

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
CONVOCAION OF GOVERNMENTS
CITY COUNCIL, SARASOTA, FLORIDA
JANUARY 20, 2023 (UPDATE LINKS TO MEETING VIDEO FROM SCSB)**

A Special Meeting of the Venice City Council, Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners, Sarasota County School Board, City of Sarasota Commissioners, Town of Longboat Key Commissioners, and City of North Port Commissioners, was held this date at the Suncoast Technical College Conference Center, 4748 Beneva Road, Sarasota, Florida.

Audio File Download Link to full meeting content: *(Also times and links are noted for each agenda topic numbered below)*

[Convocation of Governments 2023 - Audio Only - Jan 20th, 2023 \(granicus.com\)](#)

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT

SARASOTA COUNTY: Chair Ron Cutsinger, Vice Chair Nancy C. Detert, and Commissioners Michael A. Moran, Mark Smith and Joe Neunder; County Administrator Jonathan Lewis; and Deputy Clerk Charlie Maloney

SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: Chair Bridget Ziegler, Vice Chair Karen Rose, and Board Members Thomas Edwards, Tim Enos, and Robyn Marinelli; Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Chief Operating Officer Jody Dumas; and Administrative Assistant Kathy Tomkins

CITY OF NORTH PORT: Mayor Barbara Langdon, Vice Mayor Alice White, and Commissioner Debbie McDowell; City Manager Jerome Fletcher; and Assistant City Clerk Adrian Jianelli

CITY OF SARASOTA: Vice Mayor Liz Alpert and Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch; City Manager Marlon Brown; and Commission Reporter James Johnson

CITY OF VENICE: Mayor Nick Pachota, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, and Council Member Mitzie Fiedler; City Manager Edward Lavallee; Assistant City Manager James Clinch; City Clerk Kelly Michaels; and City Attorney Kelly Fernandez

TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY: Commissioner Penny Gold; Town Manager Thomas Harmer; and Deputy Town Clerk Savannah Cobb

1. [WELCOME/PLEDGE/INTRODUCTIONS](#) (9:00 a.m.)
Speaker: Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler

SCSB Chair Ziegler welcomed all present.

2. [CONVOCAION GOALS AND AGENDA](#) (9:02 a.m.)
Speaker: Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler

The Board/Commissioners/Council/School Board Members reviewed the Convocation goals and agenda.

3. [OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - Opened and closed without comment.](#) (9:02 a.m.)

4. **UPDATE ON SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE** (9:03 a.m.)

Presentation by: Sarasota County Schools Planning Director Diane Cominotti
Item submitted: A copy of a document entitled "Enrollment and Planning for the Future"

Contributing Speakers: Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler, Sarasota County, and Sarasota School Board Planner Amy Anderson

5. **HURRICANE IAN RECAP/DEBRIEF** (9:13 a.m.)

Presentation by: Emergency Services Director Richard Collins
Item submitted: A copy of a document entitled "Hurricane Ian Update"

Contributing Speakers: Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler, Sarasota County School Board Member Tim Enos, Sarasota County School Board Member Tom Edwards, Sarasota County School Board Member Robyn Marinelli, City of North Port Vice Mayor Alice White, City of North Port City Manager Jerome Fletcher, and City of Venice City Manager Edward Lavallee

6. **SCHOOL SAFETY: ACTIVE SHOOTER** (9:38 a.m.)

Presentation by: Sarasota County School Board Chief of Police, Duane Oakes
Item submitted: A copy of a document entitled "Riverview High School Swatting Debrief, January 20, 2023"

Contributing Speakers: Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler, City of Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown, City of North Port Vice Mayor Alice White, and Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Chief Operating Officer Jody Dumas

7. **SAFE WALKWAYS TO SCHOOLS** (9:56 a.m.)

Presented by: Public Works Director Spencer Anderson and County Administrator Jonathan Lewis
Speakers:
Item submitted: A copy of document entitled "Sarasota County Sidewalk Plan and Safe Routes to School"

Contributing Speakers: Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Chief Operating Officer Jody Dumas, and City of Sarasota Vice Mayor Liz Alpert

8. **TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY** (10:08 a.m.)

Speakers: Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler, and Town of Longboat Key Town Manager Thomas Harmer

9. **CITY OF NORTH PORT** (10:13 a.m.)

Speakers: Sarasota School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler, City of North Port City Manager Jerome Fletcher, City of North Port Mayor Barbara Langdon, and Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Chief Operating Officer Jody Dumas

10. **CITY OF SARASOTA** (10:19 a.m.)
Speakers: Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler, City of Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown, City of Sarasota Vice Mayor Liz Alpert, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Chief Operating Officer Jody Dumas, and Sarasota County Schools Director of Construction Services Jane Dreger
11. **SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT** (10:26 a.m.)
Speakers: Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler, Sarasota County Administrator Jonathan Lewis.
12. **CITY OF VENICE** (10:32 a.m.)
Speakers: Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler, City of Venice City Manager Ed Lavalley, and Mayor Nick Pachota

City Manager Lavalley introduced council members and charter officers in attendance. He expressed the importance of participating, spoke on the significant share in the 50/50 development of the Performing Art Center, appreciation for continued collaboration with the schools, looked forward to the regional fire training academy, offered ideas as it relates to internships to constrain brain-drain, and expressed his desire for follow up as it relates to mutually beneficial opportunities to further education and professional development skills with internships.

Mayor Pachota expressed appreciation for opportunities to collaborate and thanked those in attendance especially the School Board for hosting the meeting.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS** (10:35 a.m.)

Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler commented on the Convocation of Governments 2024 schedule (January 19, 2024), and thanked the staff of the Suncoast Technical College, the culinary department, and the Sarasota County School District for their assistance with the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:36 a.m.

Nick Pachota, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kelly Michaels, MMC
Venice City Clerk