

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND
ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
APRIL 23, 2003
(9:00 A.M.)**

Proceedings of a joint meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and School Board of St. Johns County, Florida, began and held in the Auditorium at the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Center, Conference Room "A", St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were: Karen Stern, District 2, Vice-Chair
Nicholas Meiszer, District 1
Marc Jacalone, District 3
Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator
Daniel Bosanko, County Attorney
Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

School Board: Hugh Balboni, Superintendent of Schools
David Toner, Executive Director of Operations
Beverly Slough, District 1
Tommy Allen, District 2
Diane Lovell, District 3
Bill Fehling, District 4
Carla Wright, District 5

Also present: Dr. James Walker, Director of the Health Department; Joe Vonasek, Director of Office of Management and Budget; Allen MacDonald, Finance Director; Tracy Upchurch, School Board Attorney

(04/23/03 - 1 - 1.0000)
Vice-Chair Stern called the meeting to order.

(04/23/03 - 1 - 1.0011)
ROLL CALL

Everyone introduced his or herself for the record.

(04/23/03 - 1 - 1.0063)
GREETING BY COMMISSIONER KAREN STERN, VICE-CHAIR

Stern welcomed everyone and stated there was a quorum present from both groups.

(04/23/03 - 1 - 1.0073)
PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

(04/23/03 - 1 - 1.0077)
1. REPORT/DISCUSSION ON:

- A. Discussion of a proposed Ordinance for the purpose of funding traffic education programs in public and non-public schools (Dan Bosanko, County Attorney)

Dan Bosanko, County Attorney, spoke on Florida Statute Chapter 318.1215, Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act, stating that it provides a new opportunity for the County to work with the School Board, and that he had been asked to prepare a package for the County Commission to consider at their BCC Meeting on May 13, 2003. He stated that at that time, he would have some more definite ideas and options on how to implement this new provision. This new provision allows \$3.00 to be added to the ticket with each civil traffic penalty and is to be used for driver's education. (1.0140) Allen MacDonald, Finance Director, mentioned that about \$70,000 in revenue would be generated from the tickets and could be used for driver's education. Bosanko mentioned that this collection is optional, not required. The program requires that the funding be available to both public and non-public schools. He stated he would be getting ideas from the School Board to see how they think it should be administered. (1.0228) Meiszer mentioned checking to see if the School Board wants to do this. Balboni replied that they do provide limited driver's education and the reason it is limited is because they don't have the funding. Stern questioned how it would be divided. Balboni responded. Adams explained why the Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act was created. David Toner spoke on the program helping the School Board. Discussion followed on how the program would be helpful. (1.0392) Tracy UpChurch, School Board Attorney, stated that School Boards are required by the Legislature to offer Driver's Education to all secondary students in the County. The challenge for the School Board is to figure out an applicable way to make it available to everybody. The cost of the summer program is \$300 per student, with 210 students, at \$70,000 a year.

(1.0465)

B. Discussion of funding requests by Social Agencies for During & After School Educational Services

Stern read a memo from Bruce Maguire regarding funding requests from numerous social organizations, included was, during and after school educational services for kids to alleviate problems not adequately addressed by the School Board. Maguire stated in the memo that his intent was for the School Board to pick up the funding for these programs, or to go on record saying they are not needed. (1.0516) Gloria Benischeck, St. Johns County Social Services, addressed the agencies that Maguire mentioned in his memo; Communities in Schools, R.E.C., The School Readiness Coalition, and the TLC Program through the Association for Retarded Citizens. She distributed information regarding the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Advisory Council Funding Comparisons. Discussion followed on the Agencies funded by St. Johns County and why. (1.0705) Balboni spoke on the need being so much greater than the resources. Jacalone stated that the childcare program, School Readiness, was from ages 0 to 12 and the County's contribution to that program was a tenth of the total budget. (1.0815) Tommy Allen, School Board, gave information regarding Communities and Schools. Allen spoke on the Learn to Read Program. (1.1002) Ken Forrester, St. Johns School Readiness Coalition, spoke on the Work and Corp Match Grant. Benischeck spoke on the Therapeutic Learning Center. Allen spoke about children of working parents. (1.1219) Diane Lovell, School Board, spoke on the laws for special needs kids and TLC. Deanne Grayson, Executive Director of the School Readiness Coalition, spoke on childcare for children with disabilities.

(1.1354)

C. Discussion on the Future of the Hastings Elementary School

David Toner mentioned that the future of the Hastings Elementary School was discussed at the last joint meeting and the School Board advised the County that they were in the process of building a new elementary school in southern St. Johns County. When the new school opens, the existing Hastings Elementary School would become available for other uses. (1.1385) Allen stated that he would like for a determination to be made on what to do with the existing Hastings Elementary School. He suggested using it for housing units for the retired citizens, classrooms, etc. Stern spoke on the different aspects of use for the building. Jacalone stated that the County already has programs at the building. Adams mentioned that they realize there is going to be a lot of growth in that area. Allen stated there are opportunities for federal grants. Stern announced that Ben Adams would appoint Staff to look at it, discuss it, and then bring recommendations back to the next joint meeting for consideration. Lovell spoke on the concerns of the people in the area. Meiszer suggested looking at recreation first for the area. Adams stated that he would get Staff together, check it out, and bring back recommendations. Toner stated that this was a good piece of land, with there being about 40 acres.

(1.1864)

D. Discussion on procedures for using the Government Television Channel

Wright spoke on going through all the trouble of setting everything up for the interviews with people for the Superintendent position to be shown on the Government Channel, to find out that the northeast and northwest parts of the county could not see the local government access channel on cable. Slough stated that last month it was shown in its entirety without sound in the northwest. Discussion followed on getting a release signed for airing meetings on the Government Channel. Allen requested that the recipients of the American Youth Character Awards, and the sponsors, be listed on the Government Channel. The County Commission supported it.

(1.2265)

2. OTHER BUSINESS

Slough spoke on the installation of the traffic signal at International Golf Parkway and SR 16. Adams stated that it had been approved and would be installed at anytime. Lovell mentioned the traffic light being out on U.S. 1. Adams replied that the DOT is checking it out. Jacalone mentioned there are going to be changes in median openings on U.S. 1, south of Wildwood, to just north of CR 206. Also a request was made for a right turn stacking lane at CR 206 to Pedro Menendez School. There will be a signalization study done at Watson Road and a reconfiguration of the intersection at St. Augustine Shores Blvd.

(1.2475) Bosanko mentioned to both Boards about appointing VAB members by the end of May.

(1.2510) Wright questioned the status of the joint venture with swimming pools. Adam responded that under their budget process this year, they are going to consider a proposal.

(1.2568) Bill Fehling gave a brief update on the Superintendent search.

(1.2609) Balboni stated that there would be a press conference at the Orange Park High School regarding the funding for next year from the legislature.

(1.2652) Adams recognized Dr. Walker, stating that this would be his last time coming to the meetings, as he is retiring.

(1.2710) Toner suggested scheduling the next joint meeting, so everyone would know the date. Stern announced that the next Joint BCC/School Board Meeting was scheduled for July 23, at the School Board at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Boards, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Approved May 13, 2003

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: James E. Bryant
James E. Bryant, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Wenne King
Deputy Clerk

