

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
ESCAMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE
ESCAMBIA COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
HELD JANUARY 27, 2009
ROOM 160, J. E. HALL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
30 EAST TEXAR DRIVE, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA
(10:02 a.m. – 11:33 a.m.)

Board of County Commissioners (BCC)

Present: Commissioner Marie K. Young, Chairman, District 3
Commissioner Grover C. Robinson, IV, Vice Chairman, District 4
Commissioner Wilson B. Robertson, District 1
Commissioner Gene M. Valentino, District 2
Commissioner Kevin W. White, District 5
Mr. Robert R. "Bob" McLaughlin, County Administrator
Mrs. Alison Rogers, County Attorney

District School Board (DSB)

Present: Honorable Patricia Hightower, Chairman, District 4
Honorable Gerald Boone, Vice Chairman, District 2
Honorable Jeff Bergosh, District 1
Honorable Linda Moultrie, District 3
Honorable Bill Slayton, District 5
Honorable Malcolm Thomas, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Donna Waters, General Counsel

AGENDA NUMBER

1. Opening Remarks – Chairman Hightower

DSB Chairman Hightower called the Joint Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., and advised that Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, District School Board, would deliver the Invocation, and Commissioner Robinson would lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BCC AND THE DSB – Continued

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

2. Opening Remarks – Chairman Young

Chairman Young provided opening remarks.

3. County's Participation with Capital Improvement Funding for the Pinestead Longleaf Corridor Project and School Access Needs in the Pine Forest School Area in Exchange for Molino and Wedgewood Schools and Property

The BCC and DSB heard a presentation from Randy Lane, Baskerville-Donovan, Inc., Project Manager, and Larry Newsom, Director of Transportation, BCC, regarding the County's Participation with Capital Improvement Funding for the Pinestead (Road)-Longleaf (Drive) Corridor Project and School Access Needs in the Pine Forest School Area in Exchange for Molino and Wedgewood Schools and Property, and the BCC and DSB:

- A. Discussed an aerial (*which was also provided in hard copy*) of the proposed Pinestead Road-Longleaf Drive Corridor, which includes a service road parallel to Longleaf Drive;
- B. Upon being advised by Superintendent Thomas that his opinion is that the proposal, as presented, is seriously flawed, were advised by County Administrator McLaughlin that the plan is a conceptual proposal to improve access to the schools, and that all options will be considered;
- C. Heard the suggestion from Commissioner Robertson that the County not proceed further with this project until such time as a committee, consisting of BCC and DSB staff, is established to determine the impact on the four schools (*Longleaf Elementary School, Pine Forest High School, West Florida High School of Advanced Technology, and George Stone Technical Center*); and
- D. Were advised by BCC Chairman Young and Superintendent Thomas, respectively, that Joy D. Blackmon, Bureau Chief, Public Works Bureau, would be the contact person for the County, and Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, would be the contact person for the DSB.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BCC AND THE DSB – Continued

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

4. Direction to Staffs to Develop a Master Plan for "Safe Walk to School" to Meet the Requirements of Chapter 1006.23, Florida Statutes, Hazardous Walking Conditions

The BCC and DSB heard a presentation from Larry Newsom, Director of Transportation, BCC, and Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, DSB, regarding a Master Plan for "Safe Walk to School" to Meet the Requirements of Chapter 1006.23, Florida Statutes, Hazardous Walking Conditions, and the BCC and DSB:

- A. Were advised by Mr. Newsom that a Master Plan will be developed and, as funds become available, sidewalks can be constructed or roadway shoulders improved to encourage walking, and shared or recreational paths can be developed to enable children to ride their bicycles to school;
- B. Were advised by Mr. Dennis that GIS mapping has given the DSB the ability to pinpoint the location of students, as well as which students walk to school and the routes they take;
- C. Heard the request from Commissioner Robinson that staff ensure inclusion of the Olive Road sidewalk project, which is on the TPO (*Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization*) agenda; and
- D. Following comments from Commissioner Robinson regarding the need for sidewalks on Olive Road, were advised by Mr. Newsom that the required corridor study is underway for improvements to Olive Road, from Old Palafox Highway to Scenic Highway, which includes sidewalks, bike lanes, and access management.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BCC AND THE DSB – Continued

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

5. Direct Staff to Look at Consolidation of Functions

The BCC and the DSB:

A. Discussed consolidation of the following functions:

- ◆ Escambia County Area Transportation (*Transit [ECAT]*) and School Bus Transportation
- ◆ Fleet Maintenance
- ◆ Employee Health Insurance
- ◆ Purchasing
- ◆ Information Technology
- ◆ Human Resources
- ◆ District Town Hall Meetings – School Board and County

B. Were advised by DSB Chairman Hightower that she has spoken with Superintendent Thomas and County Administrator McLaughlin concerning the possibility of consolidating ECAT and School Bus Transportation;

C. Were advised by Superintendent Thomas that the DSB is willing to study the feasibility of consolidating transportation and other functions; however, the DSB has a number of compliance issues that must be considered;

D. Were advised by County Administrator McLaughlin that the County, ECAT, and the Sheriff all have maintenance facilities and it might be possible to combine some of these facilities;

E. Were advised by School Board Member Moultrie that (*a representative of*) the Sheriff 's Office should be included in the establishment of a task force to consider consolidation;

F. Following comments from Commissioner Robinson concerning a joint Town Hall Meeting with the District 4 School Board Member, were advised by School Board Member Moultrie that she also supports joint Town Hall Meetings, and looks forward to District 3 Meetings with Commissioner Young;

(Continued on Page 5)

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BCC AND THE DSB – Continued

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

5. Continued...

- G. Were advised by Amy Lovoy, Bureau Chief, Management and Budget Services Bureau, regarding the possibility of consolidating employee health insurance, that a larger pool of participants could result in reduced costs;
- H. Were advised by School Board Member Slayton that staff should not be reduced to the point that services are diminished;
- I. Heard the request from Commissioner Valentino that the respective heads of budget and finance be directed to convene their own committee, with the Superintendent of Schools and the County Administrator, to address the functional elements of consolidation;
- J. Were advised by BCC Chairman Young that this issue can be discussed again at the next Joint Meeting of the BCC and DSB; and
- K. Heard the request from School Board Member Bergosh that the next Joint Meeting also include the Pensacola City Council.

6. Non-Agenda Issues

The BCC and DSB discussed non-agenda issues, and the BCC and DSB:

- A. Discussed the County's possible acquisition of the *(Old) Molino (School)* property and the Wedgewood School property, and the BCC and DSB:
 - (1) Were advised by Superintendent Thomas that the DSB is prepared to sell the properties because of the need for capital funds with which to build additional school facilities;
 - (2) Were advised by Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, DSB, that the DSB's target price for the Molino property is \$400,000; and
 - (3) Heard the suggestion from Chairman Young that the "team" *(BCC and DSB staff)* meet and review both properties *(Wedgewood Middle School and Old Molino School)*; and

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MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BCC AND THE DSB – Continued

AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

6. Continued...

A. Continued...

(4) Heard the request from Commissioner White that staff provide a recommendation for the second Regular Board Meeting in February (*February 19, 2009*), or the first Regular Board Meeting in March (*March 5, 2009*); and

B. Heard comments from Barbara Mayall concerning the proposed Pinestead Road-Longleaf Drive Corridor Project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Boards, DSB Chairman Hightower declared the Joint Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and the District School Board adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

Ernie Lee Magaha
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

By: _____



Marie Young, Chairman

Deputy Clerk

Approved: February 19, 2009