

SUMMARY OF PINELLAS SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

The meeting was held on Wednesday, September 1, 2010, in the Planning Department Conference Room. Those in attendance were:

Members Present:

Susan Latvala	Pinellas County (Chairman)
George Cretekos	City of Clearwater
Jerry Mullins	PSTA/Pinellas Park (arrived 9:21 a.m.)
Carol Cook	Pinellas County School Board
Bill Dudley	City of St. Petersburg
Doug Mullis	Citizen Representative
Steve Kochick	City of Madeira Beach
Julie Ward Bujalski	City of Dunedin

Members Absent:

Robert Murray	City of Largo
Joe Ayoub	City of Safety Harbor
Suzanne Vale	City of Oldsmar
John Counts	City of Seminole
Susan Slattery	City of Tarpon Springs
Mary Stull	City of Gulfport
	City of St. Pete Beach

Others Present:

Brian Smith	Pinellas County Planning Department
Sarah Ward	Pinellas County Planning Department/MPO
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
Fred Matz	Pinellas County Schools
Mike Burke	Pinellas County Schools (Transportation)
Terry Huberty	Pinellas County Schools
Karen Coffey	Pinellas County Schools
Virginia Pannill	Pinellas County Schools
Frank Frail	Pinellas County Schools
Jeff Dow	City of Pinellas Park
Al Navaroli	Pinellas County BDRS
Tom Moore	City of Largo
Linda Fisher	Pinellas Planning Council
Megan Carmichael	Pinellas County Health Dept.
Nicole Kelly	Pinellas County Health Dept.
Carolyn Kuntz	MPO/Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Latvala called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 5, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Mullis moved, Councilman Mullins seconded, and motion carried to approve the May 5 minutes.

III. DISCUSSION OF THE TENTATIVE FIVE-YEAR FACILITIES WORK PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010/11 THROUGH 2014/15

Fred Matz, Pinellas County Schools, reviewed the tentative work program. There are no new major projects but there is a continuation of construction at Lynch Elementary School. Major construction projects are based on the Educational Plant Survey that is required every five years, with the recent survey finalized in April. Staff has not had a chance to analyze the recommendations or review it against their prioritization system to rate all projects. Staff will be performing this review during this school year so they will have a list of major projects next year, depending on available funding. Upon query by Chairman Latvala if projects have been completed to accommodate the class size amendment, Mr. Matz responded yes, 31 schools had classrooms added. In addition, there are other requirements regarding permanent portables, covered walkways, etc.; however, due to changes in the student assignment plan, projects have been placed on hold until an evaluation can be done to see if there are any necessary adjustments. Staff has budgeted \$25 million for the foundations for the permanent re-locateables.

Some general discussion followed regarding the new school assignment for close to home schools, the grandfathering provision, process of looking at high schools with a proposal due September 21 for discussion, close to home high school students versus students applying for special programs within high schools. Commissioner Bujalski provided an example of the community of Dunedin not having consistency with some Dunedin students going to Dunedin High School and others going to Clearwater High School. Chairman Latvala noted that students who live within Palm Harbor University High School area are not always zoned for that school in light of the fact that school has two magnet programs: IB and Medical. Part of the problem is there are no criteria for students applying to the magnet programs. Ms. Cook stated the School District is looking at the location of the magnet programs and if any can be moved to other locations. The School District has looked at ranking students for the various magnet programs to make sure students are interested in the programs. In addition, staff is also looking at the possibility of a fundamental high school in North County. They are looking at parent involvement to see how it can be incorporated into all schools. In addition, they are looking at a program similar to guardian ad litem to help students get through schools who do not have family support.

IV. COORDINATION ON SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Smith indicated a question had previously been raised by Safety Harbor as to coordination between the School System and local governments. The Work Group discussed this at their last meeting and the school staff is receptive and appointed Virginia Pannill to work with the local jurisdictions.

Virginia Pannill stated she will be working with the local jurisdictions and will have an open dialogue between the District's plans within the various jurisdictions, as well as the projects the jurisdiction has that might affect the School District.

Gordon Beardslee updated the Committee on the Work Group activities. Discussions included the school closures and how to notify local governments in the future if a school closure is

being considered. They have worked out an agreement/understanding for better coordination between the School District and local governments. Marshall Touchton developed a standard format for local governments to use when there is a Plan amendment to calculate the impact of the land use change on the schools. This information was sent to the Department of Education, which indicated they were okay with the use of the formula but wanted to ensure that school population counts, capacity, and student generation rates will be updated annually. The intent is for all local governments to utilize the same methodology so everyone is using the same approach to calculate the impacts on schools when they do land use Plan Map amendments.

****At this time, 9:21 a.m., Vice Mayor Kochick arrived****

Councilman Cretekos emphasized the importance of notifying the local governments at the beginning of discussions regarding proposed school closures. Ms. Cook added that the local governments should also be advised regarding the proposed demolitions of schools.

Councilman Cretekos questioned the use of the North and South Ward Elementary Schools. Ms. Cook responded the School District is looking at various options. In some cases, they are looking at nonprofit agencies taking over the maintenance of the building on short or long term leases. Mr. Bessette has compiled a list of all available school properties. **Ms. Cook suggested asking Mr. Bessette to bring the list to the next meeting. Mr Smith responded that list could be included on the next agenda.**

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.