



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY**

**NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA**

**April 30, 2025**

**3:00 PM**

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**ORDER OF  
BUSINESS**

**1 Call to Order - Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chopper Davis at 3:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman, Councilman Bertell Butler, IV. Councilman Brian Jonas was excused.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, Deputy City Clerk Nadine Ward, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Asst. Public Works Director Colin Eichenmuller, Police Chief Bob Kochen, Library Director Andi Figart and Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Kevin Trapp.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**2 Presentation by Dr. John Legg, Pasco County Schools Superintendent RE: Education Update on City of NPR Schools - Page 2**

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this work session was for Pasco County Schools Superintendent, Dr. John Legg, to provide an education update to Council on schools within city limits.

Dr. Legg began his presentation by highlighting recent investment in schools and providing an academic overview. He then spoke regarding student gains, demographics and school grade trends. Dr. Legg then spoke regarding their academic action plan. He also highlighted the Mitty P. Locke program changes and construction timeline for the new Gulf Middle School. He stated the major focus is on academics and removing distractions from staff and school board so that they can focus on education and minimize unnecessary drama. Dr. Legg stated that the 3 schools in the NPR city limits are struggling. The percentage of kids at Richey Elementary that are on grade level is extremely low. Mitty P. Locke will now house the Achieve Center that is currently at Richey Elementary, the current programs, Pre-K and Headstart, will transition to elementary schools in Pasco County as well as Metropolitan Ministries. Mike Gudy from Pasco County Schools Construction Services then presented the Gulf Middle Remodel construction timeline. He stated they will be starting in Summer of 2025 and scheduled to be complete Summer of 2027.

Councilman Altman spoke regarding his 50-year class reunion at Gulf High. He stated the amount of alumni support that Gulf High has is tremendous. He is excited to see the progress in the remodels. He stated he would like a copy of the presentation and thanked Dr. Legg for the partnership. Councilman Butler thanked staff for support of the CAFT program. He spoke about grants that we should capitalize on related to AI. FLC has programs that we should get involved with related to elementary students. He would like to see Student Government Day be reinstated. He suggested that Harrison Road become a one way to support the school traffic. He is pleased about the plans that will help with children traveling. He stated the CRA should invest in a single family house building program. He suggested that during the Trunk or Treat event the city should be there to speak on different partnerships. He also spoke about flooding at the current bus loop. Mayor Davis spoke regarding the kids in town not knowing who our mayor is as well as the Council members. He has offered to the elementary and middle schools for the council to come to the schools and speak with the students regarding government. He also offered to use Francis Park for any school based programs. He also offered for them to use the flag pole banners for recognition during graduation. Councilman Murphy spoke about being a lifelong resident and saddened by the low academic scores. He thanked Dr. Legg for his dedication to improvement. City Manager Manns thanked Dr. Legg for his candor and openness. She spoke about the effect that the quality of school has on the NPR community. She offered to assist in any way that the City can to help the schools succeed.

3           Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_ (signed)

Initialed: \_\_\_\_\_

Nadine Ward, Deputy City Clerk