

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING WITH THE
ALACHUA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 21, 2006

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in a joint session with Gainesville City Commissioners duly called at 1:30 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: F. Wesley Eubank, Chairman; Virginia S. Childs, Vice-Chairman; Tina Pinkoson, and Eileen F. Roy, members; and W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent. Board member Janie S. Williams was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eubank.

County Commissioners present at the beginning of the meeting: Lee Pinkoson and Mike Byerly.

INTRODUCTION

A joint meeting has been scheduled to discuss issues of mutual interest.

ADOPTION OF
AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to adopt the School Board agenda for the joint meeting of November 21, 2006, as presented.

Motion passed: 4-0

DIAMOND SPORTS
PARKS

Mr. Ed Gable, executive director, Facilities, presented an overview of the Diamond Sports Park site, and a brief background on some possible joint ventures.

He noted that the School Board intends to consider, at their November 21, 2006, School Board meeting, an interlocal agreement with the City of Newberry to manage the site and facility with no other improvements.

Chairman Eubank pointed out that the School Board is well aware that the site is outside of the urban services line and the County's concerns related to urban sprawl. He reassured the County that the School Board has no future plans to build a high school on the site at this time, and it may take 7-10 before it is even considered.

Commissioner Byerly expressed concern with construction of a new school on the site, which he believes would drive growth.

County Commission Chairman Paula DeLaney arrived and the County adopted their agenda.

HEADSTART

Chairman Eubank requested Mrs. Hollinger, Deputy Superintendent, provide Commissioners with information related to the HeadStart program. He noted that the School Board was not aware that the County had requested information regarding the HeadStart program and referred to a letter provided by HeadStart Director Ann Crowell highlighting the decrease in funding.

Mrs. Hollinger provided a brief overview of the HeadStart Program, which is a federally funded program run by the School Board. In the last two years, the program has seen a drastic reduction in funding and the district has now merged HeadStart with VPK to provide a 10-hr. program.

County Commissioner Rodney Long arrived.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the District's Head Start program and the current funding levels. The County expressed interest in providing funding to support and assist with the deficit the program has been facing. They also noted that they will lobby the Legislative Delegation to increase funding for the program. The County suggested the School Board partner with them and assist with the additional funding that is necessary to maintain the quality of the program.

The School Board explained the district's mission and K-12 funding process.

Mrs. Childs suggested a similar shadow program.

Mrs. Pinkoson noted that both the County and School Board begin to look for a different way, other than through the HeadStart program, to achieve the same goals.

County Commissioner Pinkoson suggested partnering with the School Board and working with the United Way Success by Six initiative to possibly develop another type of program. He indicated he would contact United Way to find out what would be necessary to develop a similar program, which would be effective to address the issue of helping young children.

Chairman Eubank recommended Mrs. Pinkoson work with Commissioner Pinkoson and investigate the possibilities with United Way Success by Six.

DISCUSSION

County Commissioner DeLaney suggested scheduling joint meetings (3 to 4) throughout the year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

