



City of Alachua

MAYOR WALTER WELCH
Vice Mayor Shirley Green Brown
Commissioner Jacob Fletcher
Commissioner Jennifer Ringersen
Commissioner Dayna Williams

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Walter Welch

March 11, 2026

Chair Thomas Vu and Members of the School Board

School Board of Alachua County
620 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Re: Request to Defer School Rezoning Vote Scheduled for March 12, 2026

Dear Chair Vu and Members of the School Board:

At the direction of the Alachua City Commission, I write to respectfully request that the School Board defer any final action on the proposed school rezoning decisions currently scheduled for March 12, 2026, and reschedule the vote for a later date.

Over the past several weeks, City officials have heard from many residents and families who have expressed serious concerns about the potential impacts of these changes and the limited time available for the public to review and understand the most recent proposals prior to final action.

The City recognizes that Alachua County Public Schools is addressing complex districtwide challenges related to enrollment trends, school capacity, facilities planning, fiscal stewardship, and long term program alignment. We appreciate the work that has gone into the district's "Our Schools-Future Ready" process and understand the difficult decisions facing the School Board as it works to ensure the long term sustainability of the school system.

The proposals currently under consideration, including potential elementary school closures, K through 8 reconfigurations, and changes to attendance boundaries, have significant and lasting impacts on families and communities throughout the City. Given the magnitude of these potential changes, the City believes it is essential that affected families and community members have adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to review and respond to the most recent proposals before a final decision is made.

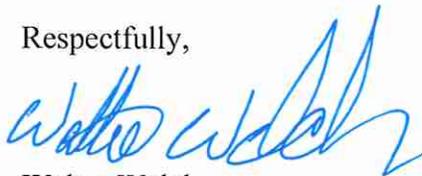
School rezoning decisions directly affect where children attend school, how long they travel each day, and how students progress from elementary to middle and high school. These decisions also influence neighborhood stability and community confidence in the public process. Providing additional time for public notice and community engagement would help ensure that the Board's decision reflects the perspectives of the families and communities most affected.

For these reasons, the City respectfully requests that the School Board postpone the March 12, 2026 rezoning vote to allow sufficient time for public review, community engagement, and careful consideration of the potential impacts on affected families.

The City of Alachua values its partnership with Alachua County Public Schools and stands ready to work cooperatively with the School Board and district staff to support a thoughtful process that serves our students and families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Walter Welch
Mayor, City of Alachua
On behalf of the Alachua City Commission

cc: Alachua City Commission
Superintendent Kamela Patton