



City of North Port

4970 City Hall Blvd
North Port, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Joint Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Pete Emrich, Mayor
Barbara Langdon, Vice Mayor
Phil Stokes, Commissioner
David Duval, Commissioner
Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jerome Fletcher, City Manager
Michael Fuino, City Attorney
Heather Faust, City Clerk

Friday, January 16, 2026

9:00 AM

Suncoast Technical College Conference Center
4748 Beneva Road, Sarasota

Convocation of Governments

Elected Officials and Others Present:

The following officials were present: City of North Port Mayor Pete Emrich, Vice Mayor Barbara Langdon, Commissioner David Duval, Commissioner Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner Phil Stokes, and City Manager Jerome Fletcher; City of Sarasota Mayor Debbie Trice, Vice Mayor Kathy Kelly Ohlrich, Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch, Interim City Manager Dave Bullock, and Commission Reporter James Johnson; City of Venice Mayor Nick Pachota, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, City Council Member Kevin Engelke, City Council Member Lloyd Weed, City Manager James Clinch, and Deputy City Clerk Toni Gregory; Town of Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon, Town Manager Howard Tipton, and Administrative Assistant/Records Management Specialist Stephanie Garcia; Sarasota County Chair Ron Cutsinger, Vice Chair Mark Smith, Commissioner Teresa Mast, Commissioner Tom Knight, Commissioner Joe Neunder, County Administrator Jonathan Lewis, and Deputy Clerk Charlie Maloney; Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler, Vice Chair Robyn Marinelli, Board Member Liz Barker, Board Member Thomas Edwards, Board Member Karen Rose, Superintendent Terry Connor, and Administrative Assistant Kathy Tomkins.

1. Welcome/Pledge/Introductions - Tim Enos, Chair, School Board of Sarasota County

Ms. Ziegler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and introductions were made.

2. Convocation Goals and Agenda - Bridget Ziegler, Chair, School Board of Sarasota County

Ms. Ziegler reviewed the agenda and goals.

3. Open to the Public - Citizen Comments

Steven Martinucci: Spoke to Sarasota High School noise levels.

4. Capital Projects – Update/Highlights

Dr. Kemp provided a presentation including Skye Ranch School, Wellen Park High School construction, Garden Elementary replacement project, North Port High School (NPHS) renovation, Suncoast Technical College (STC), student projections, total capacity, NPHS age, and STC expansion.

5. Future Focused Strategic Initiative - Terry Connor, SCS, Superintendent

Mr. Connor provided a presentation including graduation rates, education funding pressures, constraints, current conditions, financial landscape, declining enrollment, State education funding, increased infrastructure, Florida empowerment scholarship impact, pandemic federal funding, maintaining competitive compensation, rising costs, co-location laws, future focused strategic initiative, and examples.

6. City of North Port - A. Jerome Fletcher, City Manager, City of North Port

Mr. Fletcher provided a presentation including recent and upcoming events, accomplishments, goals, partnerships, and programs.

7. City of Sarasota - David Bullock, Interim City Manager, City of Sarasota

Mr. Bullock provided a presentation including recent and upcoming events, accomplishments, goals, partnerships, and programs.

8. Sarasota County Government - Jonathan Lewis, County Administrator, Sarasota County

Mr. Lewis provided a presentation including recent and upcoming events, accomplishments, and partnerships.

9. City of Venice - James Clinch, City Manager, City of Venice

Mr. Clinch provided a presentation including recent and upcoming events, accomplishments, goals, partnerships, and programs.

10. Town of Longboat Key - Howard Tipton, Town Manager, Longboat Key

Mr. Tipton provided a presentation including recent and upcoming events, accomplishments, goals, partnerships, and programs.

11. Other Business - Bridget Ziegler, Chair, School Board of Sarasota County

Discussion took place regarding partnerships, Students Taking an Active Role (STAR) program, and youth advisory board.

12. Adjournment - Bridget Ziegler, Chair, School Board of Sarasota County

Ms. Ziegler adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Pete Emrich, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk