

SUMMARY OF PINELLAS SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2011

The meeting was held on Monday, February 7, 2011, 10:30 a.m., in the Planning Department Conference Room. Those in attendance were:

Members Present:

Susan Latvala	Pinellas County (Chairman)
Bill Dudley	City of St. Petersburg
Robert Murray	City of Largo
George Cretekos	City of Clearwater
Carol Cook	Pinellas County School Board
Peggy O'Shea	Pinellas County School Board
Julie Ward Bujalski	City of Dunedin
Joe Ayoub	City of Safety Harbor (arrived 10:46 a.m.)

Members Absent:

Jerry Mullins	PSTA/Pinellas Park
Doug Mullis	Citizen Representative
Steve Kochick	City of Madeira Beach
Suzanne Vale	City of Oldsmar
John Counts	City of Seminole
Susan Slattery	City of Tarpon Springs
	City of Gulfport
	City of St. Pete Beach

Others Present:

Brian Smith	Pinellas County Planning Department
Gina Harvey	Pinellas County Planning Department/MPO
Gordon Beardslee	Pinellas County Planning Department
Liz Freeman	Pinellas County Planning Department
Ryan Brinson	Pinellas County Planning Department
Ron Rinzivillo	City of Safety Harbor
Tammy Vrana	City of Clearwater
Tom Moore	City of Largo
Robert Davis	Pinellas County Transportation
Dave Sadowsky	Pinellas County Attorney's Office
Paul Geisz	City of St. Petersburg
Michael Bessette	Pinellas County Schools
Ginny Pannill	Pinellas County Schools
Debbie Forster	Pinellas County Schools
Marshall Touchton	Pinellas County Schools
Linda Fisher	Pinellas Planning Council
Sarah Maloney	St. Petersburg PINCHD
Sheila Martin	TBARTA
Carolyn Kuntz	MPO/Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER – Introductions and Welcome New School Board Member

Chairman Latvala called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m., welcomed Peggy O'Shea as the new School Board member for the School Collaborative, and indicated Terry Krassner will be the new School Board member for the School Transportation Safety Committee but could

not be present for today's meeting. She also welcomed Robert Murray as the Largo representative for both committees.

II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Cook moved, Councilman Dudley seconded, and motion carried to approve the September 1 minutes.

III. REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2010-11 SCHOOL CONCURRENCY LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) REPORT

Marshall Touchton, Pinellas County Schools, explained the information on the level of service report. Each school is listed, with the first column showing the Concurrency Service Area (CSA); the second column showing student enrollment based on the October counts; the third column showing the (FISH) school capacity; the fourth column showing change in school capacity resulting from school construction over the next three years; the fifth column showing anticipated capacity (sum of columns three and four); the sixth column showing available capacity for additional students (seat balance); the seventh column showing facility type; and the last column showing the local jurisdiction where the school is located. The report groups schools into eight Concurrency Service Areas (CSAs): four for elementary schools; three for middle schools; and one for high schools. The report measures available capacity, which is unused school capacity, in each CSA that can be used to accommodate student growth over the next school year. The formula used to determine available capacity is effective capacity (FISH capacity plus construction) minus anticipated enrollment (enrollment plus vested students). He explained how the process works to determine capacity for new development. This year's report, when compared with last year's report, shows a slight decline in overall student enrollment. Enrollment for elementary CSAs A and C decreased by 442 students, while elementary CSAs B and D increased by 191 students. Enrollment for middle school CSA A decreased by 198 students, while middle school CSAs B and C increased by 176 students. Enrollment for high school had the biggest decrease – a drop of 1,093 students. Overall, the student enrollment in the school district has been trending downward, but it is not a uniform geographic decline. Some areas have an increase, some have a decrease, and other areas are unchanged.

Some discussion followed regarding the reasons for the decrease in high school student enrollment, students going from public school to home schooled, virtual school students, the difference between FISH and program capacity, how Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students are calculated and included in the Report, and the district's intent to reduce the use of portables/relocateables whenever possible.

At 10:46 a.m., Commissioner Ayoub arrived

Commissioner Murray moved, Commissioner Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to accept the report.

IV. SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PROPOSED SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REZONING ACTIVITY FOR THE 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR

Marshall Touchton indicated that, although there is an overall decrease in student enrollment, there is still a need to make changes in school zoning due to the State class size reduction mandates. Students who live in each school zone have a reasonable expectation of attending their zoned schools if that is their desire. This year, school district staff is proposing changes for

elementary, middle, and high schools. The proposed rezoning for high schools will have an effect on 5 of the 15 high schools, which would impact 2% of the projected incoming 9th graders. Rezoning for middle schools will have an effect on 12 of the 16 middle schools, which would impact 10% of the projected incoming 6th graders. Rezoning for elementary schools will have an effect on 20 of the 63 elementary schools; however, the School District is not sure of the impact of the proposed zoning changes, but they have estimated 5% based on projected enrollment. Mr. Touchton walked through the process, showing an example of the impacts from rezoning an elementary school (Sawgrass Elementary School), via the computer. In determining the rezoning for an elementary school, they try to take into account predictable feeder patterns, so that students from an elementary school will attend the same middle school and high school.

Some discussion followed regarding the rezoning process and factors such as impacts on school crossing guards, on bus transportation, etc. The STEPS Committee was mentioned as a good forum for addressing safety and school routes and for communicating with local governments. By March 15, the zonings will be finalized, meaning transportation and start times will be established and local governments should have the information they need to plan accordingly. Mr. Touchton indicated he is working with the County's GIS staff to finalize the GIS layers for the elementary, middle, and high school zones so people can determine what zones their children will be in and that the information will be available for school route safety planning. In response to questions, Mr. Touchton indicated that several factors are considered in their planning process, such as allowing siblings to attend the same school; however, at some point for the system to work, the new zones have to be used.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.