



**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
**St. Johns County, Florida**  
Special Meeting  
County Administration Building  
500 San Sebastian View  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084  
October 26, 2023 - 9:30 a.m.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Whitehurst called the special meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Christian Whitehurst, District 1, Chair  
Sarah S. Arnold, District 2, Vice Chair  
Roy Alaimo, District 3  
Krista Joseph, District 4  
Henry Dean, District 5  
Joy Andrews, Interim County Administrator  
Lex Taylor, Deputy County Attorney  
Artricia K. Allen, Deputy Clerk

St. Johns County School Board:  
Kelly Barrera, District 4, Board Chair  
Beverly Slough, District 1, Board Vice Chair  
Anthony E. Coleman Sr., District 2  
Jennifer Collins, District 3  
Patrick Canan, District 5  
Frank D. Upchurch, III, School Board Attorney  
Tim Forson, St. Johns County School Superintendent

Also present: Senator Travis Hutson

**ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll for the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioners Whitehurst, Arnold, Dean, Alaimo, and Joseph were present.

The Clerk called the roll for the St. Johns County School Board. Board members Barrera, Slough, Coleman, Collins, and Canan were present.

**INVOCATION**

Pastor Earl Glisson, Anchor Faith Church, gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Allan Flynn, United States Army National Guard Retired Sergeant, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Whitehurst introduced Senator Travis Hutson, who provided the Board with his thoughts on the county's options, upcoming events happening in Tallahassee, high growth, performance of a district, schools being built with hurricane standards, and eliminating how to spend specific dollars.

Discussion ensued on thanking the Senator for advocating for schools, the upcoming deregulation bills, infrastructure growth, teachers and funding, securing funds for schools, constructed homes, and the percentage decrease in the PI education funding.

In conclusion, Hutson provided additional comments on the full deregulation, in education, package coming from the senate, in a variety of bills, and ideas to be announced in the future.

## 1. OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING PROCESS

Tim Forson, St. Johns County School District Superintendent, presented the details of the request and expressed his gratitude to Senator Hutson for advocating for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) project. Discussion ensued on Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funding received from the Florida Lottery, the School Concurrency Proportionate Share Mitigation Agreement, over development and funding, bonding capacity, hurricane shelter requirements, K-8 construction, sales surtax, and future infrastructure projects. Additional comments provided by Taylor on following State law requirements and having relationships between the County and the School Board; and Sid Ansbacher, Upchurch, Bailey and Upchurch, P.A., spoke on sufficient school infrastructure.

## 2. PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Colin Groff, St. Johns County Interim Assistant County Administrator; Dr. Brennan Asplen, St. Johns County District Deputy Superintendent; and Greg Caldwell, St. Johns County Director of Public Works, presented the details of the school-related infrastructure projects. Discussion ensued on compacity, school currency payments regarding how they are received and distributed, construction of high schools, and school districts' limits on funding and insurance cost. Additionally, Adam Tecler, Grants and Legislative Affairs Manager, provided details on the legislative options regarding the State Board of Education report and the purpose of the report.

Whitehurst recessed the meeting at 11:22 a.m. and reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment: Kerri Gustavson, Debbie Fatzynytz, Ann Taylor, and Tamara Haleem provided public comment.

## **COMMISSIONERS' AND SCHOOL BOARD REMARKS**

The commissioners and school board members provided closing remarks and expressed their appreciation for the collaboration meeting and the need to schedule a meeting in the future.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

No report.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

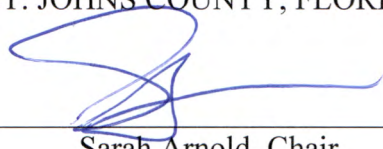
No report.

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Approved November 21, 2023

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Sarah Arnold, Chair

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

By: Crystal Smith  
Deputy Clerk

