

School Planning Workgroup Meeting Summary

June 24, 2010, at 1:30 pm

I. Welcome and Introductions:

Gordon Beardslee, with the Pinellas County Planning Department facilitated the meeting and welcomed all to the second meeting for 2010. Introductions from those in attendance followed.

II. School Closures Coordination between School District and Local Governments:

Michael Bessette, Associate Superintendent of School District was introduced and stated that last year was unusually different than in years past, and that the District experienced a significant amount of schools closures countywide because the district faced a decline in student enrollment and a \$105 million deficit.

Sandy Herman, from the City of Clearwater mentioned that their City Council had questions pertaining to the coordination efforts of school closures because Clearwater happened to be the most impacted City. Their main concern was with the closure of two historic downtown schools (North and South Ward Elementary) that held a total of 600 students. Tammy Vrana, also from the City of Clearwater, elaborated on the implications of downtown school closures and noted that in most cases when a downtown school closes, the impacted City is in jeopardy of loosing their competitive position for obtaining/applying for Federal affordable housing grants and funding for their downtown areas.

Mr. Bessette responded by saying that he appreciated Clearwater's concerns, and reiterated that last year was unprecedented. He noted that the City of Clearwater not only lost two historic downtown facilities (North and South Ward Elementary) but also Kings Highway Elementary and that both Coachmen Middle and Curtis Fundamental School had to be relocated. He also reviewed the things they look at making a decision to close a school like age of school and corresponding cost of maintenance and operations, number of students, size/capacity, etc.

Mr. Bessette agreed that the need for additional school closure coordination between the district and local governments is vital and that District staff is willing to assist in any way with this effort. Marshall Touchton, the School District's Demographer, suggested a possible solution could be to notify the Planning Workgroup members of the number of potential closures by Concurrency Service Areas (CSAs) when the District is considering a school closure due to the decline in enrollment projection or inadequate capacity.

Mr. Touchton's suggestion was discussed and everyone agreed that the Planning Workgroup would be the preferred early notification method, since workgroup

members are familiar with the CSA's established boundaries and the real-time data being collected by the Development Tracking System. Mr. Bessette further noted that school closures are not anticipated for this coming school year, however there is a possibility for closures to occur the following year.

Ms. Herman asked about the status of the School Districts 5-Year Facilities Work Program and said they are planning to incorporate the document into their Capital Improvements Element. Mr. Bessette responded by saying that Fred Matz indicated that his intentions are to distribute the draft Work Program to the Planning Workgroup members via email for review and comment and that the document will subsequently be sent to the School Board for adoption on September 14, 2010. Mr. Beardslee asked about the status on the 5-Year Plant Survey, which Mr. Bessette replied that it should be approved by the Department of Education (DOE) by the middle of August.

III. Coordination of Future School Improvement Projects:

Mr. Beardslee introduced this item and provided some background. Mr. Bessette discussed that last year, the District was responsible for managing 81 countywide construction projects and coupled with the reductions in staff, it was a very challenging year for all. Mr. Bessette regretted that the District fell short of apprising and coordinating local governments of these construction projects.

Mr. Bessette further noted that he is very confident that the District now has the appropriate staff assigned and in-house procedures in place to organize and notify each respective government of projects occurring in their jurisdiction. Mr. Bessette introduced Virginia Pannill, informing the Workgroup that she will become the primary contact in the future when trying to organize and resolve particular issues/problems relating to School District construction projects.

Mr. Bessette reminded and encouraged the Workgroup members to review in detail, the annual 5-Year Facilities Work Program for projects that are anticipated to occur in their jurisdiction. He also suggested that the District add an additional in-house procedure to individually notify an impacted jurisdiction when the project is nearing the advertisement/selection of an Architect or Construction Management Firm prior to design and development of a concept or site plan.

Mr. Touchton also discussed that the STEPS committee provides a good forum for coordination on things like safety/transportation/sidewalk related projects.

Everyone agreed that this additional step would be very helpful and would eliminate many of the issues that the locals recently experienced. Fred Metcalf, from the City of Gulfport added that their staff has been very pleased with the recent coordination efforts involving the construction and demolition of Boca Ciega High and that everything has been running very smoothly. Mrs. Pannill and Mr. Bessette concurred with Mr. Metcalf.

Mr. Beardslee inquired if the District felt they were getting everything they need from the locals with regard to county or city-initiated projects.

IV. Uniform Approach to Analyzing Potential Student Impacts Associated with Proposed Future Land Use Map Amendments

Mr. Beardslee introduced this item and encouraged those in attendance to make sure they obtain a CD copy before they leave of the revised worksheet table that assesses the potential student impacts associated with proposed Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendments. Mr. Beardslee also informed the group that a letter, along with a copy of the worksheet table, had recently been sent by the School District to notify the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Department of Education (DOE) of our intent to use this methodology countywide to meet legislative submission requirements.

Mr. Touchton gave an overhead presentation of the revised worksheet table and walked the workgroup through the various steps on how to use it. He pointed out the table automatically calculates and distributes the anticipated number of students that could potentially be generated from a proposed FLUM amendment using the School District's approved student yield factor rate. He further noted, that once the proposed student yield is calculated using the approved student yield factor rate, it is then compared with student enrollment and capacity data, which is broken down by school facility type and by Concurrency Service Area for both the current fiscal year and the projected 5-year planning period.

He also shared with the group a unique special feature that has been customized to this worksheet table, which is the ability to account for vested residential approvals currently permitted for construction that are being monitored by the Pinellas County's Residential Development Tracking System. Marshall logged into the Tracking system and showed the group how to find and determine the vested residential approvals and mentioned that if anyone has problems with the system or is having trouble logging in, to contact County staff for assistance.

Mr. Touchton also mentioned that the District's intent is to update the capacity and population data contained within this worksheet table annually in association with completion of their Annual Level of Service Report and that a set of revised CDs will be published and distributed annually.

All agreed that the worksheet table is easy to use and would provide a uniform approach to analyzing potential student impacts associated with proposed FLUM amendments.

V. Other Items from Members

Mr. Beardslee mentioned that the next Workgroup meeting is not scheduled, and suggested that future meetings be schedule as needed. The Collaborative is planning to meet September 1, 2010 to review the School Districts 5-Year Facilities Work Program. Mr. Beardslee concluded the meeting by asking if anyone had any further questions or if there were any other items to consider. There were no comments and the meeting was concluded.

Member in Attendance:

Marshall Touchton	Pinellas County School District
Michael Bessette	Pinellas County School District
Ginny Pannill	Pinellas County School District
Jeffery Dow	City of Pinellas Park
Tom Moore	City of Largo
Sandra Herman	City of Clearwater
Tammy Vrana	City of Clearwater
Fred Metcalf	City of Gulfport
Al Navaroli	Pinellas County
Gordon Beardslee	Pinellas County
Liz Freeman	Pinellas County
David Sadowsky	Pinellas County
Ryan A. Brinson	Pinellas County