentional disclosure by the members of the Supervision Team. Any school official or school employee who improperly discloses the Student's status to any other person may be subject to school discipline and/or criminal charges as provided by law.

Section 9. Retaliation

Members of the Supervision Team should make every effort to treat the Student with the same respect and courtesy to which every student is entitled. The Team is reminded that the Student has been deemed by the juvenile court as not likely to reoffend and should be encouraged to fully integrate into the student body as a successful student. Mistreatment of any student may be caused for discipline.

Section 10. Procedures

The Superintendent shall have the authority to develop appropriate training and additional procedures for staff members in furtherance of this policy.

Legal Reference: Ala. Act No. 2018-528, Ala. Code 16-1/51/1 (1975).

- Systemwide Sports Schedule
 President Huff reminded everyone to review the systemwide sports schedule, and try to support the teams this season.
- 4. Next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled November 3, 2020

E. Adjournment

President Huff ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

<u>Motion made by:</u> Hon. Allen Millican <u>Motion seconded by:</u> Dr. Nathan Carter

Voting

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes Hon. Allen Millican - Yes Dr. Nathan Carter - Yes Mr. Mike Haney - Yes Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

Date	Superintendent/Secretary