

MINUTES
Special School Board Meeting
October 4, 2011

This meeting, held at the St. Johns County School Board Administrative Center, 40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, Florida, was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Bill Fehling. Dr. Joyner called roll; Mrs. Slough, Mr. Allen, Mr. Mignon and Mr. Fehling were present. It was noted that Mrs. Wright is attending a FSBIT meeting in Orlando. Also in attendance was School Board Attorney Frank D. Upchurch, III, district staff, community members and media representatives.

Opening Comments – None

OA 1. Advertisement for Attendance Zone Changes for 2012 -2013. Dr. Joyner thanked Mr. Forson and Mrs. Cubbedge for their diligence on this issue. Mr. Forson highlighted the advertisement process, and then presented the staff recommendation of Plan F for Elementary School “L”. Regarding “Other Growth Areas, Northeast”, the staff recommendation is for the community-generated Plan F. In “Other Growth Areas, Northwest”, staff recommendation is for Plan G, and for high school zoning, Plans A and D move students to Bartram Trail High School. The proposed maps for high school, middle school and elementary school were shown. Mr. Mignon moved to approve; Mr. Allen seconded. Mrs. Slough noted her appreciation of the staff’s work and the community input. Mrs. Slough asked that we consider allowing current students be allowed to continue at their high school, if rezoned, as long as they provide transportation. Mr. Fehling referenced an article in today’s Times Union about student growth in St. Johns County; this depicts why zoning is such a fluid process and school zones are not permanent. Mrs. Slough noted promises for zoning are never made by the board.

Public Comments

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

1. Jenny Mahne, 196 Islesbrook Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259, proposed rezoning to Liberty Pines Academy. Mr. Forson replied that rapid growth in that area prevents this. Also, Liberty Pines Academy is currently overcrowded; Hickory Creek Elementary School is not.
2. Jason Sessions, 4385 Tradewinds Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259, developer of Durbin Crossing South, spoke against rezoning Durbin Crossing South to Hickory Creek Elementary School.
3. Roberta Wente, 431 Willow Winds Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against rezoning. Mr. Allen commented on Ms. Wente’s remarks and Mr. Forson related annual developer meetings, noting enrollment jumped from 130 to 450 while monitoring growth. Mr. Fehling remarked that our Five-Year plan shows the need for five schools, the state rejected this growth due to their lack of building funds.
4. Jeanine Livingstone, 109 Earlston Way, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against rezoning to Hickory Creek Elementary School and suggested expanding existing school. Mr. Forson

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replied and spoke against expanding schools beyond the capacity of their core facilities such as media, cafeteria, etc.

5. Lori Ann Boone, 208 Thornloe Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against rezoning to Hickory Creek Elementary School.
6. Uma Shashidnar, 105 Carden Place, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against rezoning to Hickory Creek Elementary School.
7. Andrea Califano, 213 Berkswell Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke against rezoning to Hickory Creek Elementary School.
8. Annette Krecic, 620 Sparrow Branch Circle, St. Johns, FL 32259, spoke in favor of Hickory Creek Elementary School rezoning, stating these changes are needed.
9. Matt Warrick, 236 Islesbrook Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259, asked who counts children in a particular area.
10. Kaylin Palmer, 169 Islesbrook Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259, stated that her community wants a school in the Durbin Crossing area.

Mr. Fehling called for additional public comment; there being no more speakers, he closed public comment. He then called for a vote; vote was unanimous. Dr. Joyner thanked the board for their transparency and thanked Mrs. Slough for responding to every email concerning zoning.

Closing Comments

Mr. Allen stated his appreciation for the public’s willingness to work together with the school district and developer. Mr. Mignon remarked that our voters defeated the millage increase where poorer surrounding counties approved millage increases. Mrs. Slough offered her assistance to community members. Mr. Fehling spoke of the strength of community members reaching out to their legislators. He also noted of 67 counties, only a handful are experiencing growth as St. Johns County is. Dr. Joyner introduced Mrs. Beth Sweeny, new Government Relations Coordinator. Mr. Fehling thanked the parents in attendance today.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Superintendent

Chairman

Date Approved