

HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 26, 2013

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Rhonda Allen
Commissioner Carol Cook
Commissioner Will Jordan
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner Chantho Sourinho
Commissioner Brad Turner
Commissioner Jeff Jordan, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess
Don Odom
Jeff Sandvig
Will Shelton
Seth Burt
Bruce Haley
Lytton Haley
Lisa Nolen
Aaron Holliday
Gary Clardy
Gale Vogel
Pat Hudgens
Isaac Haley
Becky Shelton

Chairman J. Jordan presided and called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. with all members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Allen moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the minutes of the last meeting. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

COMMUNITY CARE REPORT:

Chairman J. Jordan presented the February 7, 2013 Community Care minutes for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Cook moved, seconded by Commissioner J. Phillips, to approve the Community Care report. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT:

Lisa Nolen presented the Special Projects report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner W. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Allen, to approve the Special Projects report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chairman J. Jordan presented the Health Department report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Turner moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the Health Department report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT:

The Committee was advised there were no budget amendments at this time.

The Committee was provided the five year building program at the last meeting. The first projects discussed were the addition to Smyrna Primary at \$2,506,288 and an annex at Blackman Middle at \$7,400,133. Smyrna Primary is a K-5 school with 535 students.

Superintendent Odom advised it is difficult to project out more than two years but the School Board wants to provide the same opportunities at all schools in the County.

Commissioner J. Phillips questioned why John Coleman was not being renovated but Smyrna Primary was. Superintendent Odom advised it was because of the footprint space at John Coleman and the School Board may need to look for a spot to build a new school replacing John Coleman. Additionally, cost of maintaining and

longevity have to be considered.

Mayor Burgess advised the County will have to borrow the money for the addition and annex but the debt capacity will support it. Commissioner W. Jordan advised borrowing is at historical low rates. Mayor Burgess advised the County just refinanced at 2.1% and the two refundings in the last eighteen months allows these projects to proceed. The County had savings of \$3,700,000 and \$1,500,000 in the refundings.

Finance Director Nolen reviewed the borrowing requirements for the BOE construction requests as well as the assessed value of a penny.

Commissioner W. Jordan ask if the projects could be funded internally and paid back when the County goes to market in 2014. Ms. Nolen advised this could be done.

Mr. Clardy advised he wanted to start on Smyrna Primary before bad weather and would need money in the Fall. The design would need to be done now. Mayor Burgess advised the County could fund the design now and would be ready immediately whenever funding is available. Mayor Burgess advised he was not concerned as much with debt service but with the entire budget.

"Commissioner Allen moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the addition to Smyrna Primary fully funded and on schedule."

"Commissioner J. Phillips moved to amend the original motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook, to fund design of the project with the intention of funding the entire project. This amendment passed unanimously by roll call vote."

"The original motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

Superintendent Odom next advised as to the Blackman Middle annex the school is a capacity issue and has six portables. The annex will mainly be used for the sixth grade and is the most economical way to increase capacity but the County is not many years off from needing a new middle school. Mr. Clardy advised the project needed to start as soon as possible to open August, 2014. The Committee was advised Blackman Middle was designed for 800 to 1,000 and is currently at 1,100. Blackman High School is the largest high school in the State.

Superintendent Odom advised Blackman is a high density area and in close proximity to the schools which suggests an addition is the best option now although this does make for a large school.

Commissioner W. Jordan ask if the County had the luxury of approving the design first. Mr. Clardy advised a decision was needed before the budget was finalized in June to get construction finished. Chairman J. Jordan advised an additional administrator and SRO was needed in the next budget at Blackman Middle. Superintendent Odom advised that is automatic to maintain school certification.

Will Shelton, principal of Blackman Middle, advised safety is an issue especially during tornado warnings because there is not enough room to bring in the students from the portables.

"Commissioner W. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Allen, to fund the Blackman Middle annex project and forward the same to the Budget Committee. This motion passed by roll call vote with Commissioner Turner voting "no"."

Superintendent Odom advised on-line high school courses will be offered beginning this Summer on a trial basis and he hoped to continue the courses in the Fall.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman J. Jordan declared the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

JEFF JORDAN, Chairman