

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 10, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.
PATRIOT ACADEMY**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Marie Potts who then asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence. Board members present were Chair Potts, Vice Chairman Bill Jarnigan, Judy Cavanah, Randall Bradley, Jim Vines, Ralph Lowery and Jonathan Rogers. Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools and Secretary to the Board, was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Potts led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUSINESS

1. Capital Projects

Dr. Edmonds went over correspondence to the Board regarding the structure and process for identifying and addressing capital projects and maintenance needs. Dr. Edmonds pointed out that there is \$525,000 available through the capital projects funds provided separately from the school system budget through the county commission. He further pointed out that it was originally proposed to use \$500,000 of the funds along with funds from a grant hopefully secured for window replacements needed at several schools which was reported in last year's list of capital needs. Dr. Edmonds stated they were unable to secure the grant. The remaining \$25,000 was a match to obtain an additional \$25,000 from the county commission. He stated that the \$50,000 was to be used to obtain another \$50,000 from the Jefferson County Tennis Association. That \$100,000 would be used to apply for an additional \$50,000 from the United States Tennis Association. He further stated that if successful there would be \$150,000 to upgrade the tennis courts at Jefferson County High School.

Dr. Edmonds went over the outline of a proposed plan for utilizing funds that would be received from the county commission from their capital projects fund over the next three (3) years. He also went over suggested criteria for prioritizing projects. Dr. Edmonds stated that \$500,000 was available at the present time to address non-maintenance needs that are considered capital in nature.

Dr. Edmonds commented that there were structural issues that needed to be addressed on the football and baseball stadiums at Jefferson County High School as well as security in the schools. He commented that it was hard to address what needed to be done first with only \$500,000 to work with.

Business – Capital Projects - continued

Board member Bradley expressed his concerns over the windows in the gym at Maury Middle School and windows on the front of the building at Piedmont Elementary. He also pointed out that hand washing stations needed to be addressed at Dandridge Elementary.

Chair Potts commented that funds from the City of Dandridge mixed drink tax totaling \$80,000 could be used towards the replacement of windows at Maury Middle totaling \$40,000. She pointed out that this would be a good way to put the money back into the community. She further commented that the Baneberry mixed drink tax could supplement needs at White Pine. She stated that the Board needed to give some direction to Dr. Edmonds regarding the maintenance program. Chair Potts also mentioned the football stadium lights at Jefferson Middle School needed to be addressed. She also commented on the importance of secured entrances to all schools. There was discussion regarding intercom/communication upgrade in the schools.

Board member Bradley addressed structural issues with the football stadium at JCHS totaling \$440, 642. He stated that he felt the repair work was a priority and needed to be done. There was some discussion regarding the life span of the stadium once the repairs were made compared to building a new stadium. Michael Phagan, facilities supervisor, commented that the stadium could be used for an additional 20-25 years after repairs. He further commented that cost to replace the stadium would be between \$5M-\$6M with an additional \$1M for demolition.

Board member Cavanah commented that she was for sports but had a problem with spending that much money on the stadium when White Pine School had security issues that affected children every day. Several board members agreed that White Pine School did have issues that needed to be addressed not only with security but with the cafeteria. Board member Vines commented that the stadium needed to be taken care of in order to prevent an accident that might happen.

Board member Bradley made the motion to transfer funds designated for windows in the 2013-2014 capital projects funds for the remediation of the JCHS football stadium in order to address safety and structural degradation in the amount of \$440,642. Vice Chairman Jarnigan seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-1-1. Board member Cavanah voted against while board member Lowery abstained.

Chair Potts pointed out that \$59,000 was left from the transferred funds. She asked for the board's direction. Board member Vines recommended using the remaining funds on safety doors for the schools.

Business – Capital Projects – continued

Dr. Edmonds made the recommendation that any money left from the \$500,000 after the JCHS stadium repair be used to address security issues, entrance and exit, from the schools. He recommended taking the request to county commission at one time in order to transfer all the funds.

Vice Chairman Jarnigan made the motion to accept Dr. Edmond's recommendation. Board member Rogers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the \$500,000 the board would ask for from county commission for the upcoming 2014-2015 year.

Chair Potts pointed out that the total amount for the 2014-2015 improvement plan was \$618,008. She suggested that the JCHS baseball stadium be removed from the list and that football lights totaling \$90,000 at Jefferson Middle School be added. She pointed out that lighting falls in the category of security and the stadium is used by the community. Chair Potts stated that by taking out the JCHS baseball stadium renovations in the amount of \$213,908 from the \$618,008 and adding the \$90,000 for JMS footlights the total for the 2014-2015 capital improvement plan would be \$494,100.00. She pointed out that the JCHS baseball lighting was included in the total. She also commented that she wanted to honor the request from the principals regarding intercom/communication upgrades. She felt this was very important to address.

Board member Bradley made the motion to add window replacements on the front side of Piedmont Elementary in the amount of \$54,100, intercom/communication upgrade system wide in the amount of \$239,100, JCHS baseball lights in the amount of \$165,000 and Jefferson Middle School football lights in the amount of \$90,000 for a total of \$548,200.00 for the 2014-2015 capital projects plan. Board member Vines seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Potts suggested that Dr. Edmonds and the directors get a cost on getting the schools more secure for the third year plan.

2. Mixed Drink Tax

Dr. Edmonds stated that according to the Standard Banner on April 30, 2014 the City of Dandridge would be seeking an installment plan for the mixed drink tax owed to the school system through the county commission. He reported that the City of Dandridge owed approximately \$80,128 to the school system and the City of Baneberry owed \$53,384.18.

Business – Mixed Drink Tax – continued

Dr. Edmonds made the board aware of the \$200,000 of sales tax that had been removed from the 2014-2015 school budget due to the anticipation of lost revenue from the new Walmart in Hamblen County. He pointed out that he was concerned over the installment plan and how much the school system would get in installments. He further pointed out that the school system needed the money as soon as possible from the City of Dandridge and the City of Baneberry.

Darrell Helton, County Finance Director, reported that the City of Baneberry had requested an installment plan because they could not pay the entire amount at one time. He pointed out that the City of Dandridge had also requested an installment plan. Mr. Helton recommended that the school board discuss an appropriate pay back plan and make a recommendation to the city council in order to give them guidance. Mr. Helton pointed out that both cities would have to go to county commission for approval.

Chair Potts reiterated that the money could be used in the communities. She mentioned the fan at White Pine School and gym windows at Maury Middle School.

After some discussion, board member Rogers made the motion requesting the amount of \$80,128 currently owed by the City of Dandridge and \$53,384.18 currently owed by the City of Baneberry to the school system from the mixed drink tax to be paid in three (3) equal installments of \$26,709.33 for Dandridge and \$17,794.72 for Baneberry through the Jefferson County Finance Office to be deposited in the county school fund and that future collections of the tax be paid currently as received. Board member Lowery seconded the motion.

Board member Bradley was concerned over the cities being able to pay back the amount in a 3 year period. In his opinion, he felt they needed more time.

The motion passed 5-2 with board members Bradley and Jarnigan opposing.

Board member Cavanah recommended that the Cities of Dandridge and Baneberry come to the next school board meeting to discuss the request prior to going to the county commission. Chair Potts requested that Dr. Edmonds write a letter to both parties with the board's request.

Business - continued

3. Payment for the Entrance Road at Patriot Academy from Capital Outlay Note

Dr. Edmonds recommended that the board approve expenditures in the amount of \$113,609 from the capital outlay note for the exit driveway at Patriot Academy. He pointed out that \$133,785.23 was presently in the capital fund.

Board member Vines made the motion to accept Dr. Edmond's recommendation for the exit driveway at Patriot Academy in the amount of \$113,609 to be taken from the capital outlay note. Board member Rogers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned followed by a work session.

Anne Marie Potts, Chair

Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools &
Secretary to the Board

Date

Date