

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Vines who then asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence. Board members present were Chairman Vines, Vice Chairman Bill Jarnigan, Randall Bradley, Dusty Cox, and Anne Marie Potts. Board member Denise Fair came in after the meeting started. Board member Maurice Solomon was absent from the meeting. Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools and Secretary to the Board, was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Bill Jarnigan led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Vines recognized the award presented to the Board of Education by The Lewis Group, architects for the renovation of Jefferson County High School, for receiving the TSBA 2016 School of the Year Award for Excellence in Architectural Design.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Jarnigan and second by Dusty Cox, the board approved the agenda as submitted 5-0. (attached)

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Jarnigan and second by Dusty Cox, the board voted 5-0 to approve the consent agenda as submitted. (attached)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items for discussion.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

1. Each board member received information for their review regarding the Professional Educators Collaborative Conferencing Act (PECCA).

Items for Information - continued

2. Each board member received a copy of the 2016 TSIN Mini-grant Program sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Authority designed to fund STEM learning projects in Tennessee classrooms and schools.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval – General Purpose Fund 141 Budget Amendment #7

Upon motion by Dusty Cox and second by Vice Chairman Jarnigan, the board voted 6-0 to approve General Purpose Fund 141 Budget Amendment #7 as submitted. (attached)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. White Pine School

Langdon Potts, County Finance Director, updated the board on bid openings for the White Pine School renovation. He reported the current total budget was \$2.8M but after the bid opening the total budget with all alternates was at \$3.3M and did not include any contingency. He pointed out they were \$526,000 over budget on the total project.

Tony Pettit, BurWil Construction Manager, passed out information regarding estimates as of August 2016 for the additions and renovations at White Pine School. He pointed out that the corridor with elevator totaling \$130,000 could be removed and replaced with an exterior handicapped sidewalk with stairs. Board member Cox commented that he was not in agreement with that. Board member Potts asked if there would be a canopy. Mr. Pettit responded there would not be a canopy.

Board member Bradley asked what happened to the \$2.8M figure they had previously been given. Mr. Pettit responded that estimates were missed. Board member Bradley pointed out that if the board had been given good numbers to begin with the project would have been properly funded. Board member Potts pointed out they were only funded for \$2.8M so nothing could be started until the project is funded. She commented that when the architect selection started there were other architects who had plans to build the eight (8) classrooms and renovate the kitchen area that were not as complicated as this one. She pointed out the contract with the architect stated they would come up with a plan within budget. She expressed concern over the fact that they had not done that. She commented that the board needed to decide what they could do to take care of the students at White Pine School.

Unfinished Business – White Pine School

Vice Chairman Jarnigan stated that he had been against taking funds out of the fund balance for capital projects until he saw where the renovation at White Pine School stood. He stated that the board had no choice but to take funds from the fund balance or go back to county commission and ask for additional funding in order to finish the project.

Board member Potts expressed concerns over the open corridor for the special needs students at White Pine School and there being no contingency built into the plan. Board member Fair asked how much it would cost to start the whole process over. She agreed that something needed to be done. Board member Cox expressed disagreement with the open corridor and commented that it was not an option.

Board member Potts asked Mr. Pettit how much contingency they should have. Mr. Pettit responded 3%.

Chairman Vines asked how much was in the fund balance. Mr. Potts responded there was \$656,000 available after the required amount that has to be maintained.

Board member Cox suggested approaching county commission for additional funding.

Board member Bradley asked what the base bid of \$2.8M would build. Mr. Pettit responded they could build the base bid and alternate 3 which was the band room and still have \$25,000 for contingency. Mr. Bradley asked if that included the elevator totaling \$130,000. Mr. Pettit responded that it did not. Mr. Bradley agreed that the corridor and elevator should be included. Mr. Pettit pointed out that including alternate 3 might not be feasible after adding the \$130,000 back for the elevator. Mr. Bradley commented that in his opinion they would have to go back to county commission or use funds from the fund balance.

Mr. Bradley requested the total amount needed to fund the total project. After adding the \$130,000 for the corridor and \$99,780 for contingency, Ms. Potts stated the cost would be \$3,556,387 for the total project.

Vice Chairman Jarnigan made the motion to ask county commission for \$375,000 to fund the White Pine School renovation and the school board to fund \$375,000 from their fund balance for a total of \$750,000 in order to fund alternates 1, 2, and 3. Board member Cox seconded the motion.

Unfinished Business – White Pine School - continued

There was a question from board member Potts regarding the maintenance department getting involved in working on the roof at White Pine School and if they had time to do that. Mr. Pettit responded it would be around a \$30,000 savings for the school system's maintenance department to work on the roof. Mr. Phagan, Facilities Supervisor, responded they were using the same crew they used for the log cabin project. Ms. Potts was concerned with the warranty on the roof and who it would be guaranteed by. Mr. Phagan responded it would be guaranteed by the manufacturer. She had concerns regarding the installation by the maintenance department.

Board member Fair asked if there was any way to stop the capital projects the board had already voted on and give that money back to White Pine School. She pointed out that she had concerns in the beginning when the board voted to fund the capital projects without knowing the exact funding for the White Pine School renovation. Chairman Vines pointed out they would have to have five (5) board members to vote to rescind that motion. Board member Potts commented that it would have to be the entire motion which also included the \$800,000 in reserve.

The motion to ask county commission for \$375,000 to help fund alternates 1, 2, and 3 for the White Pine School renovation and the school board to fund \$375,000 from their fund balance for a total of \$750,000 in order to fund the complete project failed 3-3. Board members Vines, Cox and Jarnigan voted for the motion. Board members Bradley, Potts and Fair voted against.

Board member Cox made the motion to go to county commission and ask for \$750,000 to fund the complete project at White Pine School.

There was discussion from board member Bradley regarding what the \$2.8M would fund. He pointed out the county commission had approved the plan for the kitchen renovation, corridor and four (4) classrooms. He suggested releasing the \$800,000 in reserve in order to begin the \$2.8M project.

After the discussion, board member Cox rescinded his motion.

Tony Pettit pointed out the bid prices just received for the alternates would only be held for about 45 days.

Unfinished Business – White Pine School - continued

Board member Jarnigan made the motion to direct Dr. Edmonds to go to county commission and present the \$755,000 amount needed to complete the White Pine School project and ask them how much they would give in order to help complete the project. Board member Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-2. Board members Vines, Fair, Cox and Jarnigan voted for the motion. Board members Potts and Bradley voted against.

Board member Potts requested that a timeline of completion of the capital projects approved by the board be added to the December agenda.

A called meeting was scheduled for November 22, 2016 to address the White Pine School project. Dr. Edmonds stated that he would check with Albert Harb, legal counsel, to see if he could be present to meet with the board in Executive Session. The timeline requested by Ms. Potts will also be on the agenda.

The December regular meeting was scheduled for December 15, 2016.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Jim Vines, Chairman

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

Date

Date

