

MINUTES FOR THE  
NASSAU COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MILLAGE REFERENDUM CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

February 1, 2024

Agenda

Members present: Lyle Thompson, Ken Roland, Elizabeth “Betty” Benton, Jeff Tambasco, Sarah Edwards, Rachel Kerestes

Ex-officio Members present: Mark Durham, Misty Mathis, Brett Steger

I. Call to Order Mark Durham, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Durham began the meeting at 6:01 PM.

II. Review and Accept Minutes from Sept. 7, 2023 meeting Mark Durham, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Durham gave all members a copy of the September 7, 2023, Millage Referendum Citizens Oversight Committee Meeting minutes. Mr. Durham provided all members with time to read and review the minutes. Mr. Durham asked for any updates, changes, or revisions to the minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Durham asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Elizabeth “Betty” Benton gave the first motion, followed by a second motion provided by Rachel Kerestes. Mr. Durham called for a vote, and all members voted to approve the minutes as presented.

III. Public Comment (Limit 3 minutes)

Mr. Richard Lamken, 96478 Grande Oaks Lane Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034, spoke on a topic listed as employee compensation.

III. Work Group Presentations by Work Group Chairs

Employee Compensation Scott Hodges

Safety William Schmelling/Al Smith

Arts Rhonda Devereaux/Natasha Drake

Athletics George Raysor

The presentation materials from each work group chair(s) were given to all committee members and individuals present in the audience.

Mr. Hodges' presentation on employee compensation outlined how salary supplements were agreed upon through the collective bargaining process with NTA and NESPA. Mr. Hodges also provided the millage calculations for salary supplements, the per-person gross wages for each employee group, the salary supplement calculations for each employee group, and the salary expenditures as of December 31, 2023. The committee requested that Mr. Hodges provide the beginning teacher salary schedule to all members, and he complied with that request.

Chief Smith was unable to attend the meeting, so Mr. Schmelling presented the Safety Work Group information. Mr. Schmelling shared that the Safety Work Group utilized the needs identified by the principals and school-based safety teams through the Florida School Safety Assessment Tool (FSSAT) process. Mr. Schmelling presented a four-year budget with specific projects, descriptions, and costs.

Ms. Drake and Ms. Devereaux presented the Arts Work Group information. Ms. Drake and Ms. Devereaux presented a timeline of the process and actions the Arts Work Group took to determine the needs at all schools, which in turn was used to formulate the proposed budget. Ms. Drake and Ms. Devereaux shared the specific feedback from all the elementary and secondary schools, which they gathered from a survey they conducted. Ms. Drake and Ms. Devereaux presented a four-year budget with particular projects, descriptions, and costs.

Mr. Raysor's presentation on athletics outlined his work group's process, which included gathering athletic priorities from each secondary school. Mr. Raysor consulted with the school administration and the athletic directors of each school to determine the athletic priorities. Mr. Raysor gathered all the athletic priorities from each school. Then, he met with Mr. Bunch, Director of Facilities, to determine which athletic priorities were already scheduled in the capital project plan for the Nassau County School District. Mr. Bunch also informed Mr. Raysor that some athletic priorities could not be completed because of Florida Department of Education regulations. Mr. Raysor provided everyone with a color-coded chart that detailed which projects were capital projects (blue), which were not approved by FLDOE (red), and which of the athletic priorities by the school could be included in the four-year millage proposal (yellow). Mr. Raysor concluded his presentation by outlining two four-year budget options, which will be presented to the school board for approval: Option A and Option B were discussed and shown to all members, and both possibilities included a four-year budget complete with projects, project descriptions, and project costs.

All members were allowed to ask questions and comment as the work group chair(s) gave the work group presentations.

IV. Proposal to change the date of the Annual Report from January of each year to October of each year

Mr. Durham proposed to move this agenda item to the April 18, 2024, meeting.

V. Election of vice-chair to replace Gerald Wollitz

Mr. Durham proposed to move this agenda item to the April 18, 2024, meeting.

VI. Date of next meeting- April 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Mr. Durham shared this meeting date with everyone and said he would email a reminder.

VII. Agenda items for the next meeting

Mr. Durham asked for agenda items to be emailed to him for the next meeting.

VIII. Board Workshop on Millage- February 5, 2024

Mr. Durham shared information about the board workshop meeting, noting that it would begin at 4:30 PM.

IX. Comments from Committee Members and Staff

Mr. Durham asked for any additional comments from committee members and staff.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Durham adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.