

Inverness, Florida  
August 6, 2018

A Special Meeting was held at the District Services Center located at 1007 West Main Street, Inverness, Florida on Monday, August 6, 2018. Present: Sandra “Sam” Himmel – Superintendent; Douglas A. Dodd – Chairman, Thomas Kennedy – Vice Chairman, School Board Members: Virginia Bryant, Sandra Counts, Linda B. Powers and R. Wesley Bradshaw, School Board Attorney.

**SPECIAL MEETING:**

Chairman Dodd opened the Special Meeting at 1:00 p.m. He explained the protocol for citizen comments followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA AS RECOMMENDED BY SUPERINTENDENT**

Thomas Kennedy moved for the adoption of the agenda as recommended by the Superintendent; seconded by Virginia Bryant and carried unanimously.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Cabot McBride – Inverness City Counsel and provided public input.

**SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES, JONNY BISHOP**

- A. Approval of the 2018-2019 Agreement between the School Board of Citrus County and the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office for the School Resource Officer Program (copy in supplemental file)

Attorney Wes Bradshaw provided the Board members with a copy of a revised contract provided by Robert Batsel, Counsel for the Sheriff’s office. Mr. Bradshaw recapped the discussion from the July 31<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting regarding two issues with the Sheriff’s office that both the School Board and the County Commissioners had in regard to the contract, specifically, proportionate sharing and accountability/transparency. He called attention to the language written in the revised contract provided by Mr. Batsel regarding the two issues. Chairman Dodd shared that Sheriff Prendergast and County Commissioner, Ron Kitchen were not in attendance at the meeting. He thanked Robert Batsel, Denise Lyn, Attorney for the County and Randy Oliver, County Administrator for being in attendance. Mr. Bradshaw read from the last contract regarding the proportionate share language and the accounting and auditing section. He explained the changes to the revised contract and expressed his concerns. Discussion ensued regarding the new language. Mr. Batsel then explained the Sheriff’s stand on proportionate share. He

stated the Sheriff plans to seek private donations and grant money from outside Citrus County to supplement the services provided to Citrus County Schools, and he believed with the proportionate share written in a contract, it would stop any type of grant or private donations from coming in. Chairman Dodd shared his thoughts on adding language to the contract clearly stating how any additional monies would be allocated. Mr. Batsel stated he would take Mr. Dodd's recommendation to the Sheriff. Chairman Dodd stated the second issue of accountability needed to be addressed. Mr. Batsel explained how the language in the revised contract was modified regarding the Sheriff's responsibility for an audit. He continued to explain that the Sheriff is a Constitutional Officer, and the Legislature has determined what is reasonable and necessary when auditing Constitutional Officers and that the Sheriff believes any additional audit is not necessary. Ms. Lyn explained the issue is not about an audit, it is about financial accountability. She continued to explain the County is asking for quarterly revenue and expense reports, and reserve balance reports. Discussion ensued, and the Board requested that Mr. Batsel contact Sheriff Prendergast and share with him the recommended language they would like in the contract. Chairman Dodd asked Mr. Batsel for confirmation that each school will have a full-time School Resource Officer. Mr. Batsel confirmed and stated that is what the contract requires. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Dodd called for a recess at 2:36 p.m.

Chairman Dodd reconvened the Special meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Chairman Dodd invited Mr. Batsel to the podium to share information from Sheriff Prendergast regarding the contract. Mr. Batsel brought forward the proposal from Sheriff Prendergast and shared that the Sheriff had three revisions to the Board's recommended language in the contract. Mr. Batsel stated that the Sheriff will agree to the contract if the language regarding private donations and Federal Grants was removed. Discussion ensued regarding Federal Grants. Mr. Oliver shared his thoughts and further discussion was had as to the different types of grants and possible issues that could arise in the future. Sandra Counts asked Mr. Batsel to share the Sheriff's response regarding financial accountability. Mr. Batsel stated the Sheriff would agree to establish a separate cost center for the SRO program and it would be included in their annual audit rather than having an additional audit. Discussion ensued, and the School Board and Ms. Lyn stated they did not agree with the Sheriff's proposed language. Chairman Dodd asked Mr. Batsel to have Sheriff Prendergast call in to give the Board the opportunity to speak to him directly regarding the issues with the contract. Superintendent requested the Board move forward to item B on the agenda before recessing.

- B. Approved the 2018-2019 Agreement between the School Board of Citrus County and the Citrus County Sheriff's Office for the School Traffic Control (copy in supplemental file)

Thomas Kennedy moved to approve the 2018-2019 Agreement between the School Board of Citrus County and the Citrus County Sheriff's Office for the School Traffic Control; seconded by Virginia Bryant and carried unanimously.

Chairman Dodd recessed the Special Meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Chairman Dodd reconvened the Special Meeting at 4:25

Chairman Dodd invited Attorney Batsel to the podium. Mr. Batsel shared that he spoke with Sheriff Prendergast, who was unable to be on speaker phone, and he shared the Sheriff's position on the Board's requested language in the contract. Mr. Batsel stated that the Sheriff would not agree to an additional audit and would not agree having Federal Grants included in the language for proportionate share. Chairman Dodd asked the Board to decide to agree with the Sheriff or move on with further negotiations to develop the District's own Police Department. Attorney Lyn stated that if the Board agreed to enter into the contract as agreed upon with the County, she would bring it to the Board of County Commissioners to sign and then it would be up to the Sheriff to decide if he would or would not sign. Chairman Dodd suggested to enter into a contract as Ms. Lyn shared and also move forward to the other agenda items. Mr. Kennedy agreed with Mr. Dodd to make a motion to accept a contract with the language decided upon.

Attorney Bradshaw read the list of changes recommended to the contract as follows:

Section 4: Effective October 1, 2018 the sheriff will account for the SRO costs, under this Agreement in a separate cost department/ cost center.

Section 4D: The parties agree that any additional allocation from the State from SB 7026, or from any other source for School Resource Officers made to the Sheriff, the School District or the County shall be applied to reduce the County's and the School District's proportionate contribution under this Agreement. Any additional allocation received by any party shall be sent to the County for distribution as stated above. This paragraph does not apply to individual private donations to any of the Parties.

Section 9: the parties agree the funds paid pursuant to this Agreement are restricted for the payment of expenses related to the SRO program and the Sheriff will provide detailed quarterly revenue and expense reports and reserve balance reports beginning October 1, 2018 for the funds paid pursuant to this Agreement to the County and the School District. These reports will encompass the restricted funds paid pursuant to this Agreement. This provision allows for the SRO funds to be audited, but in no event shall such audit occur more frequently than once per year, if determined necessary by any party.

Ms. Lyn shared Mr. Oliver's recommendation to add "The Parties agree to work cooperatively towards the application of any grants beneficial to any of the parties." to section 4D. All Board members agreed.

Thomas Kennedy made a motion to accept the revised stated language as read by School Board Attorney Bradshaw to approve the 2018-2019 Agreement between the Citrus County School Board, the Citrus County Sheriff's Office and the Citrus Board of County Commission for the School Resource Officer Program; seconded by Sandra Counts.

Mr. Kennedy shared his thoughts of hope that all parties would sign the contract. Mr. Batsel stated that the agreement as it had been currently considered, would not be agreed upon by his Sheriff. Mr. Kennedy shared his disappointment and questioned why the Sheriff was not in attendance today. Discussion ensued regarding the issues as to why the Sheriff would not sign the contract. Chairman Dodd shared his thoughts on how great the SRO program has been and is hopeful the Sheriff will sign the contract for the new school year. He stated that student safety is vital, and the School Board takes it very seriously and he believes that the task of keeping sworn deputies in the schools will be accomplished. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bradshaw suggested that the Board move forward with item C on the agenda. He explained the process of establishing a District Police Department and shared that without making a motion, the district cannot move forward with the process. Mr. Bradshaw added that agreeing to move forward with this does not bind the District to establish its own Police Department as it can always be stopped.

Chairman Dodd asked Mr. Bradshaw to continue his discussion and to move on to item C on the agenda. Mr. Bradshaw shared that he provided a resolution to the Board earlier in the day that contained the language necessary to send to the FLDE to start the process of establishing the districts own Police Department. Discussion ensued regarding what the District's Police Department would be called. Chairman Dodd suggested to call it the Citrus County School Board Police Department and asked Mr. Bradshaw to explain the process.

C. Approve the Citrus County School District Establishment of a District Police Department.

Mr. Dodd shared his opinion about moving forward and stated he thought item C should be tabled until the next meeting giving the Sheriff a chance to agree to the Board's request. Discussion ensued, other options were discussed, and the consensus of the Board was to move forward.

Virginia Bryant moved to approve the Citrus County School District Establishment of a District Police Department with the modification naming it the Citrus County School Board Police Department; seconded by Sandra Counts. Attorney Bradshaw read the following resolution on the record:

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION 18-01

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AND  
COMMISSIONING SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER

---

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA** designating and commissioning a school safety officer pursuant to § 1006.12, *Fla. Stat.*, and authorizing and directing the Superintendent of Schools on behalf of the School Board, as employing agency, to take such actions as are necessary or appropriate to comply with the provisions of Chapter 943, *Fla. Stat.*, and to effectuate the intent and purposes of this Resolution.

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Citrus, Florida is authorized pursuant to § 1006.12, *Fla. Stat.*, to commission one or more school safety officers for protection and safety of school personnel, property, and students within the school district; and

**WHEREAS**, the statute authorizes the Superintendent to recommend and the School Board may appoint one or more school safety officers; and

**WHEREAS**, it is intended by the School Board, as employing agency for purposes of Chapter 943, *Fla. Stat.*, that an Originating Agency Identifier be obtained from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to enable the school safety officer to have access to such criminal records and other information as may be available by virtue of the issuance of the Originating Agency Identifier; and

**WHEREAS**, the Schools Board intends to take all actions necessary to establish the "Citrus County School Board Police Department."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA THAT:**

1. The Citrus County School Board Police Department is hereby established.
2. The Superintendent of Schools be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to take such actions as are necessary or appropriate to comply with the provisions of Chapter 943, *Fla. Stat.*, and to effectuate the intent and purposes of this Resolution.
3. The Superintendent shall on behalf of the School Board, as the employing agency, apply for and obtain an Originating Agency Identifier from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement
4. The Superintendent is authorized and directed to take such other and further action as they deem necessary or appropriate to effectuate the intent and purpose of the Resolution.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

THIS RESOLUTION has been duly adopted by \_\_\_\_ vote of the School Board of Citrus County, Florida at its specially scheduled meeting held this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed 4 to 1. For: 4 – Virginia Bryant, Sandra Counts, Thomas Kennedy, Linda Powers Against: 1 Chairman Dodd

D. Approve the Job Description for District Police Chief (copy in supplemental file)

Thomas Kennedy moved to approve the Job Description for District Police Chief; seconded by Sandra Counts. Chairman Dodd questioned the qualifications for the Police Chief position and shared that he believed the qualifications were too minimal. He shared his ideas as to what should be added to the job description. Discussion ensued as to whether the job descriptions should be tabled for a future meeting. Jonny Bishop, Assistant Superintendent suggested to table the job descriptions and reconstruct them and suggested having Chairman Dodd assist in that process.

Linda Powers moved to table the Job Description for District Police Chief; seconded by Virginia Bryant and carried unanimously.

- E. Approve the Job Description for District Police Officer (copy in supplemental file)

Thomas Kennedy moved to table the Job Description for District Police Officer; seconded by Virginia Bryant and carried unanimously.

#### ATTORNEY, LEGAL MATTERS

None

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS

Major Linhart, Citrus County Sheriff Department, provided public comment.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT NEEDS TO COME BEFORE THE SCHOOL BOARD

Sandra Counts shared her enjoyment of the Purple Heart Veteran's Breakfast and stated the School Board was recognized as being a Purple Heart School Board and received some nice complements.

Thomas Kennedy thanked Attorney Lyn and Mr. Oliver for their attendance at the Special Meeting representing the Board of County Commissioners, and shared they were very helpful. He thanked Chairman Dodd not just as Board member, but as a parent, for his service and direction in leadership.

Chairman Dodd thanked Linda Powers for attending the Value Adjustment Board in his stead as he would be unable to attend.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Dodd adjourned the Special meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Douglas A. Dodd  
Chairman

Sandra Himmel  
Superintendent