

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 17, 2016 – 6:30 P.M.
PATRIOT ACADEMY**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Brant Adams, Jefferson County High School student, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Dr. Carolyn Davis, Counselor from Northview Academy in Sevier County, addressed the board regarding the challenges of military children, their families and frequent relocations. She went over what the school system and administrators should know about the program.

SCOPE PARTICIPANTS

John Cagle, JCHS Assistant Principal and chaperone for the Student Congress on Policies in Education (SCOPE), introduced the SCOPE participants. Brant Adams, Bryson Jurek, and Tori Mullins gave a brief update of how they spent the day at SCOPE.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Jarnigan asked that Item #3 (Agreement for Architectural Service at White Pine School) under Items for Information be moved to Unfinished Business.

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Vines and second by Judy Cavanah, the board voted 5-0 to approve the agenda with the above change. (see attached)

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion by Judy Cavanah and second by Vice Chairman Vines, the board voted 5-0 to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. (see attached)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items for discussion.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

1. Chairman Jarnigan informed the board that Kenny Carr had been hired by the county commission as the Quality Control Manager for the White Pine School project.
2. Each board member received a current copy of the February financial reports. Joan McCoig from the county finance office stated that Mr. Potts, county finance director, had been informed that McFarland and Gann who conducts the yearly audit on the schools was going out of business. She asked that the board give Mr. Potts the authority to contact other firms in order to get this year's audit finished. Dr. Edmonds recommended that the board give Mr. Potts their approval.

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Vines and second by Judy Cavanah, the board voted 5-0 to give Langdon Potts, county finance director, the authority to contact other possible auditors as requested.

3. Agreement for Architectural Services at White Pine School was moved to Unfinished Business.
4. Each board member received the first draft copy of the 2016-2017 school system non-salaried budget for their review. Dr. Edmonds pointed out that at this time no new salary information had been received from the state. He went over the schedule for the 2016-2017 budget development and approval (see attached). He stated that he would send the board a copy of the schedule via e-mail.
5. Board member Potts requested information on the window replacement project and an update on the Rush Strong sewer system. Michael Phagan, facilities supervisor, went over the window replacement update presented to the board at the February 25, 2016 meeting (see attached). Mr. Phagan commented they had moved forward in the commitment to the state to make improvements to the existing sewer plant in order to get it in compliance. He pointed out they were in compliance for a while but issues had occurred. He stated he was getting ready to submit a proposal to make additional changes but pointed out they had just about run out of options. Mr. Phagan commented if they cannot get in compliance and the state will not agree to allow them to put in an engineered drain field, the sewer plant will have to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$200,000. He pointed out they were still trying to work towards a solution that would not require putting in a new sewer plant.

Items for Information – continued

6. Chairman Jarnigan suggested that school board members receive a raise in pay. He passed out information listing how much other boards in the county receive for attending meetings. He asked that the school board members review the information. Several board members commented they would not ask for any additional pay. Vice Chairman Vines commented that he would like to have something in board policy stating if a board member did not attend their meetings they would not receive their pay. He felt it wasn't fair to the members who did attend their meetings. The board agreed to send the policy to the Policy Committee for review.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Elementary Basketball Program – Randy Rogers

Randy Rogers, Athletic Director, passed out an accounting report showing a total profit of \$3,031.89 and updated the board on the 2015 Jefferson County elementary basketball program. He reported he had received nothing but positive feedback from coaches, fans, parents and players. He asked for the board's permission to continue the program for next year.

Board member Bradley and Vines expressed their concerns regarding the schools not receiving a share of the profits made from gate receipts. Mr. Rogers responded that it was not included in the agreement. Mr. Bradley asked where the \$3,031.89 profit went. Mr. Rogers responded that it went to the Town of Dandridge. Mr. Bradley was also concerned about calls he had received regarding uniforms, the \$40 entry fee and some of the schools not having basketballs for practice. Mr. Rogers stated there were some issues of which they were trying to resolve with the uniforms being the biggest weakness. After more discussion, Mr. Bradley stated he wanted clarification on some things discussed before the program was approved for next year. Vice Chairman Vines commented that he would eventually like to see the program in the schools with all the profit made going to the schools. Mr. Rogers responded that the board needed to consider all the responsibility and expense involved in having the games played at the schools. Mr. Rogers asked Dr. Edmonds if it was necessary that a school employee be present at practices and games if a non-employee of the school system had been designated as the coach. Dr. Edmonds asked that Mr. Rogers put something in writing and send to him for his review. Board member Bradley asked that Mr. Rogers work on the issues discussed including the schools getting some of the profit and bring back a proposal for the board's review at the next meeting.

New Business - continued

2. Approval – 2016-2017 School Calendar

Upon motion by Randall Bradley and second by Vice Chairman Vines, the board voted 5-0 to approve the 2016-2017 school calendar as submitted. (see attached)

3. Approval – Budget Amendments

Upon motion by Anne Marie Potts and second by Randall Bradley, the board voted 5-0 to approve General Purpose Fund 141 Budget Amendment #12 as submitted. (see attached)

Upon motion by Anne Marie Potts and second by Randall Bradley, the board voted 5-0 to approve Federal Purpose Fund 142 Budget Amendment #7 as submitted. (see attached)

4. Chamber of Commerce Sponsorship Dues – (March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017)
\$200

Upon motion by Anne Marie Potts and second by Vice Chairman Vines, the board voted 5-0 to approve the Chamber of Commerce Sponsorship Dues in the amount of \$200 from March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017.

5. Resolution No. 2016-34 – Declare Vehicles Surplus – Facilities Department

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Vines and second by Randall Bradley, the board voted 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 2016-34 declaring a 1991 Ford 350 Van – Vin #1FTFE2447MH822532 and a 1985 GMC Dump Truck – Vin #1GDHC34MOFV600324 from the facilities department surplus property. (see attached)

6. Board member Potts requested that the 2016-2017 budget information be sent to the board on Friday prior to April 15th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Cope and Associates of Construction Design Document Prepared for Submittal to State Fire Marshal and Architectural Agreement

Dr. Edmonds stated that Jim Hinton from Cope and Associates was not present at the meeting because the architectural agreement with them had not been completed due to some legal issues. Dr. Edmonds commented that he would be remiss if he did not let the board

Unfinished Business - continued

know where they stood and the dilemma they were fixing to get in. He referred back to the October 19, 2015 Budget County Commission meeting motion that David Seal made concerning the \$2M to be spent for the White Pine School project. The motion provided that, "Jefferson County attorneys review the construction contract(s) language, verify compliance with applicable state and federal law, including but not limited to labor law, and verify that said contract or contracts are compliant with state and federal regulations." Dr. Edmonds stated that the requirement as stated had to be followed because it was stated in the resolution. He explained the difference between a construction manager and a general contractor. He pointed out that a construction manager was the school board's agent, they bid out the project, get bonding, take care of any liability insurance and liquidated damages. He stated if a general contractor was used the architects were more involved because of having to take care of things that placed the burden and legal responsibility on them. He further stated the school board's direction was toward using a construction manager for the White Pine project but the agreement looked like they were using a general contractor. Dr. Edmonds commented that Cope and Associates were having a difficult time securing approval with the agreement. He stated the agreement should not hold an architect responsible for things they were not responsible for. He asked that the board consider having an interpretation from the school board attorney since it was a school project. Dr. Edmonds stated that time was of the essence.

Board member Potts was against including the school board attorney because in her opinion it was a legal conflict between the architect and the county attorney. Dr. Edmonds responded that when requirements in the agreement had been addressed but continued disagreement creating an impasse existed it was time to secure assistance from the school board attorney. Board member Potts commented that any attorney had the right to review an agreement in the best interest of the client. Dr. Edmonds responded the school board was also the client because they were putting in \$1M of the funding for the project and it is a school building. He felt the agreement had been delayed unnecessarily.

Vice Chairman Vines made the motion to authorize Dr. Edmonds to contact the school board attorney and have him to contact the county attorney in order to resolve the impasse regarding the architectural agreement. Board member Cavanah seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-1. Board member Potts strongly disagreed.

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ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Bill Jarnigan, Chairman

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

Date

Date