

**MINUTES**  
**School Board Workshop**  
**November 22, 2011**

This workshop, held at the St. Johns County School Board Administrative Center, 40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, Florida, was called to order by Chair Bev Slough at 9:30 a.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. Fehling wished all a happy Thanksgiving. Mrs. Slough again thanked Mr. Fehling for leading us through some “rough waters” during the past year. Dr. Joyner reported on last evening’s Horizon Grants Reception, where teachers received over \$18,000 in grants. He noted our student count currently stands at 31,113; this represents a 3.3% growth rate. He thanked the schools for the wonderful service projects they are conducting such as the Wounded Warrior Project and food drives for Second Harvest. Dr. Joyner announced our district service project, a “TOYS for TOTS” toy drive, is being held in honor of Mr. Conley Weiss’ retirement.

**Hospice Presentation**

Mr. Mignon introduced Ms. Sherlene Beamer of Community Hospice. She spoke about the compassionate care offered to St. Johns, Duval, and Clay county residents. Ms. Beamer also spoke about the new Bailey Hospice Center and the pediatric care they offer there. Mrs. Slough thanked Ms. Beamer for coming this morning.

**2012-2013 School Calendar**

Mr. Asplen presented information to the board regarding the 2012-13 school calendar. Mr. Asplen thanked the Calendar Committee for their work. He reported that the online survey showed 66% of respondents preferring Option 1. Mr. Fehling noted the committee’s dialogue was excellent though there are many state delimiters. Mrs. Slough thanked Mr. Asplen and the committee and noted the calendar approval will be on the December board agenda.

**Redistricting: Introduction**

Dr. Joyner introduced Mr. Upchurch, who highlighted past redistricting discussions and reminded the board that this must be decided by year’s end. Mr. Upchurch then introduced St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Ms. Vicky Oakes, County Commissioner Ken Bryan and County Attorney Patrick McCormack and Erica Moore. He noted traditionally the Board of County Commissioners and the School Board have had concurrent districts, but this is not

## **MINUTES – School Board Workshop – November 22, 2011**

required by law. He reported meeting with Mr. Forson, Mr. Michael Wanchick, County Administrator, Mr. McCormack and Mr. John Libby, consultant. He noted that at this time, Revised Plan “J” was proposed by the county. He introduced Mr. Libby, who spoke on melding plans “C” and “E”.

### **Redistricting: Public Comment**

Mrs. Slough called for public comment and the following came forward:

1. Mr. & Mrs. Alan Kelso, 20214 Harbour Vista Circle, St. Augustine, FL 32080, spoke against shifting maps; favored Plan “C”.
2. Mr. Jim Arpaia, 3144 Kings Road, St. Augustine, FL 32086, spoke in favor of Revised Plan “C”.
3. Mr. Bruce Maguire, 11 Surfside Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32080, spoke in favor of Revised Plan “C”.
4. Rev. Ron Rawls, 85 M.L. King Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084, spoke in favor of Revised Plan “E” but noted he can support Plan “J”.
5. Ms. Nancy Sikes-Kline, 15 Miruela Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32080, stated that Plan “J” is a good compromise.

Seeing no more speakers, Mrs. Slough closed public comment.

### **Redistricting: School Board Discussion**

Mr. Fehling spoke in favor of Revised Plan “C”. Mr. Mignon and Mrs. Wright voiced their preference for Revised Plan “C”. Mr. Allen questioned Mr. Libby about District 2 boundaries, and stated his belief that Revised Plan “C” is the best plan. Mrs. Slough stated she believes Revised Plan “C” is the most compact and serves our community the best, yet we need to review the new Plan “J”. It was noted that while all board members prefer Revised Plan “C”, everyone except Mr. Fehling stated they could support Revised Plan “J” as a compromise. Mrs. Wright commented that in an earlier meeting, a county official stated that our district’s drop-out rate for African-American students was 30%. She asked Dr. Joyner if this was true; he replied the correct figure is 1.8%.

### **Closing Comments**

Mr. Mignon commented on Mr. Weiss’ upcoming retirement and his admiration for him. Mrs. Slough reported serving dinner along with Dr. Joyner at the United Way Thanksgiving dinner in Armstrong last evening. Dr. Joyner reported on today’s newspaper article on our Water Resource Academy at St. Johns Technical High School and thanked the board for providing this

opportunity to our students there. He reminded all of the upcoming conference in Tampa November 29-December 2, 2011; the groundbreaking ceremony for Elementary School “L” on

**MINUTES – School Board Workshop – November 22, 2011**

December 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.; and the December 7<sup>th</sup> blood drive from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. He also noted that in Tampa, the SUNSPRA Award is being named for Mrs. Margie Davidson and our board is invited to attend that luncheon. Dr. Joyner wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and stated he is grateful for the opportunity to do this job.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

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Superintendent

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Chairman

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Date Approved