

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 22, 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, Anne Marie Potts, Denise Fair and Maurice Solomon. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools and Secretary to the Board, was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Denise Fair led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Vines requested that item #1 – Approval of Professional Educators Collaborative Conferencing Act (PECCA) Special Question Committee Members be removed and added to the December agenda.

Upon motion by Dusty Cox and second by Maurice Solomon, the board voted 7-0 to approve the agenda with the removal of item #1.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. White Pine School

Dr. Edmonds updated the board on his meeting with the County Commission Budget Committee on November 14th with the board's directive to present the \$755,000 amount needed to complete the White Pine School project and asking them how much they would give in order to help complete the project. Dr. Edmonds stated that action was taken from the budget committee to send the action of the White Pine School funding and renovation back to the school board to ask the Cope Architectural Firm to redesign the project to stay under the \$2.8M already authorized. He further stated the committee did not want to cut any of the eight classrooms or other facilities slated for the renovation, they did not want to slow down critical work on the kitchen and asked for new plans within thirty days. He went on to state the subject of the county commission supplying funds for a new architect was mentioned.

Jim Hinton from Cope Associates passed out a copy of the contract between the Board of Education and Cope Architectural Firm as requested by some of the board members.

White Pine School – continued

Mr. Hinton addressed the board and expressed his concerns over how high the bids had come in for the renovation project at White Pine School. He pointed out the estimates provided by Cope to the Board in February 2016 were based on their professional judgement, previous projects and coordination with local contractors. He commented the last estimate presented in February to the board was \$2,989,164 which included all the alternates. Mr. Hinton pointed out the construction market is extremely busy now and prices have increased rapidly. He stated they did not see that coming but should have. Mr. Hinton pointed out their design is efficient and is patterned after the work done at Mt. Horeb Elementary. Mr. Hinton went over two different options for the board's review. He stated that option 1 placed the addition they had designed to the west of the school. He pointed out this option involved building a large retaining wall which would be very disruptive to the educational process. The next option was to place the eight (8) classrooms and band room on the east side. He pointed out this option was easier to connect to the existing building but there is a problem with the three portables being located in that area which would have to be relocated somewhere else on the campus during the construction. He also stated a retaining wall would also have to be built and this option would also be disruptive to the educational process. He pointed out the current design is the most functionally efficient, the least disruptive to the educational process and the least costly. Mr. Hinton stated the board is faced with cutting the program, cutting the size or cutting the quality. He asked for further direction from the board.

Board member Cox commented that he was opposed to cutting the program and quality. There was discussion regarding the cost for option 1 and option 2. Mr. Hinton commented that option 1 or option 2 could not be done for \$2.8M. Board member Bradley wanted to know what the \$2.8M would do. Mr. Pettit, construction manager, responded it would take care of the kitchen, four classrooms and the connector. Board member Potts pointed out that the motion made by the board was for a kitchen renovation, kitchen equipment, eight (8) classrooms and band room in the amount of \$2,844,750. She stated the board needed to be responsible for the action that was taken and set the budget at \$2.8M. She referred to the current architectural contract where it states it is the architects responsibility to draw a plan within the board's budget. She had concerns about ever getting any additional funding from county commission.

Bill Walker, Principal of White Pine School, addressed the board regarding the White Pine School renovation. He expressed his concerns about the inadequate kitchen they currently have, programming and other inadequacies of the building. He pointed out there had not been much change in the last 32 years. Mr. Walker commented there had been discussions in the past regarding removing portables at schools but White Pine School had never been mentioned.

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He asked that the board consider the things he had mentioned when making their decision. He thanked the board for everything they do for the school system.

Board member Fair asked Mr. Walker what the most important thing was regarding the renovation. Mr. Walker responded the kitchen renovation was the most important followed by the band room and academic rooms.

Vice Chairman Jarnigan commented the \$715,000 designated for capital projects could be used to complete the project at White Pine School. He recommended completing the two top capital projects which were windows at Piedmont and the lift system for the JCHS performance arts center and use the remaining balance to complete White Pine School. Board member Fair felt the lift system at JCHS could wait. She commented that White Pine School should be the board's number one priority.

Board member Cox made the motion to amend the previous capital projects motion so the \$646,000 not allocated or spent be redirected to the White Pine School renovation project. Board member Solomon seconded the motion.

Board member Cox commented that it was time to move forward without compromises. Board member Potts pointed out the \$715,000 for capital projects was a directive from county commission and county commission had approved the \$715,000 capital projects plan. She commented the problems Mr. Walker addressed would not be solved with eight (8) classrooms. She stated in her opinion the plan by Cope was not a good decision for White Pine School and was not within their budget. Ms. Potts further stated the board could not continue to "pass the buck" to county commission.

The motion passed 5-2. Board members Vines, Solomon, Jarnigan, Cox and Fair voted for the motion. Board members Bradley and Potts opposed.

There was discussion regarding the amount of additional funding totaling \$104,000 that would be needed to complete the project at White Pine School which possibly could be taken from the fund balance.

Board member Potts pointed out that Mt. Horeb Elementary with 77,000 sq. ft. was built for \$10M and they were up to almost \$4M for 17,000 sq. ft. at White Pine School. She felt in her opinion they would be looking at solving problems within the next five years for overcrowding again at White Pine School. She further pointed out this cost did not include the

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contractor putting on the new roof. Mr. Phagan addressed the board regarding savings by utilizing the maintenance department and making it possible to install a better roof.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Jim Vines, Chairman

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

Date

Date