THE SECOND AMENDED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING
STAFF WORKING GROUP MEETING

Draft Minutes
March 5, 2015
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

City of Plantation, Development Services Building
401 NW 70th Terrace, 1st Floor Conference Room
Plantation, Florida  33317

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Eichner called the March 5, 2015 Staff Working Group (SWG) meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Linda Houchins took roll call, and the following members were in attendance:

- Buckeye, Rick  City of Oakland Park
- Carpenter, Paul  City of Coral Springs
- Davis-Hernandez, Tanya  City of North Lauderdale
- Dokuchitz, Peter  City of Plantation
- Eichner, Shelley  Cities of West Park and Weston
- Jefferson, Althea  City of Hallandale Beach
- Johnson, Ann  City of Tamarac
- Lajoie, Corinne  City of Dania Beach
- Lodge, Thomas  City of Fort Lauderdale
- Marks, Scott D.  Town of Pembroke Park
- Pinney, Andrew  City of Margate
- Stevens, Marcia  City of Deerfield Beach
- Stoudenmire, Scott  City of Coconut Creek
- Swanson, Eric  City of Parkland & Town of Southwest Ranches
- Swing, Bradley  City of Sunrise
- Wight, Lisa  Broward County School Board
- Williams, Sharon  City of Pembroke Pines

Others in attendance at the meeting were as follows:

- Beck, Joseph  Broward County School Board
- Smith, Garrett  City of Deerfield Beach

2. Election of Officers

Chair Eichner opened the floor for nominations for the Chair position. Sharon Williams nominated Shelley Eichner to remain Chair of the SWG. Rick Buckeye seconded the motion. There were no other nominations for chair. Chair Eichner closed nominations, and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Eichner opened the floor for nominations for the Vice Chair position. Sharon Williams nominated Lisa Wight to remain Vice Chair, and Rick Buckeye seconded the motion. There were no other nominations for Vice Chair, and nominations were closed. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Election of Staff Working Group (SWG) Ex Officio on the Oversight Committee

Chair Eichner opened the floor for nominations for the SWG Ex-Officio member on the Oversight Committee. Tanya Davis-Hernandez nominated Shelley Eichner to remain as the SWG Ex-Officio member on the Oversight Committee. Rick Buckeye seconded the motion. There were no other nominations for the SWG Ex-Officio position, and nominations were closed. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Addition(s) to the March 5, 2015 Agenda

There were no additions to the March 5, 2015 agenda.

5. Approval of the Final Agenda for the March 5, 2015 Meeting

Sharon Williams made a motion to approve the final agenda for the March 5, 2015 meeting. Peter Dokuchitz seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes from the December 4, 2014 Meeting

Peter Dokuchitz made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2014 meeting. Eric Swanson seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

7. Subcommittee Reports (None)

8. Old Business

8.1 Feedback from the January 14, 2015 Oversight Committee Meeting

Chair Eichner stated that the draft 2014 Annual Status Report for Implementation of the Second Amended Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning (SILA) was presented to the Oversight Committee and they were pleased to see that most of the items in the Report had been complied with in 2014. She said the Committee was also pleased with the SWG’s attempt to reach out to the municipalities that did not attend any SWG meetings in 2014. Chair Eichner advised that she had received a response from the City of Pompano Beach. She said that the Oversight Committee understood the importance of municipal participation, and she stated that the majority of the meeting resolved around amendment of the SILA.

Lisa Wight said that another issue discussed at length at the Oversight Committee meeting had been the legality of the Hardship School Concept if the SILA is not successfully amended. She said that the Committee had requested a legal opinion from the School District’s cadre attorney which would be provided as back up at the April 2015 Oversight Committee meeting.

8.2 New Collocation Facilities

The municipalities had no new collocation facilities to report.

8.3 Status – Broward County and Municipal Comprehensive Plans and Land Development Codes/Regulations

Ms. Wight stated that if the SILA was amended, there would be no sunset date and that it should be a simple change to make to the Comprehensive Plans and Land Development Codes.
8.4 Update on Broward County and Municipalities Evaluation and Appraisal Report

Ms. Wight advised that Sara Forelle had posted the comprehensive plan and the data and support element for the 2014/15 school year on the County website which was available in PDF format. She said to contact Ms. Forelle directly if there were any questions, or to request the documents in an editable format.

9 New Business

9.1 Third Amendment of the Amended Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning

Chair Eichner stated that there are provisions in the SILA which state that relocatables count towards capacity for school concurrency purposes through the 2018/19 school year, and that starting in school year 2019/20, relocatables would no longer count towards capacity. She said that was done as an interim solution to avoid massive boundary changes. Chair Eichner said that as the 2018/19 school year approaches and along with changes to State Statutes that allow relocatables to be counted toward school capacity, the status has changed and school districts have the option to allow relocatables to count towards capacity. She stated that the proposed amendment of the SILA would remove the sunset provision and allow the use of 100 percent of gross capacity which would include the permanent facility and the relocatables to count towards school capacity, which would reduce the number of schools that would be overcrowded for school concurrency purposes. Chair Eichner said that the District was concerned about the declining student population as a result of school boundary changes, the proliferation of charter schools, more private schools, etc. and that the District needed to be more competitive in attracting school-age children back into the public schools.

Ms. Wight stated that in 2015, the reality is that a boundary change is less likely to move a student into a new boundary, and more likely to lose a student to charter schools. She said that the issues expressed by the eastern schools from the last ILA amendment in 2010 are also being addressed, and the District was looking at under-performing schools and engaging in a grass roots effort to create solutions with the input of parents. Ms. Wight said the District, through the Oversight Committee, now had a portable plan which includes a proactive building assessment for the condition of portables and dedicates money towards the disposition of portables which are no longer needed and invests funds in those portables that are still useful. Discussions followed regarding municipal concerns relating to portables as a solution for meeting school capacity. Ms. Wight advised that the District Portable Plan looks at the condition of the existing portables and disposition of those that do not meet the standards for student instruction. She said that it would be an incremental and annual review process. When asked, she responded that on-site portables count towards school capacity with the Department of Education as long as they meet the state standards even though they would not count as capacity for public school concurrency beginning in the 2019/20 school year.

Further discussions continued regarding relocatables and excess school capacity. Sharon Williams asked how the passage of the bond money would affect the issues, and Ms. Wight stated that the bond money does not affect these issues because how the bond money would be spent has been predetermined by the comprehensive needs assessment and used for things like upgrading of music and arts programs, and investing in and upgrading of technology for the education of the students as promised in the referendum. She said that the bond money would allow for the replacement and upgrades of facilities, but she did not know to what extent the relocatables would be addressed through that process. Discussions followed regarding the Bond Oversight Committee and priorities regarding the bond money. The SWG requested a list of the projects that the bond money would be spent on. They also requested a list of the portables that are in dire need of being removed. Ms. Wight said that the Oversight Committee had also requested that information, and that the District was in the process of
identifying how many portables needed to be removed and where they were located and would be shared with the Oversight Committee at their April 2015 meeting.

Ms. Williams asked whether the schedule of improvements in the District Educational Facilities Plan (DEFP) would change with the passage of the Third Amendment to the SILA? Ms. Wight stated that the projects in the next DEFP would include the bond money, but that the current 2014/15 DEFP preceded the vote of the bond. If passed, she stated that the LOS Plan in the DEFP would be modified consistent with the Third Amended ILA. She said that she did not anticipate that the passage of the Third Amendment to the SILA would affect how the bond money is spent. She said that at the strong urging of the Oversight Committee the District developed the Portable Plan, which had assessed, invested in and removed when necessary relocatables.

Chair Eichner asked if the issues in the Interpretation Document would be included in the Third Amendment of the SILA? Ms. Wight answered that at the advice of the District’s cadre attorney, to keep the amendment simple and straightforward, they had not been included. She said that the Third Amendment provided for any school capacity (that is viable for student instruction) to also be considered for school concurrency purposes, which was a straightforward amendment. Ms. Wight added that the Third Amendment would negate the need for the hardship concept.

Chair Eichner asked whether the maps with the examples of school capacity at both 110 percent of permanent capacity and 100 percent of gross capacity included those relocatables that were deemed no longer suitable. Ms. Wight answered that only suitable portables are counted in the inventory. Discussions followed regarding the hardship school concept, and the school boundary process, and Ms. Wight said the hardship concept would not completely prevent boundary changes but would prevent the domino effect.

Chair Eichner asked what the District’s schedule was for adoption of the Third Amendment. Ms. Wight said that the SWG recommendations would go to the Oversight Committee in April 2015, to the School Board in June 2015 and then working with the County and the Municipalities over the next several months. Chair Eichner asked what was expected of the SWG at today’s meeting, and Ms. Wight said that after making any necessary changes, the draft Third Amendment could be forwarded to the Oversight Committee for their review. Discussions followed regarding the timeframes involved, and Ms. Wight advised that the District has plenty of time to pass the Third Amendment because the 110 percent permanent LOS does not have to be met until the 2019/20 school year.

Ms. Wight encouraged the SWG members to provide her with questions and she would provide official responses back to them. She reiterated that school boundary changes do not have the impact that they previously had, and if boundaries have to be changed the students may be lost to charter/private schools. She said that the District was in a situation where they cannot build capacity because they do not have funding authorization. She said that if a municipality had relocatables at a school that were not being used, the Third Amendment would have a limited impact on how fast that issue could be addressed because it would be done as funding becomes available and in accordance with the criteria in the Portable Plan regardless of whether the Third Amendment passes or does not pass.

Chair Eichner asked the group if they were ready to make a recommendation. After brief discussions, it was agreed that the members would take the draft Third Amendment back to their municipalities for further internal discussions before making a recommendation to the Oversight Committee. They also asked that talking /bullet points of the main issues, and pros and cons (why the sunset date needed to be removed and if it was not removed what would happen) be emailed to them in advance of discussions with the municipal officials. Ms. Wight said she was in the process of preparing a presentation which would touch on the above issues. She said per the SILA, the SWG has sixty days to review the Third
Amendment and provide comments to the Oversight Committee. Ms. Wight stated that the draft Third Amendment had been provided to the SWG in January 2015 for their review. After further discussions, Chair Eichner requested that the members take the next sixty days for discussions with each of their Municipal officials, with the help of the District talking points, and they would be able to get a better understanding of how the municipalities are each feeling in regard to the Third Amendment to the SILA. Ms. Wight stated that the municipalities may have certain beliefs based on the past, and she needed SWG help to educate the decision makers on what has changed and the current issues triggering the amendment.

Discussions continued regarding school boundaries, charter schools and the relocatable issues. Ms. Wight said that the message to the municipalities is that the District wants to continue to make efforts to address the wide range of municipal issues.

Ms. Wight listed the next steps as follows:

- Information on the disposition of relocatables, location of relocatables being removed, the timeframes and how the process works
- City of Parkland initiative, the voluntary payment by developer to add and remove relocatables and how that process works
- Pros and cons in bullet points
- List of anticipated SMART information and a list of the priorities for the bond money

Ms. Wight asked that all questions by emailed to her by March 11, 2015. Chair Eichner asked that all of the above information be emailed to the SWG by the end of March 2015. She advised that a special meeting would be scheduled for May 7, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the City of Plantation. Chair Eichner said that she would give the Oversight Committee feedback on what took place at the SWG meeting.

10. Next Staff Working Group Meeting

10.1 June 4, 2015 (Regularly Scheduled Quarterly Meeting)

Chair Eichner advised that the next meeting would be May 7, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the City of Plantation. Ms. Wight reiterated that questions were due back to her by March 11, 2015. Chair Eichner asked that when the above information was provided to the SWG, a summary of the March 5, 2015 meeting be provided to the members not in attendance at the meeting along with a request that they inform their municipal officials.

11. Adjourn

Chair Eichner adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Shelley Eichner, Chair     Linda Houchins, Recording Secretary