

MINUTES
Special School Board Meeting
November 8, 2011

This meeting, held at the St. Johns County School Board Administrative Center, 40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, Florida, was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairman Bill Fehling. Dr. Joyner called roll; all board members were present. Also in attendance was School Board Attorney Frank D. Upchurch, III, district staff, community members, and media representatives.

Opening Comments

Mr. Mignon commented on last week's redistricting meeting. Mr. Allen noted that redistricting is challenging. Mrs. Wright announced she will not run again in 2012, and that she can only vote for Plan "C" or Plan "F". Mrs. Slough noted more compact districts serves our children best; she will support Plan "C". Mr. Fehling introduced Ms. Vicky Oakes, Supervisor of Elections, Mr. John Libby and County Commissioner Ken Bryan.

SBA 1. Consideration of Making Redistricting Recommendation

Mr. Upchurch detailed this request, noting that today's meeting is to allow the school board members to discuss the plans and suggest a recommended plan to the County Commission. He added that this is not a final vote.

Public Comments

Mr. Fehling called for public comment; the following came forward:

1. Rev. Ron Rawls, 85 M.L. King Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084, representing St. Paul's A.M.E. Church, spoke in support of Revised Plan "E".
2. Mr. Greg White, 905 W. Pearl Street, St. Augustine, FL, 32084, representing CRA and Weed & Seed organizations, spoke in favor of Revised Plan "E".
3. Mr. Alan Kelso, 20214 Harbor Vista Circle, spoke in favor of Revised Plan "C".
4. Ms. Dwala Willis, 895 S. Orange Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084, spoke in support of Revised Plan "E".
5. Ms. Judith Seraphin, 102 South Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084, spoke in favor of Revised Plan "E".
6. Ms. Ina Bockman, 833 W. 3rd Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084, spoke in favor of Revised Plan "E".
7. Mr. Robert T. Smith, 175-A Palmer Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084, spoke in favor of Revised Plan "C".

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8. Mr. Bruce Maguire, 11 Surfside Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32080, spoke in favor of Revised Plan “C”.
9. Mr. Kenneth A. McClain, Sr., 1077 Collier Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32084, spoke in favor of Revised Plan “E”.
10. Mr. Byron Hodges, 69 Washington Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084, representing St. Mary’s Baptist Church and the Pastors United organization, spoke in favor of Revised Plan “E”.
11. Pastor Rick Torrence, 456 Sebastian Square, St. Augustine, FL 32095, representing the NAACP and the Hastings Ministerial Alliance, spoke in favor of Revised Plan “E”.

As there were no more speakers, Mr. Fehling closed public comment and thanked those who gave public input.

Mr. Fehling repeated his remarks from the November 1, 2011 meeting. He noted the school board is responsible for all children, not just those in their district, and he believes the board makes their decisions based on what is good for all children. He continues to support Revised Plan “C”. Mrs. Wright reminded all that school board members are voted by district constituents; county commissioners are elected county-wide. Mr. Allen stated that Revised Plan “C” would be his first choice, noting that the only elected position affected by redistricting would be school board members, as all other county positions are elected county-wide. Mr. Mignon stated he favors Revised Plan “C”. Mrs. Slough noted her respect for the work of Rev. Rawls with our children. She noted only school board members are affected by this redistricting, and stated her support of Revised Plan “C”. She asked Mr. Libby again if any of our plans are in violation of voting rights laws. Mr. Libby stated Revised Plans “C” and “E” meet all laws. Mr. libby added that Plan “F” was submitted by Mr. Brad Nelson, and Plans “G” and “H” were submitted by Mr. Randy Covington.

Mrs. Slough motioned to recommend Revised Plan “C”, Mrs. Wright seconded. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Fehling asked Mr. Upchurch to draw up the appropriate documents to forward to the county.

Closing Comments

Dr. Joyner noted that the December meeting date will not be set until the Reorganization meeting on November 22nd. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Superintendent

Chairman

Date Approved