



Pasco County Schools

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools
7227 Land O' Lakes Boulevard • Land O' Lakes, Florida 34638

April 16, 2018

Sent via email to tammystormrn@hotmail.com

And regular U.S. Mail to:

Tammy Ciske
3515 Albritton Street
New Port Richey, FL 34655

Re: Your e-mail correspondence sent April 9, 11, and 12, 2018, and request for Workshop

Dear Ms. Ciske:

Thank you for the referenced correspondence to Mr. Chris Williams, Director of Planning Services for Pasco County Schools, in which you requested a workshop via e-mail on April 9, 2018, and again on April 12, 2018. This correspondence is the School District's response to those requests.

As you are likely aware, pursuant to section 1001.41, Florida Statutes, it is within the authority of the School Board, after considering recommendations of the Superintendent, to assign students to schools. As Superintendent, it is my duty to advise the School Board and to make sound recommendations to it regarding the efficient operation of District schools in consideration of the best interest of all its students.

Changes to the process, which were occasioned in part by recent litigation, have more closely aligned the District's process with other State Agencies subject to Florida Statute Chapter 120. The District also followed this revised process with the recent rezoning required by the conversion of Ridgewood High School to Wendell Krinn Technical High School. The District's revised process utilizes a workshop to facilitate the public's access to District staff, and to make staff available to respond to questions from the public. The workshop also provides a more informal opportunity for the public to meet with representatives of each of the departments involved in formulating the recommendation, and to interact with representatives of each affected school to obtain information of interest regarding other opportunities available.

At the workshop, the public also has access to a form whereby those who wish can provide feedback, comments, and suggestions regarding the matter. This form was also available online at the rezoning tab of the District website. All input received is subject

to public record laws, and it is provided to the School Board for consideration as part of its quasi-legislative function in the process.

Mr. Williams and staff have advised that you attended the workshop at J.W. Mitchell High School on March 12, 2018, that you e-mailed the School Board members on March 28, 2018, among other instances, and that you completed an electronic feedback form on March 29, 2018. At the workshop, both District and School based staff were available to receive public input and to answer questions regarding the rezoning. All substantive input received by the District, including substantive input received at the workshop, is included with the information presented to the School Board for consideration prior to the public hearing. It is also my understanding that you have discussed your concerns directly with the Board.

Your correspondence on March 28, 2018, and again on March 29, 2018, followed my announcement of my recommendation to the Board. Indeed, you specifically referenced the differences between staff's recommendation and mine in this e-mail. To be clear, my recommendation did not change anything from staff's recommendation related to your neighborhood; it simply removed the western boundary of J.W. Mitchell High School and Seven Springs Middle School (initially recommended by staff) from being recommended for rezoning.

You also asked Mr. Williams for an explanation of why I made the recommendation I did. As you know, the next part of the process is a public hearing scheduled before the School Board, at which time the School Board has another opportunity to hear additional comments, feedback, and input from the public before making its final decision on the matter. You attended the public hearing on April 10, 2018, and heard my comments regarding the rationale for my recommendation. You also made comments to the School Board regarding your concerns and objections to my recommendation.

The School Board's final deliberation and action are scheduled to occur at a subsequent public meeting on May 1, 2018, in the School Board Room, Building #3, 7205 Land O' Lakes Boulevard, Land O' Lakes, Florida 34638, in order to give the board an opportunity to assimilate and consider all relevant materials received through the workshop and public hearing process.

The School Board is the body charged by the law of the State of Florida to ultimately make the determination to assign students to schools. Pursuant to the statutes indicated, as well as applicable School Board bylaws and policies, the School Board has both the obligation and ability to consider any information presented to it as part of its quasi-legislative function in the existing adoption process.

In closing, I have reviewed your request for a workshop. After considering these materials, I do not find that there has been an affirmative demonstration that the current process fails to provide adequate opportunity to protect your interests in this matter. As such, I do not find that another workshop is necessary at this time, and as such, the revision process will not be suspended. You had the opportunity to, and fact did, participate at the public hearing on April 10, 2018, and you have the opportunity to address the Board again at their regularly scheduled meeting on April 17, 2018, and again on May 1, 2018.

In light of the foregoing, please accept this correspondence as an explanation why the workshop you have requested is unnecessary, and why the current process is fair and adequate to protect all involved interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Browning". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kurt S. Browning
Superintendent of Schools