

**EDGE for Educational Excellence, Inc.**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 29, 2016**  
**951 Moseley Avenue, Palatka, Florida 32177**

I. Call to Order: At 3:40pm, Chairperson Pat Freeman called the meeting to order.

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

III. Attendance: Present: Pat Freeman, Terry Hadaway, Cheryl Batteiger. John Nelson and Grace Thomas were excused.

IV. Public Comments: None

V. Discussion/Action related to development of a collegiate high school at SJRSC and possible acquisition of Charter for Putnam EDGE.

Ms. Freeman introduced Joe Pickens, President of SJRSC and Dr. Melanie Brown, Vice President of Academic Affairs. With the recent press release, Ms. Freeman stated that board members wanted to open a dialogue with the college and determine how we might continue to work together to meet the needs of students, the college and the community at large.

Mr. Pickens provided an overview of the college and how the development of a collegiate high school would be beneficial to all concerned. He stated that the college was partnering with Clay County Schools to locate a collegiate program at one of the high schools and have a charter high school in Palatka. Ms. Freeman commented that Putnam EDGE has had a good working relationship with the college and supports students who want to obtain advanced educational opportunities locally. That was one of the primary reasons for selecting the College Road and PRC locations.

Dr. Brown shared general information regarding the curriculum and how students can choose to remain on a high school track or take college courses that could lead up to and including an AA degree upon graduation. She stated that the interest is very high in Clay County with over 200 people attending the first informational meeting. In considering Putnam EDGE, Ms. Batteiger asked about continuing with the New Tech Network. Dr. Brown said it would be considered, but there are a number of platforms available and would be evaluated. Mr. Hadaway commented about the code of conduct and values that are instilled into the school that set Putnam EDGE apart from other schools.

Mr. Pickens stated that the SJRSC Board has authorized him to explore the possibility of starting a charter school in Putnam County, it made sense to have continued discussions with Putnam EDGE since the school is already established, in the process of receiving accreditation and will be eligible for capital outlay funding next school year. There are a lot of questions to be answered to determine a course of action to have the school up and running for the 2016-2017 school year.

With no further questions, the Board expressed thanks to Mr. Pickens and Dr. Brown for their time.

Following the presentation and discussion, Ms. Freeman commented that if the Board wants to explore options with the college regarding our charter and school, action is needed. Mr. Hadaway made a motion to authorize Ms. Freeman to continue discussions with SJRSC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Batteiger. All members present voted "Yes".

Ms. Freeman stated that we still need to continue activities related to financing for the College Road property since it may take some time for the college to make a determination. Given the delays with the bank, we would not be able to occupy the College Road property in August but more likely by the end of the year. We would need to look for a temporary location. Everyone agreed that timing is critical at this point and decisions will need to be made quickly.

VI. Consent Agenda: No items were pulled. Mr. Hadaway made the motion to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Batteiger. All members present voted "Yes".

#### Old Business

#### VII. A. Status of Application to Bank and USDA

As discussed earlier, Ms. Freeman stated that we need to continue with activities related to the College Road property.

1. The Airport Exception was approved by the City Commissioners at March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
2. The Conditional Use Permit will be heard by the City Planning Board on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.  
Meetings are held at city hall.

B. Status of Accreditation – Ms. Parsons reported the review will be held the first week of May and anticipate receiving accreditation in time for 6 students eligible for graduation this year.

C. Capital Outlay Application – The online application is not yet available.

D. Status Update on Audit for 2014-2015 – Ms. Freeman reported that the auditors plan to complete the audit by the end of the week.

#### VIII. Director's Report: 111 students

Ms. Parsons reported that Mr. Hildebrand has resigned to become a foster parent

IX. No status update for the the Overturf Campus or College Road property.

X. Board Member Comments/Future Agenda Items

Ms. Freeman commented that we need to continue fundraising efforts for the school.

Ms. Batteiger also commented that we need to look at possible locations for the school should we need temporary quarters.

XI. Next Meeting Date: April 21, 2016 at 3:30pm at Putnam EDGE High School.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Freeman