



Joseph Taylor
Superintendent of Schools
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**Washington County
District School Board**
"An Equal Opportunity Agency"
652 Third Street
Chipley, Florida 32428

District 1
Vann Brock
1160 Whittington Road, Chipley
District 2
Wayne C. Saunders
847 Candy Lane, Chipley
District 3
Milton Brown
3399 Mallory Road, Vernon
District 4
Terry Ellis
1306 Pinebluff Court, Chipley
District 5
Susan G Roberts
1456 State Park Road, Chipley

January 29, 2016

Senator Don Gaetz
Senator Bill Montford
Capitol Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Senator Gaetz and Senator Montford:

At a presentation to the full House Appropriations Committee on Thursday afternoon, January 21, 2016, a PowerPoint presentation was made that dealt with student station costs by School Districts over the last nine years. The information came from forms filed by District that reflected costs associated with school construction.

The Washington County School District was shown in 2006 as exceeding the statutory limits in place in 2006. I would like to offer the background as to what led to these costs. Washington County School District was approved in the 2003-2004 fiscal year for participation in the Special Facilities program. The State program approved the amount of \$13,721,942.00 for participation amount based upon student station costs at the time. The final construction cost totaled \$15,513,526.00 for the completed project in July 2006.

The costs were driven by three events. The first was the length of time the project was active in that the project extended over three years with funding split into two years by the State program. The second was massive material cost escalation during this time period due to a series of storms hitting the State during those years and then Hurricane Katrina hitting New Orleans in 2005 which also dried up available labor. The third event was that the District made the decision to build an auditorium, paid from its reserves, as there was not a facility such as this in the Vernon school system. The funding allowed under the Special Facility program did not allow for this construction and these costs were totally paid by District reserves.

I can provide any backup or supporting documentation that you would like to see and would be available to meet with you or anyone that you may find helpful to explain this in more detail.

My office number is (850) 638-6222, and my cell number is (850) 260-4061 and my home number is (850) 535-4770 if you need to reach me. My email is joseph.taylor@wcsdschools.com

Sincerely,



Joseph Taylor
Superintendent of Schools, Washington County School District

JT:ca

Copy: Representative Brad Drake
Representative Matt Gaetz
Representative Jay Trumbull, Jr