

MINUTES

SPECIAL WORKSHOP OF THE
JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Wednesday, April 24, 2024 (2:15 PM or following 2 PM Board Meeting)

ROLL CALL

UPON THE ROLL BEING CALLED, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS: Stacey Goodson
Chris Johnson
Tony Pumphrey
Michael "MJ" Jackson
Chephus Granberry

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Steve R. Benton, Sr., Superintendent; H. Matthew Fuqua, Board Attorney; Aaron Day, Deputy Superintendent; District Directors; and Citizens

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Call To Order

The Special Workshop was called to order immediately following the Special Board Meeting by Chairman Tony Pumphrey at 2:53 PM.

2.0 Citizens Request

2.1 Citizens Request: This time is set aside for the Citizens of Jackson County to address the School Board. This is not a question and answer period, nor a political forum. Personal accusations and/or derogatory remarks will not be tolerated. Comments should be limited to three minutes or less. In the interest of time, the Chairman reserves the right to limit the number of speakers on a single topic to two individuals. Please arrive prior to the meeting to complete a "Request to Speak" card. In order to adhere to CDC social distance guidelines, building and or board room access may be limited to the speaker.

3.0 Discussion of Upcoming Contract with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department for the 24-25 School Year

3.1 Discussion of the Upcoming Contract with Jackson County Sheriff's Department for the 24-25 School Year

Sheriff Donnie Edenfield presented proposed changes to the upcoming contract for security. There was discussion with the board members regarding the number of deputies, the time they work for the district and the non-school days they work for the Sheriff's Department. Board members expressed concerns with the costs above the state allocation putting a strain on the school district's budget. There was mention about as the district combines schools, the number of deputies will decrease which in turn decreases the contract. The Board and the Sheriff expressed concerns about finding a way to ensure safety, meeting the state requirement, and holding costs down.

Sheria Griffin requested to speak about the Sheriff's contract. Ms. Griffin expressed concerns of the amount spent above the allocation using up money that could be used for teacher raises and benefits. She also stated there are other ways to meet the legislative requirement for safety.


4.0 Discussion of Hope School Change Order #9 (item tabled at the 4/16/24 Board meeting)

4.1 Discussion of Hope School Change Order #9

There was a lengthy discussion about the Hope School change order. Also, there was discussion about the deadline for completion. Paul Donofro joined in the discussion. Mr. Fuqua suggested a mediation style meeting with a representative from each group, such as one board member, the Superintendent, Facilities Director, and a representative from CGM Construction, Donofro Architects, and Watford Engineering. The board members agreed, and Mr. Fuqua stated he would schedule and host the meeting.

5.0 Adjourn

The special workshop was adjourned at approximately 4:30 PM.



Steve R. Benton, Sr., Superintendent of Schools



Tony Pumphrey, Chairman of the Board