

**RECESSED MEETING  
HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
MARCH 26, 2014**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**                    )  
Recessed Meeting

**COUNTY OF HAMILTON**                )  
March 26, 2014

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014, a Recessed Meeting of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners was begun and held at the Courthouse, in the City of Chattanooga, in the County Commission Room, when the following proceedings were held, to wit: --

0:27           Present and presiding was the Honorable Fred Skillern, Chairman. County Clerk Bill Knowles called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fields, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Haynes, Commissioner Henry, Commissioner Mackey, and Chairman Skillern. Total present - 9. Total absent – 0.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Jim Coppinger, members of his administrative staff, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and County Auditor Bill McGriff.

Commissioner Mackey welcomed Pastor Jonathan Schwartz, Brainerd Baptist Church, who gave the invocation. Commissioner Mackey led in the pledge to the flag.

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Chairman Skillern asked that Resolution No. 314-28, which had been deferred from the March 19, 2014 Regular Meeting, be read into the record at this time.

5:05

**RESOLUTION NO. 314-28 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AS TO CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, AND DESIGNATING THOSE FACILITIES APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, AND/OR ADDITIONS AS FUNDING SHALL BE APPROPRIATED BY THIS COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY.**

Chairman Skillern stated that a motion by Commissioner Haynes, seconded by Commissioner Bankston, had been made at the previous meeting and was still on the floor for consideration. The motion was not voted on at this time.

This Resolution provides for funding four of the six school building projects recommended by the Board of Education. The four projects included: replacement school for Ganns Middle Valley Elementary and Falling Water Elementary, and additions at Nolan Elementary, Sale Creek Middle/High, and Wolftever Elementary. The fifth and sixth ranked projects not included in the resolution were new buildings for East Hamilton Middle and Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts (CSLA).

6:10

Commissioner Boyd reported that he had received extensive feedback on this matter from the community throughout the past week. He addressed the large group of

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parents and staff in the audience by stating that it was the responsibility of the Commission to give consideration to the recommendations made by the Board of Education and the County Mayor regarding project priorities. He emphasized that the Mayor and his staff had been diligent in determining the amount of funding available for these projects, while maintaining the County's triple AAA bond rating. He encouraged those seeking new facilities for CSLA and East Hamilton Middle to continue their efforts as future funds become available. He recommended that concerned parents or staff speak with their School Board representative and Superintendent to inform them of school needs.

9:31

Commissioner Graham pointed out that the Commission had appropriated nearly \$100 million dollars in the past two and a half years for new school projects. He stated that he had also spoken with numerous parents from CSLA during the past week. He proposed that administration at CSLA give consideration to speak with the School Board about the possibility of moving their operation to the former David Brainerd School building. He stated that the County had spent \$3.4 million dollars to purchase the property and an additional \$156,000 for a cafeteria. This facility was currently scheduled to be demolished as part of construction of the new East Brainerd Elementary School to be located on the same property. He believed the building could be repurposed to meet the needs of CSLA.

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The previous motion by Commissioner Haynes, seconded by Commissioner Bankston, was unanimously adopted on a Roll Call vote, with the following members of the County Commission being present and voting as follows: Commissioner Bankston, "Aye"; Commissioner Beck, "Aye"; Commissioner Boyd, "Aye"; Commissioner Fields, "Aye"; Commissioner Graham, "Aye"; Commissioner Haynes, "Aye"; Commissioner Henry, "Aye"; Commissioner Mackey, "Aye"; and Chairman Skillern, "Aye". Total present – 9. Total absent – 0. Total "Aye" votes – 9. Total "Nay" votes – 0.

15:53     **DELEGATIONS**

Chairman Skillern asked for delegations on matters other than zoning. He noted that this would give an opportunity to anyone wishing to speak immediately regarding Resolution No. 314-28 rather than the conclusion of the Agenda Session.

16:40     Several members of the audience addressed the Commission, speaking as parents with students attending these schools. These individuals included Scottie Summerlin, representing Nolan Elementary; Jessica Thomas, representing CSLA; Christie Turner, representing Sale Creek Elementary; and Jill Riley, representing Ganns Middle Valley Elementary. Appreciation was expressed to the Commission and that they looked forward to continued improvements in the school system.

Time Code  
Position

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22:55

Chairman Skillern stated that over half of the funding generated from property taxes went towards needs in the school system. Of the current \$90 million dollar bond issue, nearly \$70 million dollars would be used for schools. He also pointed out the rapidly increasing cost of building new schools today compared to schools built in the past. He expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and his staff for their efforts to find available funding for these projects.

There being no further business, Chairman Skillern declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

04-16-14  
Date

WJK  
Clerk's Initials