

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING OF THE  
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 – 6:30 P.M.  
PATRIOT ACADEMY**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Bill Jarnigan called the meeting to order and then asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence. Board members present were Bill Jarnigan, Dusty Cox, Maurice Solomon, Randall Bradley, Anne Marie Potts, Jim Vines and Denise Fair. Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools and Secretary to the Board, was also present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Bill Jarnigan led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR**

At this time, Mr. Jarnigan asked that Jim Vines take over for the election of the chairperson and vice chairperson. Mr. Vines opened the floor for nominations. Bill Jarnigan made the motion to nominate Jim Vines as chairperson. Board member Solomon seconded the motion. With no other nominations, Jim Vines was elected as chairperson by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Vines opened the floor for nominations for vice chairperson. Board member Maurice Solomon made the motion to nominate Bill Jarnigan as vice chairperson. Board member Cox seconded the motion. With no other nominations, Bill Jarnigan was elected vice chairperson by a vote of 6-0-1. Board member Jarnigan abstained.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Recommendation on Non-Enrollment of Student at Jefferson County High School

Dr. Edmonds went over information the board had previously received regarding the board's consideration of the expulsion of a student from another high school for the first semester of this school year.

He pointed out that an appeal on the JCHS principal's denial of enrollment to the student was held on August 24, 2016. Dr. Edmonds stated that after the appeal he reviewed all the facts and information available and made the decision that an expulsion for the first semester of the 2016-2017 school year was warranted and should be taken before the Board of Education. He pointed out the mother was notified of his decision in writing to take his

**Business – Non-Enrollment of Student at JCHS continued**

recommendation to the school board. He stated the mother had been advised in writing that she could attend the school board meeting and address the board. Dr. Edmonds further stated the mother was also advised to notify the central office in order to be placed on the agenda and a follow-up call was made. He pointed out the mother never called to be placed on the agenda and she was not present at the meeting.

Dr. Edmonds recommended that the Board of Education uphold the expulsion and permit the student to enroll at Jefferson County High School for the second semester starting in January 2017.

Board member Potts asked if there were any services that could be provided to the student. Dr. Edmonds responded that Mandy Schneitman was checking to see if there was anything available they could make a referral to.

Upon motion by Maurice Solomon and second by Randall Bradley, the board voted 6-0-1 to accept Dr. Edmond's recommendation to uphold the expulsion and permit the student to enroll for the second semester starting in January 2017. Board member Potts abstained.

2. Differentiated Pay Plan

Sherry Finchum went over the Differentiated Pay Plan for the new board members that had been approved and submitted to the state. There was discussion and concerns from the board regarding teacher/principal absences as stated in #3 on the General Eligibility Requirements and the number of days that a teacher has to be present in order to qualify. Board member Potts stated that she didn't think it was fair to the teachers to put an absentee requirement on them in order to earn money. She stated she had contacted the State Department of Education in order to see if districts were allowed to make changes to the Differentiated Pay Plan after it had been approved and their response was they could with a copy of the change.

Board member Potts made the motion to amend the previous motion passed to approve the Differentiated Pay Plan by deleting the language in item #3 from the General Eligibility Requirements for the Differentiated Pay Plan. Board member Cox seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0-1. Board member Fair abstained.

3. Capital Projects Plan

Dr. Edmonds presented a proposal for a 23 year capital plan beginning 2017-2018. He stated that county commission was happy to see a comprehensive approach to a long range plan when the board previously presented the \$28M list. Dr. Edmonds stated the proposal could be changed in any way the board wanted to. He recommended the board consider a comprehensive long range strategic plan in order to keep the school system in good shape by making improvements in a timely fashion. He pointed out a lot needed to be accomplished.

Board member Bradley stated the plan was good but it would not work. He pointed out the plan was too long and could be lost in the "shuffle". He also pointed out that things would change in 23 years including school board and county commission members. He felt more could be done with a short term plan. He had concerns regarding the funding strategy presented by Dr. Edmonds. He felt the funding was very vague as presented and could not be funded to its entirety.

Board member Solomon stated that he supported a short term plan.

Board member Potts asked who put the plan and funding together. Dr. Edmonds responded that Steve Wolfenbarger, Michael Phagan, Don Devine and himself had put the plan together based on information from "School Dude" and requests from principals and teachers. Ms. Potts was concerned over why it had taken so long to put the plan together. She pointed out the board had talked for months about coming up with a priority plan for county commission. Dr. Edmonds responded that it took time to look objectively at the problems presented. He apologized for taking so long but stated there was approximately \$29M involved in the plan which took a long time to project out over 23 years and put a price on what it would be. Ms. Potts asked Dr. Edmonds if it was his or the board's responsibility to put down addition of classrooms. Dr. Edmonds responded that he thought it was his responsibility to make recommendations. Ms. Potts responded back that in policy it was the function of the board. She pointed out this plan was \$800,000 more than the plan they looked at two weeks ago. She asked that Dr. Edmonds explain specifically where the increase was. Dr. Edmonds responded the board wanted a realistic cost. He stated that he was not able to give her the specific line items at this time. He pointed out that it would be improper for them to come in under price on items to make it work. He stated that he felt they had been realistic in terms of the timing and how much money it would take.

Vice Chairman Jarnigan made the motion to accept Dr. Edmonds' plan to be presented to county commission. Board member Cox seconded the motion.

**Business – Capital Projects Plan - continued**

Board member Potts asked that she be able to present her plan since she was the one that asked for the item to be placed on the agenda. Vice Chairman Jarnigan asked Ms. Potts who helped her with her plan. Ms. Potts responded that she had done it.

Board member Bradley requested that Ms. Potts be allowed to present her plan out of common courtesy. He stated that personally he could not support Vice Chairman Jarnigan's motion.

Chairman Vines agreed with Mr. Bradley that Ms. Potts should be allowed to present her plan. Mr. Vines commented that he thought there were good things on the long range plan as well as the short term plan.

Board member Bradley pointed out the long range plan had previously been handed out to county commission in a different format. He stated the board should have had this document the last time the board met so they could have had some direction to go in.

Board member Potts stated that her interest is to do something now and not postponing it. She stated that county commission is interested in a prioritized list. She further stated the board needed to insure the projects they approve are completed on time. She commented that she included items the board had talked about for years, security issue items and group window replacement for all schools. Ms. Potts commented that she wanted to get started this year. She stated there are funding sources available from school capital, the reserve that was placed in the budget from the 2015-2016 year totaling \$40,000, money from the freshman academy, money from the Jefferson County High School renovation as well as money from Building 8. She stated they would need to use basically \$1,000,000 from fund balance if the board is interested in the plan still leaving \$1,000,000 in fund balance in order to address unknowns like the HVAC and roofing. Ms. Potts pointed out the board had received information in January saying the roof restoration had been completed. She pointed out the plan could be changed in any way. She stated that she felt like \$1,000,000 had been rolling over in fund balance on an annual basis.

Board member Cox called for the question. The motion to accept Dr. Edmonds capital projects plan and present it to county commission failed 4-3. Board members Potts, Bradley, Fair and Solomon voted against.

**Business – Capital Projects Plan**

Board member Potts then presented her three (3) year plan which listed the items suggested by her at the August 13, 2016 meeting. She pointed out she tried to be consistent in the amount of money that would be used over the three year period. She stated the top four items for the 2016-2017 year had been discussed for a long time and the other items were energy efficient and security items.

Board member Potts made the motion to approve the three (3) year capital projects plan to send to county commission with funding. Board member Bradley seconded the motion.

Board member Fair asked how many years out the county commission wanted in a long range plan. Langdon Potts, County Finance Director, responded the county commission was more concerned about a priority list in his opinion.

Vice Chairman Jarnigan pointed out that Ms. Potts' plan included taking funds out of fund balance. Mr. Jarnigan stated that in his opinion they should only spend the \$200,000 they currently have for capital projects, discuss the short term plan and taking money out of the fund balance later. He also stated that taking the funding out of fund balance would not allow White Pine School to be fully addressed.

Board member Potts pointed out that currently there is available \$2,694,186 to be used for the students. She stated in her opinion it was important to address the other schools whose needs have been overlooked.

Board member Bradley commented that in his opinion the board should approach county commission asking for additional funding for the White Pine School project. He commented that he wanted to help White Pine School but he felt county commission needed to be involved in the process in order to complete the White Pine School renovation.

Chairman Vines asked about the time line for the baseball stadium and lift system for the Performing Arts Center. Board member Potts responded her thought was to allocate the funding to begin next summer. She pointed out all the projects could not get done in the school year.

The motion to approve the three (3) year capital projects plan to send to county commission with funding passed 5-2. Board members Jarnigan and Cox opposed.

Vice Chairman Jarnigan made the motion to fix the Jefferson County High School baseball stadium not to exceed \$200,000. Board member Solomon seconded the motion.

**Business - continued**

Board member Potts commented that the board had just approved a \$1.5M three year plan for 2016-2017 and her objective was to do something now for the students without delay. She stated that she wanted to use the \$200,000 in addition to other funds that are available in order to fund the \$1.5M plan for this year.

Board member Bradley commented that he would rather see the motion include the total amount of \$214,000 to fix the baseball stadium instead of \$200,000. He asked where the \$14,000 would come. Chairman Vines responded possibly from fund balance.

Board member Cox commented that he would have a hard time approving paving at JCHS and a lift system for the performing arts center at JCHS when there are no science labs at White Pine School.

The motion to fix the Jefferson County High School baseball stadium not to exceed \$200,000 passed 5-2. Board members Potts and Bradley opposed.

Board member Potts suggested removing the paving for Jefferson County High School totaling \$600,000 and the \$200,000 from the baseball stadium from the 3 year plan list for 2016-2017 leaving a funding of \$726,188. She went over a list of capital funds available that she had received from the county finance office. She pointed out there was \$2,154,000 in fund balance, capital outlay money of \$200,000 that has been spent, White Pine pre-construction money totaling \$40,840, Rush Strong sewer plant of \$74,468, freshman academy of \$116,762, high school renovation of \$48,081, Building 8 of \$34,096 and White Pine capital schools of \$25,939.

Board member Potts made the motion to fund the 2016-2017 projects deleting the paving at JCHS for a total of \$726,188 to be funded using the reserve from the 2015-2016 budget of \$40,840 and using \$685,348 from the fund balance. She pointed out this would leave \$1,468,000 in fund balance.

Langdon Potts, County Finance Director, commented there were specific things they were going to do with the \$40,840 in the reserve account. He suggested not using that.

Board member Bradley seconded the motion and the motion failed 4-3. Board members Bradley, Potts and Solomon voted for and board members Vines, Cox, Fair and Jarnigan opposed.

**Business – Capital Projects Plan - continued**

4. Amend JCHS Paving Funding Request

Dr. Edmonds addressed the JCHS paving funding request approved by the board on June 27, 2016 regarding possible receipt and disposition of funds recovered from legal action against Tennessee Risk Management Trust and Travelers Indemnity Company. The motion was for any funds received from the litigation be returned to county commission as repayment toward the advancement of funds for Building 8 at Jefferson County High School. Dr. Edmonds stated the county commission reversed the board's motion and voted to allow the school board to receive the proceeds from the Travelers lawsuit for paving at JCHS and the county commission would receive the \$368,814 retainage fund from the JCHS renovation project. There was no action by the board to amend the request.

5. Overnight Field Trip – JCHS FFA – TN State Fair Judging Competition, Nashville, TN September 11-12, 2016 (FFA will pay all expenses except meals)

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Jarnigan and second by Maurice Solomon, the board voted 7-0 to approve the overnight field trip as submitted. (see attached)

6. Board member Potts requested that Board Policy 1.400 School Board Meetings and 1.403 Agendas be placed on the next board agenda.

7. The next board meeting was scheduled for September 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Patriot Academy.

8. Ms. Roserie, parent of the student expelled from another high school for the first semester, addressed the board in an appeal to get her daughter enrolled at Jefferson County High School. The board at the beginning of the meeting had already voted 6-0-1 to accept the recommendation of Dr. Edmonds to uphold the expulsion and permit the student to enroll for the second semester in January 2017. The parent was not present at the beginning of the meeting but did arrive later and the board agreed to allow her speak.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m..

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Jim Vines, Chairman

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

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Date

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Date