

**Approved in Open Board Meeting, November 1, 2011**  
**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**September 8, 2011**  
**Thursday, 5:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, met in special session at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, September 8, 2011, in the Board Room of the Kathleen C. Wright Administrative Center, 600 Southeast Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Present were: Chair Benjamin J. Williams; Vice Chair Ann Murray; Members, Robin Bartleman, Maureen S. Dinnen, Patricia Good, Donna P. Korn, Katherine P. Leach, Laurie Rich Levinson, Nora Rupert; Interim Superintendent Donnie Carter, and J. Paul Carland, II., Esq.

**Call to Order**        The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Close Agenda**        Upon motion by Ms. Dinnen, seconded by Mrs. Rupert and carried, the Agenda was approved and declared closed.

1.     District Educational Facilities Plan For the Five Years Ending June 30, 2016 (Adopted)

Motion was made by Ms. Dinnen, seconded by Ms. Murray and carried, that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, adopt the District Educational Facilities Plan. (9-0 vote)

Pursuant to Section 1013.35 F.S., annually, prior to the adoption of the district school budget, each district school board shall prepare a Tentative District Educational Facilities Plan that includes long-range planning for facilities needs. The School Board approved the Tentative District Educational Facilities Plan on August 2, 2011.

The plan must also include a financially feasible work program for a five-year period. The work program must include:

- \*        a schedule of major repair and renovation projects necessary to maintain educational facilities and ancillary facilities of the district;
- \*        a schedule of capital outlay projects necessary to ensure the availability of satisfactory student stations for the projected student enrollment in K-12 programs;
- \*        the projected cost for each project identified in the District Educational Facilities Plan;
- \*        a schedule of estimated capital outlay revenues from each currently approved source which is estimated to be available for expenditures on the projects;

- \* projected student populations apportioned geographically at the local level;
- \* an inventory of existing school facilities; projections of facilities space needs;
- \* information on leased, loaned and donated space and relocatables used for conducting the district's instructional programs;
- \* the general location of public schools proposed to be constructed, including a listing of the proposed schools' site needs and anticipated capacity and maps showing the general locations;
- \* the identification of options deemed reasonable and approved by the School Board which reduces the need for additional permanent student stations;
- \* the criteria and method, jointly determined by the local government and the School Board, for determining the impact of proposed development to public school capacity.

The public is invited to give input to the Tentative District Educational Facilities Plan. During the public hearing, the Board may amend the District Educational Facilities Plan. All amendments will be incorporated into the District Educational Facilities Plan and the 2011-2012 District Budget.

The first year of the District Educational Facilities Plan will be incorporated into the annual budget.

### **Announcement by Chair**

Welcoming the audience to the second public hearing for the 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 District Educational Facilities Plan (DEFP), Mr. Williams stated that the first public hearing was held on August 2, 2011. This plan is being presented for adoption and the public is being offered the opportunity to provide input for the School Board to consider before the plan is adopted.

The District Educational Facilities Plan is to keep the public and the School Board informed as to whether the district is using sound policies and practices that meet the needs of students and warrant public confidence in the district's operation.

Explaining the procedure to be followed for this hearing, Mr. Williams stated that the public will be given another opportunity to speak about the plan. Individuals wishing to speak about the plan are required to sign in as a speaker. At the end of the presentation, speakers will be called to the floor and will be given three minutes to address the Board.

### **Statement by Interim Superintendent**

Mr. Carter informed that the District Educational Facilities Plan provides the School Board and the public with a detailed \$1.3 billion capital outlay plan ending on June 30, 2016.

Mr. Carter informed that school districts throughout the state have been put under great pressure. Sharp declines in property values and a 25 percent reduction of the taxing rate used for the capital budget has required Broward Schools to change the focus of its capital budget. Now, the major emphasis is the maintenance and upkeep of schools and educational facilities.

Property values have declined and this year, for the first time ever, the state diverted K-12 Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funding to Charter Schools. This will make the task of maintaining our schools even more difficult. The focus is to keep schools safe and accessible, and to keep vital components of the building running, including air conditioning systems, plumbing systems and roofing systems, to any indoor air quality issues. This is done to continue to meet the School Board's mission of being dedicated to meeting the educational needs of all students in a safe learning environment.

The School Board is provided a balanced plan because of the planning that began more than two years ago, when the district shelved over \$1.8 billion in projects, computers and buses.

Mr. Carter further stated that the process of reviewing the district's capital plan included key stakeholders, Facilities and Maintenance, and several other district departments, staff meeting with individual Board Members, consultation with the Executive Leadership Team, and presenting the issues to the Facilities Task Force to gather feedback. During this process, Mr. Carter stated that the district developed benchmarks for prioritizing, which included Health and Safety issues, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan, Indoor Air Quality, and funding to preserve the district's assets as well as replacing obsolete vehicles, equipment and technology.

Mr. Carter introduced Mr. Omar Shim, Director, Capital Budget, who will present additional details of the plan and will answer questions along with other staff.

### **Staff Presentation and Discussion**

Mr. Shim informed that despite a very unique construction program that is portrayed in this plan, the district's plan is stable and sustainable because of the strategic decisions the Board has made to reduce projects in the past, to meet expected revenues and focus on the district's priorities. Mr. Shim reviewed the Plan Process, which included several meetings and workshops, Technology and Vehicles, and Prioritized Construction Projects.

Remarking that the majority of the funding in the plan is from the Capital Outlay Millage, Mr. Shim summarized the School Taxable Values and Capital Millage Revenue projects, and stated that this year the taxable value fell by 2.6 percent in 2012 and are projected to gradually rebound to 2009 levels within 8 years. The capital millage will not attain 2009 levels as a result of the 25 percent Legislative reduction in the millage rate.

Mr. Shim reported that the millage levels account for almost 80 percent of the funds in the 5-Year Plan for a total of \$1 billion of the \$1.3 billion plan. Because of the tax rate, staff does not recommend any additional COPs issuances over the 5-year period. Mr. Shim stated that the district still sustains a debt ratio below 75 percent, as required by state law and despite the reductions in the tax rate. Sale of land that has been surplused is expected to yield approximately \$12.2 million in 2012. For the first time, the Legislature shifted all PECO funding for charter schools this year. PECO projections fell by \$34 million over a five-year period based on the revised DOE projections that included those losses for 2012.

Mr. Shim informed that it is projected that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will finalize its reimbursements to the district for Hurricane Wilma and other past hurricanes for approximately \$2 million. Mr. Shim stated the district has canceled projects and is in the process of closing out older projects and purchase orders to strategically build up its capital reserves. Through the continued effort of the Facilities Department, older projects have been closed out and unused funds returned to the capital reserve, and the Physical Plant Operations department has implemented efficiencies that have lowered their expenditures than was projected this year. These reserves help to offset the loss in PECO funding and bridge the gap until incremental decreases in future revenues can match the cuts that were made in appropriations and achieve a balanced plan.

Mr. Shim further stated that funding allocated in this plan is to pay for debt service commitments for projects that were already financed and for maintaining safe and accessible schools, for safety, accessibility and keeping schools free of indoor air quality issues. Appropriations in this plan sustain funding for all ongoing funding in the 5-Year Plan from last year's plan and adds some funds, such as IAQ window replacement at Deerfield Beach Elementary School; completion of first phase of the Parkway Middle School; fire sprinklers and fire hydrant at Coconut Creek High School; and \$10 million for technology equipment.

Continuing, Mr. Shim stated that at the request of the School Board at the first public hearing, a section was created in the plan that included a comparison of enrollment projections to the permanent capacity.

Mrs. Korn inquired whether any items were removed from the plan since the first public hearing.

Responding that no cuts were made this year, Mr. Shim stated that funding is being sustained and stabilized now due to the major cuts in the past two years.

Referring to page 35, Mrs. Rupert voiced concern with moving forward with construction projects for free-standing media centers when layoffs are being made to media specialists.

Mr. Thomas Lindner, Acting Deputy Superintendent, Facilities and Construction Management, stated that the one media in the plan is being completed and there are no media centers that are being renovated.

Referring to enrollment projections, specifically Silver Lakes Elementary School,

Mrs. Rupert stated this is an issue to discuss. She inquired whether there are any projects that are being completed with enrollment at a low level or planned.

Mr. Lindner responded that additional capacity is not being added to any schools at the current time; capacity cannot be added without a plant survey and the plant survey will not support adding additional capacity anywhere in the district until the capacity comes up closer to actual enrollment.

Mrs. Rupert further inquired whether re-roofing has been completed.

Mr. Lindner responded that there are students at those particular schools and there are projects but they will not be capacity based. Mr. Lindner opined that if the building is not re-roofed it might as well be torn down even if the building would become office space. If a school holds 600 people and there are 30 people working at the school, the roof still needs to be replaced. Those issues are not driven by enrollment, they are driven by the building itself and the condition of the building.

Mrs. Rupert said she looks forward to a workshop with staff regarding the repurposing of some of those under-enrolled schools.

Mr. Lindner informed that the process is driven by boundaries; when the boundaries process is completed and the Board makes a decision to close schools, staff will be prepared to speak on this issue at a workshop.

Remarking that the board is not indicating that schools are being closed, Mrs. Rupert stated that a discussion was held about low-enrollment schools and repurposing them.

Dr. Joanne Harrison, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Programs and Student Support Services, informed that Dr. Joel Herbst, South Area Superintendent, will lead the workshop discussion on this issue.

Mrs. Korn stated that despite the rumors that schools may be repurposed, there is a necessity for schools to stay open, whether ADA, lighting or some type of safety issue; a few auditoriums may or may not need to have that specific work done depending on what the reuse of that building might be. Mrs. Korn commented that if there is a particular school that has been considered in the pool of schools that are potential considerations, that that is taken into consideration before the Board is asked to approve at a Board level.

Concurring, Mrs. Bartleman requested an additional workshop as to whether or not the district can create its own charter schools. She stated, if there is an empty school or an under-enrolled school there is a potential to re-open it as a Broward County Public School charter school with a theme. Mrs. Bartleman stated that it has to all come together for the Board because the workshops are piecemealed.

Mrs. Rich Levinson stated that she had requested a workshop on the charter schools; scheduled for October but it will now be discussed until the new superintendent is on board and done as soon as possible.

Mr. Carland informed that there have been Executive Leadership Team (ELT) discussions and the plan is to still bring an initial conversation to the Board at the September 27, 2011 workshop; his office will have preliminary information for the Board to consider those ideas and concepts.

Mrs. Leach informed her colleagues when she was 12 years old Floranada Elementary School was on the "chopping block." Her dad was in the K.C. Wright building constantly and requesting that the district not close his children's school; the school was never closed. Mrs. Leach stated that the Board must be purposeful when making hard decisions, as the community is committed to their schools.

Ms. Dinnen stated that the Board previously indicated that the discussion would not be in isolation, it would not just be a numbers game and the community would be thoroughly involved. She relayed concerns by the community of Edgewood regarding the re-opening of their school which was closed approximately 18 years ago. Ms. Dinnen further stated that individuals from Carver Ranches, their school closed approximately 30 years ago, still sing their alumni song. She stated it points out the fact that the Board must proceed very carefully and involve the community, and perhaps the charter school ideas might give the Board an opportunity to maintain a presence in that community.

Mrs. Bartleman indicated that there are schools in Miami-Dade County that are modeled as Pre-K-2, Pre-K-5, and Pre-K-8. If a Pre-K-2 center is created, which is an early childhood center, and there is a theme around the schools, pooling from other schools is an option available to the district and this gives the district a chance to be creative and bring people back in. Mrs. Bartleman noted an under-enrolled school in the South Area where everyone is going to the charter schools that has boy/girl classes. Remarking that the Board has to be fiscally responsible, Mrs. Bartleman informed that everybody cannot be boundaried west to east, even though people want this; the minute a Choice school or a Title I school is "hit" they are busing back. She stated when this topic is presented it needs to be thoroughly explained to the public; it will provide an opportunity for everyone to think outside the box and schools can be reconfigured to make the district more competitive.

Ms. Dinnen reminded her colleagues that there is a priority list that was determined by the Board, when \$1.8 million in cuts was made, which includes promises made to the public on facilities. Ms. Dinnen informed that Lloyd Estates Elementary was told they could not Castaldi a building, although it was over 50 years old, due to the fact their custodial staff does an excellent job in maintaining the school. Also included on the list was Plantation High School cafeteria.

Concurring with the priority list, Mr. Williams stated there was a promise made to Stranahan High School, the oldest high school in Broward County.

Mrs. Leach relayed a discussion by Mr. Lindner at a Facilities Task Force meeting regarding the maintenance team at Stranahan High School, a stellar team who are the first to fix and maintain the school as best they can.

No speakers spoke at this meeting. A vote was taken on the item.

**Adjournment:** This meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m., by way of motion by Mrs. Good and seconded by Ms. Dinnen.

RT