

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
AUGUST 25, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

Proceedings of a joint meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) of St. Johns County, Florida, and the St. Johns County School Board of St. Johns County, Florida. The Board of County Commissioners will meet in the Executive Conference Room at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida. The School Board will meet in the auditorium at the School Board District Building, 40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, FL, and participate in the meeting via WebEx.

Proof of publication of the joint meeting was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on August 21, 2021.

Present: Jeremiah R. Blocker, District 4, Chair
Henry Dean, District 5, Vice Chair
Christian Whitehurst, District 1
Jeb S. Smith, District 2
Paul M. Waldron, District 3
Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Sindy Wiseman, Deputy Clerk

St. Johns County School Board:

Patrick Canan, District 5, Board Chair
Bill Mignon, District 3, Board Vice Chair
Beverly Slough, District 1
Anthony E. Coleman Sr., District 2
Kelly Barrera, District 4
Frank D. Upchurch, III, School Board Attorney

Also present: Tim Forson, St. Johns County School Superintendent

(08/25/21 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Patrick Canan called the meeting to order.

(08/25/21 - 1 - 9:01 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

Patrick Canan called the roll for the St. Johns County School Board. Board members Canan, Mignon, Slough, Barrera, and Coleman were present.

The clerk called the roll for the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioners Blocker, Dean, Smith, and Waldron were present. Commissioner Whitehurst entered the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

(08/25/21 - 1 - 9:02 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Canan led the pledge of Allegiance.

(08/25/21 - 2 - 9:02 a.m.)

PRESENTATION ON REDISTRICTING

Tim Forson, St. Johns County School Board Superintendent, provided an overview stating that today's meeting would introduce the consultant and provide discussion on the process used to create and adopt revised districts, with future meetings to present revised districts for consideration.

(9:05 a.m.) Priti Mathur, ARCBridge Consulting and Training, presented the details of the review. She presented the redistricting process and data requirements, demographic data-census-race and ethnicity, predefined geography, tools for redistricting, timeline, 2020 data analysis, 2020 census data, comparison with ideal population, district summary, and alternate plans. Additionally, she spoke on the ethnicity within the boundaries.

(9:26 a.m.) Dean spoke on fairness for minority groups and redrawing the districts fairly, making sure that the boundaries were equitably distributed regarding the minority groups.

(9:29 a.m.) Mathur responded that districts would be drawn according to the demographic data. Discussion ensued.

(9:38 a.m.) Anthony Coleman asked whether the data specified male/female. Mathur said it did not.

(08/25/21 - 2 - 9:39 a.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Engl, 150 Bay Cove Drive, commented on the decisions made regarding masks. He also asked why the color of someone's skin should matter in determining how the votes should be impacted.

(9:41 a.m.) Caryn Chambers, 17 Lisbon Street, commented that as a Latino she found it offensive drawing the districts according to minority groups. She also spoke on the vote to mandate mask requirements.

(9:44 a.m.) Erin (name not provided), spoke in opposition of the decision made regarding the mask mandate and read from the Ethics in Government.

(9:47 a.m.) Jamie (last name inaudible), spoke in opposition of a mandated mask requirement for students.

(9:50 a.m.) Loran Radford, 18 Fawnwood Street, spoke on safety rights for students and in opposition of a mandated mask requirement.

(9:53 a.m.) Hillary Shuman, 100 Plumton Court, spoke in opposition of a mask mandate for students.

(9:56 a.m.) Jeannie MacDonald, 6271 Courtney Crest Lane, Jacksonville, Florida, spoke in opposition of a mask mandate for students.

(9:59 a.m.) Katheryn Skeen, 156 Bouganvilla Drive, spoke in support of mask mandates for adults and children. She spoke on the number of current COVID-19 pediatric cases in St. Johns County. She also spoke on implementing regular testing for students and staff with a multi-prong mitigation approach, determining whether local schools met the

specific ventilation guidelines, and contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation.

(10:02 a.m.) Ken McClain, P.O. Box 912, expressed his appreciation to the County Commissioners and School Board for their due diligence with trying to protect the County. He requested information on the PL94-171 data be sent to him at kenmcclain32@gmail.com.

(10:04 a.m.) Joshua Kaspar, 110 Old Hickory Forrest Road, spoke on the discussion of shifting the district lines in order to have more equivalent districts and asked whether an increase in the number districts would achieve the same goal.

(10:05 a.m.) Ashley Pitter, 144 Old Field Lane, spoke in support of a mask mandate requirement for students.

(10:06 a.m.) Stacie Morales, 76 Buck Tail Avenue, spoke in opposition of a mask mandate for students and on the undeniable data regarding the ineffectiveness of masks.

(10:09 a.m.) Carey Picklesimer, 98 Whitefish Trail, spoke in opposition of a mask mandate for students.

(10:13 a.m.) Jessie Fellows, C H Arnold Road, spoke on behalf of teachers who were afraid of losing their jobs if they voice their opinions. She stated that many teachers were in opposition of a mask mandate for students.

(10:16 a.m.) Ryan Mahon, 110 Seminole Road, spoke in support of a mask mandate for students and asked how the school made the distinction between employees, visitors, and students, that may be visiting the school for the entire day.

(10:17 a.m.) Larissa Falkner, (number not provided) Sanctuary Drive, spoke in support of a mask mandate in schools and on the COVID-19 surge and the lack of resources to fill staff positions. She requested staff talk to medical professionals serving St. Johns County children for more accurate information.

(10:20 a.m.) Mary Robinson, 141 Toscana Lane, spoke in support of a mask mandate in schools.

(10:23 a.m.) Facundo Tassara, 12 Magnolia Shoals Way, requested reexamining the recommendations for returning after a positive test to ensure an A-symptomatic student couldn't unintentionally spread COVID-19 to other students and staff.

(10:25 a.m.) Anugya Poudel-Chataut, 122 Citrus Ridge Drive, spoke in support of a mask mandate for students. She also commented on the increase in number of positive cases and the number of people on ventilators.

(10:28 a.m.) Slough requested a copy of the presentation.

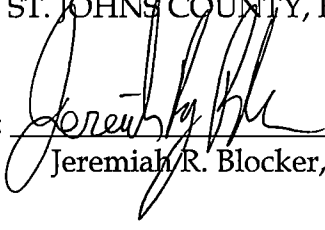
(08/25/21 - 4 - 10:28 a.m.)

ADJOURN

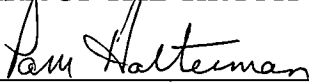
With there being no further business to come before the Boards, Canan adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Approved _____ September 7 _____, 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Jeremiah R. Blocker, Chair

ATTEST: BRANDON J. PATTY,
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER

By: 
Deputy Clerk

