

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 8, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.
NEW MARKET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anne Marie Potts called the meeting to order and then asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence. Board members present were Chair Potts, Vice Chairman Bill Jarnigan, Maurice Solomon, Randall Bradley, Judy Cavanah, Annette Loy and Jim Vines. Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools and Secretary to the Board, was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Potts led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Chair Potts recognized veterans who were present at the meeting and thanked them for their service. Michael Phagan, Facilities Supervisor, presented to the school system on behalf of Bill Walker, Principal at White Pine School, a certificate and an American Flag which Mr. Walker had flown over his headquarters in Iraq in honor of Jefferson County Schools.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Potts requested that Unfinished Business be moved prior to New Business and a JCHS Forensic Team overnight field trip be added to the Consent Agenda.

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Jarnigan and second by Maurice Solomon, the board unanimously approved the agenda with the above change and addition. (see attached)

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion by Jim Vines and second by Vice Chairman Jarnigan, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda items. (see attached)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Elizabeth Finchum, Rush Strong School Nurse, thanked the board for their efforts in securing a pay raise for support staff and encouraged the board to continue their efforts to secure the 1.6% raise. She expressed her appreciation for the bonus the support staff would be receiving. She commented that she intended to address the County Commission regarding the raise.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

There were no items for information from the Director of Schools.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board Policy Changes for Review and Adoption (Second Reading) – **4.301 Interscholastic Athletics**

Vice Chairman Jarnigan made the motion to adopt the policy on second reading. Board member Bradley seconded the motion.

Board member Cavanah pointed out that the board had previously voted to send the policy back to the Policy Committee for further review. Board member Vines commented that the policy should be sent back to the Policy Committee since the board had previously voted to do that.

Vice Chairman Jarnigan withdrew his motion. The policy will be sent back to the Policy Committee for further discussion. (see attached)

2. Pending Arbitration

Paul Whitt, legal counsel, addressed the board stating that he and the board had met in Executive Session prior to the board meeting regarding the Community Tectonics dispute over fees. He pointed out that discussion had been going on between the board's attorney and Community Tectonics' attorney regarding the consideration of a potential settlement proposal.

Board member Vines made the motion that the Board authorize a settlement proposal to Community Tectonics, resolving the disputes at issue in the current arbitration proceeding with Community Tectonics, with the settlement proposal taking the following form: Payment of \$75,000 to Community Tectonics upon receipt of a properly executed mutual release of all claims against the Board and individual board members, including a non-disparagement provision, between the Board and Community Tectonics, and with a copy of the check being sent to counsel for Community Tectonics, along with a copy of the proposed release, advising that the actual check and signed copy of the release from the Board will be provided to Community Tectonics promptly upon receipt by the Board, or its attorneys, within ten (10) days from the date of the letter to Community Tectonics' counsel, of a properly executed copy of the release from Community Tectonics. Board member Loy seconded the motion.

Pending Arbitration - continued

Board member Loy commented that it would be costly to move forward with the arbitration. She further commented that this was in the best interest of the board as well as the county.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Policy Changes for Review and Adoption (First Reading) – **1.101 Duties and Powers of Board of Education, 1.400 School Board Meetings, 2.804 Expenses and Reimbursements, 5.106 Application and Employment, 1.808 Registered Sex Offenders, 4.600 Grading System and Lottery Scholarship Information, Energy Conservation Policy**

Upon motion by Randall Bradley and second by Vice Chairman Jarnigan, the board unanimously accepted the above policies on first reading. (see attached)

2. 2011-2012 Federal Budget Amendment #3

Upon motion by Maurice Solomon and second by Judy Cavanah, the board unanimously approved Federal Budget Amendment #3 for the 2011-2012 school year as submitted. (see attached)

3. Technology Upgrades – Don Devine

Don Devine, Technology Supervisor, updated the board on new technology that had been implemented in the schools this year. He asked that the board consider working with the technology department in order to develop a computer and modular replacement plan over the next three to four years. He pointed out that he was applying for any grants that may be available in order to help with the expense.

After some discussion, board member Bradley recommended that Mr. Devine give the board a dollar amount necessary in order to start the process for computer replacement and promethium boards. The item will be placed on the December agenda.

New Business – continued

4. Authorize Director of Schools to Pursue Options on Parcels of Land Adjacent to Two (2) Schools

Dr. Edmonds commented that there was additional land near Rush Strong and White Pine Schools for purchase. He pointed out that it was wise to purchase property near schools when they became available; especially when the school site was land locked as both Rush Strong and White Pine were. Dr. Edmonds recommended that they purchase the properties as soon as possible.

Michael Phagan, Facilities Supervisor, presented each board member with information on the properties which included two (2) parcels at Rush Strong and one (1) parcel at White Pine and answered any questions. He pointed out that in the past land had been purchased by the county commission on behalf of the school board at Talbott, Piedmont and New Market Elementary.

Board member Solomon made the motion to authorize Dr. Edmonds to pursue options on the three (3) parcels of land adjacent to Rush Strong and White Pine School. Board member Loy seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Jarnigan commented that he didn't have a problem with purchasing the property but was concerned over asking county commission for more money.

Board member Cavanah was concerned over flooding issues on the property at White Pine. She felt the flooding issue needed to be addressed first as far as cost that would be involved to prevent the flooding.

Board member Loy was concerned over the property at Rush Strong being bought by someone else which could possibly present problems for the school.

After some discussion, board member Loy suggested that the motion include that Dr. Edmonds check on the flooding situation at White Pine. Board member Solomon agreed to add that to his motion.

The motion to authorize Dr. Edmonds to pursue options on the three (3) parcels of land adjacent to Rush Strong and White Pine School and check on the flooding situation on the property at White Pine passed 6-1 with Vice Chairman Jarnigan opposing.

New Business - continued

5. 2011-2012 Textbook Selecting Committee

Upon motion by Annette Loy and second by Vice Chairman Jarnigan, the board unanimously approved the 2011-2012 textbook selection committee as submitted. (see attached)

6. School Bus Drivers' Contract

Dr. Edmonds commented that since bus drivers do not work the required 30 hours per week to be eligible for full-time status, they must remain as part-time employees.

7. Operating Cost for Freshman Academy

Dr. Edmonds pointed out that the budget committee of the county commission had requested that the board bring them operating costs for the two (2) new schools. He further pointed out that at a special called meeting of the county commission on November 22, 2010 the commission voted to fund \$26.9 million of the school building project and operating costs limited to \$500,000. Dr. Edmonds commented that he and his staff had worked long and hard on the figures for the board's review.

Dr. Edmonds went over the projected increase in operating costs caused by the planned opening of the Freshman Academy and Mt. Horeb Elementary School which included personnel costs for the freshman academy totaling \$107,500, personnel costs for Mt. Horeb Elementary totaling \$292,500, the combined increase in operational costs for both schools totaling \$420,874 and projected costs for playground equipment at Mr. Horeb Elementary School totaling \$45,000 for a grand total of \$465,874. He also went over proposed transportation that would be needed between the freshman academy and JCHS, an analysis of mobile classroom costs per school and operational costs for rented modular and utilities. (see attached)

Dr. Edmonds pointed out that adjustments would have to be made and there were no guarantees that they would stay under the \$500,000 but they wouldn't go over it very much. He thanked his staff for all their hard work.

Dr. Edmonds commented that he planned to come back to the board in the spring with zoning information.

Chair Potts commented that the proposed operating cost document would be submitted to the County Commission Budget Committee. Board member Vines recommended

New Business – Operating Costs - continued

scheduling a special called meeting of the school board on November 29, 2011 in case they needed to conduct business after the county commission meeting.

Upon motion by Jim Vines and second by Maurice Solomon the board unanimously approved the projected operating costs for the freshman academy and Mt. Horeb Elementary School in the amount of \$465,874.

The board agreed to schedule a special called meeting on November 29, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the media center at JCHS.

Chair Potts thanked Vickie Forgety, Principal at New Market Elementary, for hosting the board meeting.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Anne Marie Potts, Chair

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

Date

Date