

MINUTES

LAFAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

WORKSHOP, APRIL 24, 2018

The Lafayette County School Board met in workshop session on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 beginning at 5:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Amanda Hickman, Chairperson; Mrs. Marion McCray, Vice-Chair; Mr. Darren Driver, Member; Mr. Jeff Walker, Member; Mr. Taylor McGrew, Member; and Ms. Leenette McMillan-Fredriksson, School Board Attorney. Administrators present were Mrs. Tammi Maund, Director of Finance; and Mr. Stephen Clark, LES Principal.

Proposed District Level Administrative Position

The purpose of the workshop was to further discuss the Superintendent's recommendation to add a district level administrative position. It was noted that this item was tabled at the regular school board meeting last week to allow time for more discussion on this matter. Mr. Edwards began by reviewing his reasons for recommending an additional district level administrative position, Director of Education and Safety. Senate Bill 7026 requires an administrator to serve as a school safety specialist for the district. Safe school funds will be used to fund the school safety specialist position. These are categorical funds and cannot be used for pay raises or hiring instructional staff. Discussion continued with Mr. Edwards reviewing the duties of the school safety specialist as specified in SB 7026.

Mr. Edwards reviewed his reasons for recommending that the duties of the current Director of Teaching and Learning Services be divided into two positions: (1) Director of Education and Safety (new position); and (2) Director of Student Services and Exceptional Student Education. The School Safety Specialist position would fall under the Director of Education and Safety, along with various other duties. The remaining duties would stay under the renamed position, Director of Student

Services and Exceptional Student Education. The person in this position would concentrate more heavily on the areas of Exceptional Student Education, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, and other student support services.

Discussion continued with board members sharing their thoughts and concerns regarding the creation of a new district level administrative position. Mr. Taylor McGrew stated that he feels the district can meet the requirements of SB 7026 with our present staff. Board members expressed concern about safe schools funding and the possibility of it decreasing in the future. After much discussion, it was the general feeling of the School Board that now may not be the time to add a position as there are still many unknown factors regarding this new legislation.

Other Concerns

Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program – Mrs. Marion McCray asked for clarification regarding the eligibility requirements for the Best and Brightest Scholarship. Superintendent Edwards explained that the program is administered by the Department of Education and provides categorical funding for scholarships to be awarded to classroom teachers who have demonstrated a high level of academic achievement. This money does not come from district funds. Mr. Edwards reviewed the eligibility requirements for the three scholarships available for the 2017-2018 school year in the amounts of \$6,000, \$1,200 and up to \$800.

School Hardening – School hardening was discussed. Superintendent Edwards explained that the Department of Education will provide school hardening grants to address specific school safety needs within each school district. The grant program will provide awards to schools to assist in funding the costs associated with improving the physical security of school buildings as identified by a security

risk assessment. The School Safety Specialist will be responsible getting this information together and submitting to DOE. Board members talked about things we can do right now to improve safety on our campus. Not keeping gates closed/locked when appropriate, staff parking in non-designated areas, staff not wearing ID badges, visitors being on campus without a visitor badge were mentioned as areas of concern. It was agreed that we must be more diligent in enforcing and following rules which have been implemented for the purpose of making our campus safer for all staff and students.

Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Amanda Hickman, Chairperson

ATTEST



Robert Edwards, Superintendent
and Secretary to the School Board