

MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING  
SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY  
AND GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSION

December 9, 2008

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met with the Gainesville City Commission in a joint session duly called at 3 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Kirby-Smith Administration Building, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. School Board members present: Chairman Tina Pinkoson, Vice-Chairman F. Wesley Eubank, Ginger Childs, Eileen Roy, and Barbara Sharpe, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., superintendent; and staff members.

Gainesville City Commissioners attending: Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan; Commissioner Pro Tem Jack Donovan; Craig Lowe, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Lauren Poe, and Scherwin Henry, Commissioners; Russ Blackburn, City Manager; and City staff members.

PRESENTATION      The School Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Pinkoson.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to adopt the agenda of the December 9, 2008, Joint Meeting with the Gainesville City Commission.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Chairman Pinkoson turned the meeting over to the Gainesville City Commission.

Commissioner Craig Lowe called the City Commission meeting to order. He informed the School Board that the City would like to work in partnership to improve the quality of life in the community.

Mayor Hanrahan and Commissioner Pro Tem Donovan arrived at 3:10 p.m.

GRU BUSINESS  
PARTNER  
CONTRACT

Mr. Eubank informed the City Commission that there has been discussion regarding the billing and rate structure of meters for the school system, and an amendment was made to the current contract with GRU. Due to the recent increase in GRU rates, he requested District staff and GRU staff take look at the possibility of entering into an interlocal agreement, to hopefully get rates more in line. He supports a long-term relationship with GRU and is hopeful that one can be reached.

GRU representatives stated they are also willing to work with the school system, and provided background information. They stated that there are several options available to the school system, including various types of rebate programs. It was also noted that the business partner discount does not apply to the fuel cost adjustments.

Mayor Hanrahan requested the issue be referred to staff for review and a proposal and options be developed.

City Commissioner Scherwin Henry arrived at 3:25 p.m.

## STORM WATER FEES

Mr. Eubank noted that the storm water fees from December 2007 – November 2008, totaled \$144,203. He pointed out that the School Board covers many fees, including fingerprinting, after-school programs, facility fees, etc. He also noted that many municipalities have taken the issue to court and won, but he would prefer to avoid any type of litigation and work together to resolve this issue.

Mrs. Roy stated that she believes this is an environmental issue, but suggested any new areas should be re-measured, and requested staff investigate new porous cement products to reduce run-off.

The City Attorney looks forward to working with the City and School Board staff to ensure that the School Board is paying their fair share.

## SECTION 8 HOUSING

Mrs. Roy stated that the School Board wishes to work with the Housing Authority regarding subsidized housing to ensure that families are complying with attendance requirements and sending their children to school. It was suggested that lease renewals be tied to complying with school attendance.

Mrs. Gail Monahan, Housing Authority Director, informed the Board that the Housing Authority is currently working to improve attendance problems and is willing to work together with the school system.

Mrs. Gretchen Howard, provided information on truancy and noted that there is a need for early identification.

Commissioners Henry and Donovan expressed concern with penalizing families who are already in need of assistance.

Several suggestions were made to provide incentive programs for good behavior vs. punishment.

Mrs. Sharpe noted the urgent need for parental responsibility and suggested parents should sign contracts when they enroll their children in school.

Commissioner Poe suggested working with teachers and parents to improve misbehavior.

Commissioner Donovan indicated that at the next City Commission meeting he will be requesting \$5 million to invest in the court prevention initiatives.

## CAPACITY OF SCHOOLS/SCHOOL GRADES

Information was provided on School Capacity vs. Enrollment; Funding for Florida School Districts; Alachua School District 5-Year Facilities Work Program; and Recycling.

Following discussion, Commissioner Donovan suggested that a list of ideas be shared in order for the City to assist the District.

Mayor Hanrahan informed the School Board that the St. Petersburg Mayor will be addressing the City Commission in January or February, related to the issue of working together to improve community initiatives. She noted that School Board members are invited to attend.

ADJOURNMENT      The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.