

Monday, April 10, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.  
District Board Room  
620 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met for the Joint Meeting.

**PRESENT:** Chair Anna Prizzia; Vice Chair Mary Alford, Commissioner Ken Cornell, and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler

Chair Tina Certain, Vice Chair Leanetta McNealy, Ph.D., District 2  
Diyonne McGraw, District 3 Sarah Rockwell, Ph.D., District 5 Kay  
Abbitt

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut IV

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Manager Michele Lieberman, Deputy County Manager Carl Smart, County Attorney Sylvia Torres, and Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

Superintendent Shane Andrew

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome Introduction

Chair, Alachua County School Board, Tina Certain

Chair, Alachua County Commission, Anna Prizzia

Assistant County Manager Gina Peebles presented comments regarding the upcoming summer day camp at Cuscowilla. She advised that this year the School Board is not able to provide busing for the children to get to camp and back. She thanked the School Board for providing meals for the children in attendance at camp.

Commissioner Wheeler, School Board Chair Certain, Chair Prizzia, and Interim School Superintendent Shane Andrew presented comments.

Adoption of Agenda

**Member McGraw moved** adoption of the agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

2<sup>nd</sup> Member McNealy

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**Commissioner Wheeler moved** adoption of the agenda. The motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Alford out of the room and Commissioner Chestnut absent.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cornell

Discussion Items

1. Equity and Youth Literacy 23-0662

**Recommended Action:** Discuss the topic of Equity and Youth Literacy

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Strategic Guide:** N/A

Chief of Teaching and Learning Jennifer Wise, Director of Data Analytics, Evaluation, and Accountability Taylor Gilfillan, and Director of Curriculum Kevin Berry presented the above item.

**Commissioner Alford entered at 2:18 p.m.**

Commissioner Wheeler, Member Dr. Rockwell, Member Abbitt, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Prizzia, Member McGraw, Commissioner Cornell, School Board Chair Certain, Member McGraw, Dr. Rockwell, Commissioner Alford, and Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

**Commissioner Cornell moved** to direct staff to work with School Board of Alachua County, the Children Trust of Alachua County, University of Florida and other stakeholders to develop and fund a Comprehensive Plan for literacy in Alachua County and bring back recommendations to this Board. This Comprehensive Plan will be led by the School Board of Alachua County. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Chestnut absent.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Alford

**Member Rockwell moved** to direct the Superintendent and staff to work with Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, the Children's Trust of Alachua County, and other relevant stakeholders to develop a Comprehensive Literacy Program and lead implementation of that program. The motion carried 5-0.

2<sup>nd</sup> Member McGraw

Camp Crystal Lake

Chief of Teaching and Learning Jennifer Wise presented the above item.

Ms. Wise discussed that there are 90% scholarships available for those on free lunch and 50% scholarships available for those on reduced lunch. She advised the Board

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that out-of-County campers are allowed only if space is available after local children have registered.

Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Cornell, and School Board Finance Director Alex Rella presented comments.

**Commissioner Cornell moved** to direct staff to work with School Board staff and bring back transportation solutions for the County summer day camp program at Cuscowilla.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Alford

Member Dr. Rockwell, Member Abbitt, and School Board Chair Certain presented comments.

**The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Chestnut absent.**

Member Dr. McNealy, Member Dr. Rockwell, and Chair Prizzia presented comments.

2. Broadband and Technological Access 23-0663

**Recommended Action:** Discuss topic of Broadband and Technological Access

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Strategic Guide:** N/A

Instructional Technology Chief Officer Uma Shankar and Assistant County Manager Crosby presented the above item.

Mr. Shankar informed the Board that Wi-Fi is available in every classroom in the County. He further stated that over 7,000 laptops with 4G data like a cell phone so that students have access to the internet at home as well. The school buses have also been equipped to provide Wi-Fi to students. The devices are owned by the School Board. The difficulty will be to continue the connectivity once the grant funding ends.

Mr. Crosby advised the Board that the County has set aside \$15,000,000 to provide rural broadband throughout the County. Currently the committee is trying to establish where the needs are. There are several grants available to extend service. The Board tomorrow will see two letters of support for grants one for AT&T for 6,600 homes in the Archer and Hawthorne areas. The second is for IBT for 2,500 homes in High Springs and Hawthorne area. The major issue is the take rate which is the percentage of paying customers in an area of service. Companies generally need about a 60% rate to be profitable. As more providers become available achieving the necessary take rate may be difficult. The County is also trying to get citizens to provide information on a survey and so far only about 10% have responded to the survey.

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School Board Chair Certain inquired if it was possible to push a message regarding the survey to the laptops distributed to school students when they need to be refreshed in an effort to increase the response to the County's efforts.

Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Alford, Member Dr. Rockwell and Chair Prizzia presented comments.

**Member Dr. Rockwell moved** to direct staff to collect data on who lacks availability to broadband and who has an affordability issue with connecting to available broadband and provide that data to the County. The motion carried 5-0.

2<sup>nd</sup> Member McGraw

3. School Re-Zoning & Planning 23-0652  
**Recommended Action:** Conduct the Joint Discussion  
**Fiscal Consideration:** NA  
**Strategic Guide:**

School Board Chair Certain announced that the School Board is not going to pursue spot rezoning but is undertaking a comprehensive rezoning process. Public Meetings are currently being held on the process.

Senior Planner Ben Chumley presented the above item.

Chair Prizzia, Dr. Rockwell, School Board Chair Certain, School Board Director of Planning and Major Construction Ms. Wynn, Commissioner Cornell, School Board Chair Certain, Chair Prizzia, School Board Public Information Officer Jackie Johnson, Kali Blount, Cherry Thomas(?), Commissioner Wheeler, Member McGraw, Dr. Rockwell, Deidre Houchen, School Board Chair Certain, Chair Prizzia, and School Board Director of Planning and Major Construction Suzanne Wynn presented comments.

4. Student Mental Healthcare

School Board Chair Certain stated the issue the School District is having is being able to hiring professionals to come into the district. She is aware that the County operates the Crisis Center and stated that if there is any assistance that can be provided the District would appreciate it.

Chair Prizzia stated that there are multiple entities that are interested in the topic such as the Children's Trust. She stated that a motion directing the staffs to work together on the topic would be helpful and they can return to the Board with recommendations.

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**Commissioner Alford moved** to direct County staff to work with the School Board and other relevant entities on the matter of student mental health.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cornell

**Member Rockwell moved** to direct staff to work with County staff, the Children's Trust of Alachua County, and any other community stakeholders necessary to develop a plan to collaborate around student mental health.

2<sup>nd</sup> Member Abbitt

Larry Green, Kali Blount, Member McGraw, Member Dr. Rockwell, Dr. Edwards, Chair Certain, Chair Prizzia, Assistant Community Support Services Director Tom Tonkavich, Clinical Supervisor of the Alachua County Crisis Center Dr. Garcia, Member McGraw, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Cornell, Member Dr. Rockwell, Chair Prizzia, and Member McGraw presented comments.

**The County motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Chestnut absent.**

School Board Chair Certain recognized Richelle who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

**The School Board motion carried 5-0.**

5. Intergovernmental Coordination

Interim School Superintendent Shane Andrews stated that he will work to see what assistance if any the District can provide for busing to Cuscowilla.

Commissioner Wheeler presented comments regarding transportation for Cuscowilla Day Camp.

Chair Prizzia stated that the County would like to see if the District has any areas where planting trees would be appropriate. The County tree planting program would like to work with the District to plant trees.

Citizen Input

School Board Chair Certain recognized Kali Blount who presented comments.

Comments and Information Discussion

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#### Board of County Commission Comments

Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Alford, and Chair Prizzia stated that they look forward to working with the School District to better the futures of the Children in Alachua County.

#### School Board Comments

Member Abbitt, Member Dr. McNealy, Member Dr. Rockwell, Member McGraw, School Board Chair Certain thanked the County for the commitment to benefit the children of Alachua County.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 P.M.