

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOINT MEETING WITH MANATEE SCHOOL BOARD
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
April 11, 2018**

Present were: Manatee County Commissioners:
Priscilla Whisenant Trace, Chairman
Robin DiSabatino, First Vice-Chairman
Carol Whitmore, Second Vice-Chairman
Charles B. Smith, Third Vice-Chairman
Betsy Benac
Vanessa Baugh
Stephen R. Jonsson

Present were Manatee School Board Members
Dr. Scott L. Hopes, Chairman
Gina Messenger, Vice-Chairman
John Colon
Charlie Kennedy
Dave "Watchdog" Miner

Also present were:


Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney
Dr. Diana Greenee, Superintendent, School District Manatee County (SDMC)
Ron Ciranna, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services and Operations, SDMC
Cynthia Saunders, Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services, SDMC
Jim Dye, SDMC Attorney
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Chairman Trace called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

AGENDA

BC20180411DOC001

1. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS


 Dr. Diana Greenee, School Board Superintendent, introduced the discussion regarding School Resource Officers (SRO). She utilized a slide presentation and discussed the law enforcement agencies supplying School Resource officers, how many officers are being used by each agency, costs for each agency, proposed allocations, costs for Charter School, and total estimated cost to pay for the SDMC of \$3,585,220, with a short fall of \$1,335,088. These costs are based on what is currently being paid today. The School Board will receive \$2.6 million from the State. Upon question Dr. Greene stated the standard for the number of deputies per Statute is 1 per each elementary and middle school, and 1 deputy for every 1,000 students in high schools. Most school districts are paying a 50/50 split for School Resource Officers (SRO). The additional funding allocated by the State should continue, but will never fully fund SROs. Capital dollars are used for hardening schools.

(Enter Commissioner Baugh during presentation)

(Enter Mr. Miner during presentation)


 Sheriff Rick wells acknowledged there is a mandate for SROs in the schools.


School Board Chairman Dr. Scott Hopes stated the funding by the state is based on the number of students.

 Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, reviewed the decrease in revenue that could occur if the additional homestead exemption passes.


 Dr. Greene explained the additional mil SDMC will receive cannot be used for security.


Discussion ensued regarding the use of the additional mil for the School Board, SDMC budget, number of students and teachers, SDMC exempt from the potential homestead exemption, there could be an increase in property values, ensure the County will be in the correct position to help the School Board, either way paying for the Sheriff and determine where the additional funds are going to come from, community has been supportive of the School Board, it is not required for the Counties or cities to pay for the additional SROs, make decisions based on current revenue, and property taxes are used for these services.


 School Board Chairman, Dr. Scott Hopes, stated the School District received the mandate, and the question is which government entity is responsible for protecting the citizens. A citizen advisory board is trying to find where efficiencies are, and better ways to spend. SDMC wants trained professionals in the schools, and it is important to see who has what resources to fund this basic safety issue in the schools.


 Commissioner Baugh remarked there are several issues that the County needs to address and suggested going back to the state and telling them that the School Districts need more financial help with the safety issues.


Discussion ensued regarding SDMC has chosen to not use the guardian program, which could result in a potential reallocation of unused funding, what is the County's portion, only two counties using the guardian program, and identify the total cost and total deficit


 Neil Unruh, Manatee Sheriff Office, stated the total cost for funding SROs for next year is \$7.5 million


 Mr. Hunzeker stated this is a partially unfunded mandate.


 Discussion continued regarding whether or not the County portion has to be 50 percent, do not put current county employees jobs at jeopardy, ensure public safety, Board of County Commissioners is not mandated to provide SROs, and the 50/50 split is historical.


 Dr. Greene clarified the School District will pay the \$1.33 million which will come from their operating budget.


 Mr. Hunzeker stated page one of the handout outlines the total needed for operating costs is \$5.6 million and the County portion would be \$2.8 million. The County is only responsible for unincorporated county. There will be a budget amendment to cover the additional costs for the remaining year.


 Jan Brewer, Financial Management Director, stated Manatee County will need to pay an additional \$183,446 for this year.

 Discussion ensued regarding the SDMC covering all the cost, there is a potential for a shortfall in coming years, and could raise the millage.


 Sheriff Wells stated he would need to hire additional deputies to serve as SROs, but he needs the funding. The Sheriff's Office is 40 deputies short this year.

 Discussion ensued regarding raising the millage, no line item for the Sheriff on the TRIM, mandate from the DOR that the Sheriff cannot be split out from the County budget, and the cost per deputy is \$113,985 for the SRO program.


 Sheriff Wells explained when the SROs are not working at the schools they are on the road as regular deputies. BC20180411DOC002


 There being no public comments, Chairman Trace closed public comments.


2. **FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) REIMBURSEMENT**


 Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, stated the schools provide sheltering during a storm event, and would apply directly to FEMA for reimbursement. FEMA is in discussions with the State regarding the School Board submitting their request for reimbursement to the County and the County in turn making one reimbursement request for both the School Board and County to FEMA.


 Jan Brewer, Financial Management Director, stated FEMA is asking for a mutual aid agreement between the School Board and the County in order to seek any reimbursement.


 Bob Smith, Public Safety Director, stated this issue only covers the costs for staffing and operating Shelters. Staff recommends that the County and the School Board move forward and begin drafting an interlocal agreement.

 Discussion ensued regarding the length of time to be paid back from FEMA, speak to legislators, who is responsible for what costs, each county is different, and Principals are to run the shelters.

 Mr. Smith, stated this information was just given to the County and there are still discussions between the State and FEMA. FEMA ruled the School Districts are not legally responsible for running the shelters. Additional information is needed and a Request for Legal Services will need to be issued.


 Dr. Diana Greene, School District of Manatee County Superintendent, stated the School District starts the process to open shelters when the Emergency Operations Center directs them to open shelters. They have always fronted the costs, and then submit those costs to FEMA.


 School Board Chairman Dr. Scott Hopes stated the issues started with Hurricane Matthew and FEMA thought they were receiving duplicate requests for funding from both the Counties and School Districts for the same services. BC20180411DOC003


 There being no public comments, Chairman Trace closed public comment.


RECESS/RECONVENE: 3:08 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. All Commissioners present.


3. **EMERGENCY SHELTERS**

 Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator introduced Emergency Shelters and noted there are misconceptions in the public regarding the running of a shelter.


 Ron Ciranna, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services and Operations, SDMC, used a slide presentation and addressed lessons learned during Hurricane Irma and the goals of the School District regarding shelters. The District is preparing a new district plan laying out responsibilities, teams, and preparation. Key departments involved are Financial Management, IT, food and nutrition and maintenance and operations. The Principal is the facility manager of a shelter, and staffing is based on the number of people at the shelter. There are pet friendly shelter plans and shelter supply kits. There is a Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan that lists Manatee County as having a deficit in shelter space, although that is not the case as 11 schools were not listed on the report. The post storm process is long. There is a good working relationship with the County. There were a minimum of four deputies in each shelter as well as National Guard personnel. The newest elementary school is being built as a shelter. Several counties have buildings other than schools being used as shelters. The School District would like to see additional special needs shelters that can remain open after an event, so the schools can reopen. Region 7 includes the same Counties in the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

 Discussion ensued regarding residents from the south using Manatee County shelters, compliments regarding the shelters during Hurricane Irma, and paper work must be provided for FEMA reimbursement.


 John Osborne, Infrastructure Strategic Plan Official, stated the schools need to be evaluated due to locations in the floodplain. There is a deficit of shelters in counties south of Manatee.


 Discussion continued regarding transporting Manatee Memorial patients to other counties, several schools coming off the list as unsuitable shelters, compare School District list of shelters with the County list, if more than two schools are used as shelters, the entire district will need to close, four schools were opened as host shelters for Hurricane Matthew, cost to harden a school is \$3 to 4 million, isolate one building in a high school to lower the cost of hardening, EOC is the only true hardened building in Manatee County, pet friendly shelters, special needs shelters, MTC east is also a potential special needs shelter, Sarasota County in depth evaluation, and over 20,000 people in the shelters during Hurricane Irma.

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 There being no public comment, Chairman Trace closed public comment.

MANATEE EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION (METV)


 Commissioner Whitmore addressed a Memorandum of Understanding between the School Board and METV. The School District has always supplied facilities for METV. To use the studio and facilities after hours there now needs to be clearance from the School District, and METV can only film for non-profits.


 Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, addressed the funding sources for METV and space provided by the School Board. There a number of organizations which rely on METV to promote their services.


Discussion ensued regarding how this came about, did METV agree to the agreement, and new restrictions regarding after hour admittance to the building.

 Dr. Diana Greene, School District of Manatee County Superintendent, stated there was no prior agreement between SDMS and METV, and the School Board's in house station uses the

same facilities. There have been issues with personnel entering the building, and there is a need for the School District building to be secure.

 Discussion continued that there could be a separate building given to the County for METV, MSTV (Manatee Schools Television) would need to be moved into a different location, history of METV and management organizations, School District does not have an interest in METV, and business management.

 Dr Greene stated she is addressing issues brought forward by METV, and the Board will be more than happy to review the Memorandum of Understanding.

 Discussion continued regarding the clause to use public property to conduct business on behalf of for -profit entities, why is the County getting involved, should services be replicated, METV provides services to many organizations, issues with billing, MSTV may not be able to provide the same services as METV, line item for METV in the County budget, grants providing funding as well, METV should bill vendors, School District contribution is a facility, provide financial information, and METV cannot do certain things because they are a non-profit.

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There being no public comment, Chairman Trace closed public comment.

Chairman Trace stated both Boards have large issues to address and need to work together.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Trace adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____