

ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BOARD WORKSHOP ON COLLEGE DRIVE INITIATIVE

March 27, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rich Komando, Chairperson
Mr. Wendell Davis
Mr. Jud Sapp

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Jan Conrad, Vice-Chairperson (excused due to health issues)
Mr. Jim Reid (excused due to illness)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe H. Pickens, J.D., Executive Secretary
Mr. Jeremiah Blocker, Attorney for the Board

The Board workshop on the College Drive Initiative was held at the Orange Park Campus in the Thrasher-Horne Center, Suites C & D. Chairperson Rich Komando called the workshop to order at 1:07 p.m. He introduced Clay County Manager Mr. Howard Wanamaker and Board of County Commissioner Mr. Mike Cella.

Mr. Wanamaker and Mr. Cella discussed the partnership with the College Drive Initiative, which engaged the Urban Land Institute (ULI) of North Florida to convene a Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) to study county-owned property between County Road 220 and Blanding Boulevard on College Drive.

Mr. Wanamaker and Mr. Cella overviewed the short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations and the Clay County BOCC objectives.

President Pickens noted the south entrance/exit of the College campus not aligning with the traffic light is a concern. Mr. Pickens acknowledged that the College would have some fiscal responsibility for the project and requested advance notice from the County for budgeting purposes. Discussion followed. Mr. Cella noted it is a number one priority with the County.

Mr. Wanamaker informed the Board that Clay County received a grant to build a 250-acre regional sports complex. The ribbon cutting is April 5, and the complex is booked months in advance. There are eight (8) multi-purpose fields. Future expansion will allow for development of multiple trails to accommodate different length race courses for competitive use.

President Pickens discussed the College expanding athletics to Clay County in partnership with the County. Discussion followed, specifically regarding cross-country running.

Chairperson Komando requested that marketing efforts continue as this is needed in the community.

The Workshop was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.