

SUMMARY OF PINELLAS SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

The meeting was held on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, in the Planning Department Conference Room. Those in attendance were:

Members Present:

Susan Latvala	Pinellas County (Chairman)
George Cretokos	City of Clearwater
Bill Dudley	City of St. Petersburg
Doug Mullis	Citizen Representative
Steve Kochick	City of Madeira Beach
Carol Cook	Pinellas County School Board
Peter Dalacos	City of Tarpon Springs
Gigi Arntzen	City of Largo
Michael Bessette	Pinellas County Schools
Julie Ward Bujalski	City of Dunedin (arrived at 9:08 a.m.)
Nina Bandoni	City of Safety Harbor

Members Absent:

Jerry Mullins	PSTA/Pinellas Park
Suzanne Vale	City of Oldsmar
John Counts	City of Seminole
Mary Stull	City of Gulfport
Mike Finnerty	City of St. Pete Beach

Others Present:

Dave Sadowsky	Pinellas County Attorney's Office
Gordon Beardslee	Pinellas County Planning Department
Liz Freeman	Pinellas County Planning Department
Ryan Brinson	Pinellas County Planning Department
Sarah Ward	Pinellas County Planning Department/MPO
Gina Harvey	Pinellas County Planning Department/MPO
Paul Geisz	City of St. Petersburg
Jeff Dow	City of Pinellas Park
Sandra Herman	City of Clearwater
Robert Tefft	Clearwater
David Skrelunas	FDOT
Robert Davis	Pinellas County Public Works - Transportation
Fred Matz	Pinellas County School System
Ed Stillo	HDR
Tony Stillo	HDR
Curtis Fuller	Pinellas Preparatory Academy
Jonathan Evans	City of Largo
Ron Rinzivillo	City of Safety Harbor
Valerie Cierdad-Real	The Valerin Group (Pedestrian Safety Campaign)
Megan Carmichael	Pinellas County Health Department
Brian Smith	Pinellas County Planning Department
Carolyn Kuntz	MPO/Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Latvala called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 6, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Arntzen moved, Ms. Cook seconded, and motion carried to approve the May 6 minutes

III. UPDATE/STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT TRACKING SYSTEM

Liz Freeman indicated the system went live in June and the log-in issues were taken care of; however, due to the current economic downtown, there isn't a lot of activity right now except the City of St. Petersburg. Paul Geisz, St. Petersburg, noted they have inputted approved site plan information and the system seems to be working.

Commissioner Bujalski wanted to make sure that the planning staff should be logging into the system and inputting the information to track concurrency. Mr. Smith responded the system keeps track of the number of students and stations.

Upon query by Vice Mayor Kochick regarding impact of recently-approved legislation, Ms. Freeman responded the School Working Group will have to look at how the permanent extensions of two years (Senate Bill 360) could affect school concurrency.

IV. DISCUSSION OF THE TENTATIVE FIVE-YEAR FACILITIES WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Beardslee indicated that, every year, the Collaborative reviews the Tentative Five-Year Facilities Work Program of the School Board. The amount of money allocated that could impact the seating capacity of the schools is \$4 million, which is a decrease from previous years.

Fred Matz noted that, every five years, the School Districts are required to conduct an Education Plant Survey, which is a review of all facilities to see if any changes are needed. During the year, they conducted the survey and the documentation was sent to the State. The School System met their deadline; however, the State notified them that they were not able to complete the validation until after the deadline due to budget cuts, loss of staff, and increased workload. The State asked the School Board to approve the continuation of their current Education Plant Survey for another year, which they did in June. The School System has not added any major projects and included \$4 million for the completion of the construction of the class size reduction requirements. Once the State validates the survey, they will go through the prioritization process looking at major projects that could be added.

Some discussion followed, noting there will be a decrease of students from last year and a potential project next door to Garrison Jones Elementary School would be funded through the minor capital projects section and would be prioritized when deemed necessary.

V. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ELEMENT

Mr. Beardslee noted the local governments were required to adopt the Public School Facilities Element as part of their Comprehensive Plans to implement school concurrency, which included maps. Since the maps were approved as part of the public hearing process, any changes would require a local government to go through the growth management process. Three maps that were approved as part of the adopted Element deal with the location of school facilities need to be amended to reflect the school closures that have occurred over the last couple of years. Staff would like the Committee's concurrence to distribute the amended maps to the local governments so they can go through the Plan amendment process. He reviewed the seven elementary closures and three middle school closures. In addition, the maps will include the new charter schools that have been opened and the two modifications to the middle

school fundamental schools (Madeira and Kennedy) and the moving of the Druid Road ancillary/support facility to Coachman Fundamental School, renamed Coachman Administration.

Commissioner Bujalski moved, Vice Mayor Kochick seconded, and motion carried to approve the amended maps for distribution to the local governments to begin the amendment process.

Councilman Cretekos noted closing of schools can have an impact on the funds and credits a local government can receive from the State for low income assistance housing projects that are located within a mile of a school. He requested that the School Board members take this information forward as they meet with the State Legislature. He noted that changing the distance to two miles would help.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.