

MINUTES
School Board Workshop
September 27, 2011

This workshop, held in the auditorium of the St. Johns County School Board Administrative Center, 40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, Florida, was called to order by Chairman Bill Fehling at 6:00 p.m. 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. Allen thanked all who worked on this process. Mrs. Wright reported attending a Value Adjustment Board meeting and noted that the 2010 tax roll was finally approved. Mrs. Slough thanked all for the community input and pledged that the school board will do all they can for the children. Mr. Fehling thanked the zoning staff. He reminded all of the workshop protocol, noting tonight is an informational meeting for the board as well as the public.

Zoning

Dr. Joyner thanked the board for their transparency in this process, noting that the vote will not take place until the November board meeting. He then asked to explain why this rezoning was necessary. He presented the district's five-year enrollment, noting substantial growth. He reported that PECO funds in 2006 were \$40M; this year, they legislature decided they would total \$515,000; thus, this is why another school cannot be built based on the decisions made outside our local control. At this time, Mr. Forson detailed enrollment and proposed zoning plans A through H.

Mr. Fehling called for public comment, asking that public comments be limited to three minutes. The following came forward:

1. Ronette Heinrich, 15 Bridge Street, St. Augustine, FL, 32084, spoke against R.B. Hunt rezoning.

Other Growth Areas

Mr. Forson reminded all these changes would take place in the 2012-13 school year and academy students would still be allowed to attend as capacity exists. He reviewed Plans A through G. Mr. Fehling called for public comment; the following came forward:

1. Heather Little, 87 Pinewoods Street, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081, spoke in favor of Plan F.
2. Jim Kowalski, 428 Chicopee Court, Fruit Cove, Florida, 32259, spoke against Plan C.
3. Sri Rajasekaran, 239 Cornwall Drive, Ponte Vedra, FL, 32801, spoke in favor of the Austin Park neighborhood remaining zoned for PV/PV Rawlings.
4. Bette Smith, 1289 Degrove Road, Fruit Cove, FL 32259, spoke in favor of Plan A.
5. Cinde White, 1224 Spring Branch Road, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plan C.

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6. Bryan Greene, 1349 Honeysuckle Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plan C and in favor of Plan G.
7. Monica Bridgewater, 1211 Spring Branch Road, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plan C.
8. Jose A. Sanchez, 1113 Buckbean Branch Lane East, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plan C.
9. Jenny Mahne, 196 Islesbrook Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plan A and in favor of Plans B or C.
10. Sam Mathies, 124 E. Berkswell Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke about attendance zone rules.
11. Traci Mathies, 124 E. Berkswell Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against rezoning Durbin Crossing.
12. Jamie Mahne, 196 Islesbrook Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke in favor of Plans A and B.
13. Jason Lewis, 262 Willow Winds, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plan A and in favor of Plan C.
14. Allison Kennedy, 228 Honeysuckle Way, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plan C and in favor of Plan A, believing it is unfair to shift burden on Julington Creek Plantation.
15. Paige Unkefer, 409 Standing Oak Court, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plan C and in favor of Plan G.
16. Chris Lapinskie, 212 Berry Farm Lane, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against rezoning.
17. Scot Ecker, 113 Cypress Landing, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke in favor of Plans B and C.
18. Justine Allen, 1401 Shootingstar Lane, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against rezoning.
19. Kerry Hale, 924 Dewberry Drive South, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plan C.
20. Lisa West, 1037 Buckbean Branch Lane West, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plan C.
21. Daniel Watkins, 165 Islesbrook Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke in favor of Plan B.
22. Hugh McKay, 136 Islesbrook Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against dividing Durbin Crossing South.
23. Karen Falkenberry, 205 Martell Court, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke about Timberlin Creek Elementary School enrollment.
24. Chris Grew, 304 Lolly Lane, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against Plans A and C.
25. Pilar Sanchez, 346 Willow Winds Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against high school rezoning.
26. Shana Simmons, 153 Thornloe Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against rezoning Durbin Crossing South.
27. Leonie Halstead, 201 W. Berkswell Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke in favor of Plan B.
28. Bob Stamp, 205 W. Berkswell Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke in favor of Plan B.

Mr. Fehling called for additional public comment, seeing none, he closed the public comment section. He thanked all the speakers and noted the October 4th meeting will approve the zoning advertisement. Dr. Joyner stated the board is still in the "input gathering" mode.

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Closing Comments

Mrs. Wright thanked the parents for their input. Mr. Allen spoke about voters passing the bond issue in the early 1990s. Mrs. Slough thanked parents for participating as we seek out the best solution for all our children. Mr. Fehling noted how the state requires districts to have students in place in overcrowded schools before you can get permission to build more schools. Dr. Joyner stated his appreciation for the respectful nature of tonight's comments. He thanked Mr. Forson and Mrs. Cubbedge for their exhaustive work on this subject. Dr. Joyner also reminded all of tomorrow's 9:00 am Joint Meeting with the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, and Thursday's 8:30 am Special School Board Meeting to accept the Annual Financial Report.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Superintendent

Chairman

Date Approved