

**EDUCATION TASK FORCE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 23, 2019**

Vice Chair Alligood called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Kemp called the Roll.

ATTENDANCE: Vice Chair Cheryl Alligood, Adam Reback, Carrie Browne, Julie Ross, Jayne Daversa, Douglas Crane, Garret Watson, Senior Planner and Staff liaison, and David Kemp, Principal Planner.

Member Browne moved to approve the minutes from the May 29, 2019 Education Task Force meeting with a change on page 3 from “Mr.” to “Ms.” Kessler. It was seconded by Member Ross. The minutes were passed unanimously.

Jason Link, the Palm Beach County School District Manager of School Enrollment and Demographics and David Dolan, Deputy Chief of Facilities Management, gave an updated presentation on the state of school capacity, trends, and forecasts as well as future construction projects.

Mr. Link explained the updated school counts from the 2019-2020 school year. He also explained the updated future capacity projections based on updated information.

Mr. Dolan provided an update on the upcoming projects for the Jupiter schools. He further explained the phasing and minor changes for the capacity increase project at Jupiter High School.

The Task Force members had the following questions for Mr. Link and Mr. Dolan:

What is the projected number of students from Alton?

Answer: Mr. Link stated Alton had 1,780 units. He noted Dwyer’s projection included the newest projections; however, it may be lowered slightly in the future as things change.

Is there a third story planned for Jupiter High?

Answer: No, it was not designed to support a third story.

Does phase 3 include changes to the cafeteria?

Answer: No.

Do modular classrooms look any different?

Answer: No, they look similar to the other modular classrooms at the school and are more permanent than the traditional “portables”.

What is the timeline for the Jupiter High School project?

Answer: Design is underway now. The project area for the modular classrooms will be cleared out summer 2020. The plan is to have them up and running by the end of summer 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year.

Are the modular class rooms similar to the round classrooms at Jerry Thomas?

Answer: No, these are single classroom units. Vice Chair Alligood added that many teachers preferred the modular classrooms because they were quieter and more comfortable.

Is there an interim-time plan for Jupiter High School?

Answer: There is no interim plan. The school has made accommodations that are working for now with this year's increase. Mr. Dolan noted there might be a way to phase the modular units; however, it is not certain.

Vice Chair Alligood opened the floor to public comment. Staff noted that Ms. Cyndi Dunn submitted a public comment card and wished to speak.

Ms. Dunn asked about the number of modular units already at Jupiter High School and the original high school capacity. Vice Chair Alligood noted that the school opened with modular units. Ms. Dunn inquired about building a new high school and school boundary changes. Mr. Dolan noted that the minimum capacity for a new high school would be about 2,000 students. Vice Chair Alligood explained that boundary changes are complex and contentious and should be a last resort. Mr. Link noted the Alton and Avenir projects in Palm Beach Gardens will take up what little capacity is left at Dwyer.

Vice Chair Alligood asked Mr. Dolan to explain the challenges of building a new school with regards to state approval. Mr. Dolan noted that the state will not authorize new schools if any capacity is available within the district, regardless of feasibility or proximity. He noted that their preference is boundary changes that would shift a large number of students.

Ms. Dunn asked about the recruitment of charter schools. Vice Chair Alligood noted that the district does not recruit charter schools.

Member Reback asked how long it would take to construct a new school. Mr. Dolan stated it would take three or more years once it has been approved for construction.

Member Ross noted that safety and access to curriculum go hand and hand with capacity.

The Task Force discussed the school principal questionnaire and noted changes to wording on questions. Staff indicated the questionnaire would be sent out to principals in the following weeks.

Staff gave an update on information related to the 11-day count, camp attendance, and ideas for future presentations. The Task Force requested that the principals for Jupiter Elementary, Jupiter High, and Beacon Cove be invited to speak at the next meeting. Staff noted that they would reach out to request their attendance at the next meeting.

The Task Force decided their next meeting would be on January 29, 2020 with a backup date of February 5, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

Member Browne asked if staff could reach out to the County with regards to the aftercare program at the Jupiter West location. She requested the student generation rate for Alton and noted that transparency in the overcrowding of Jupiter high school should be part of the Task Force's recommendation. Vice Chair Alligood agreed and noted the information should be distributed to the public.

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Member Ross stated that construction of another school should not be off the table. The Task Force discussed the construction of a new school and possible recommendations for future meetings.

ADJOURN:

Vice Chair Alligood adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Garret Watson, Staff Liaison

Ben Klug, CHAIR

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