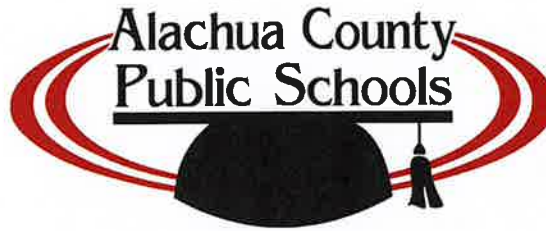


**BOARD MEMBERS**

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**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent

*Mission Statement: We are committed to the success of every student!*

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May 15, 2026

Hon. Tim Marden, Mayor  
City of Newberry  
25493 NW 1st Ave.  
Newberry, FL 32669

*Via Electronic Mail*

RE: Oak View PreK-8 School Portable Classroom Facilities

Dear Mayor Marden,

Our office received a letter from you on May 12, 2026. In that letter you express concern that the City of Newberry is unlikely to promptly approve our plans to place additional portable classrooms in time for the upcoming Fall 2026 semester. To facilitate development review, you ask several questions about the school's proposed operations and invite us to hold a pre-application meeting.

First, some background. The Alachua County School Board appreciates the City of Newberry's general power to regulate land development. However, the state can impose limits on this power. Indeed, when it comes to regulating the placement of portable classroom facilities, the State Legislature has set clear limits: "[e]xisting schools shall be considered consistent with the applicable local government comprehensive plan" and "[l]ocal government review or approval is not required for ... the placement of temporary or portable classroom facilities[.]"<sup>1</sup>

Second, this statute notwithstanding, you have requested that the School Board provide a traffic study to the City of Newberry in connection with these portable classrooms. With the growth of development throughout this community, we understand the City's desire to understand how the portable classroom facilities may, or may not, contribute to the community's existing traffic conditions. However, a traffic impact study is not customary when a project's traffic impact is minimal. Per our licensed professionals, the traffic projections between existing traffic conditions and the traffic conditions caused by our portable classroom facilities do not warrant a full traffic impact study.

To be clear, traffic safety—including pedestrian safety—is a shared priority for both the City of Newberry and Alachua County Public Schools. With that goal in mind, we have requested that the City of Newberry conduct a Hazardous Walking Condition Study to examine a two-mile walk zone around Oak View PreK-8 School. These studies

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<sup>1</sup> § 1013.33(9), Fla. Stat. (2025) (emphasis added).

identify conditions that may be hazardous along student walking routes. Bear in mind, the two-mile walk zone encompasses far more than just the street adjacent to the school. In the meantime, Alachua County Public Schools will continue to maximize safety for vehicles, bikers, pedestrians, and buses entering and exiting Oak View PreK-8 School. This includes engaging a field service technician from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office to facilitate the safe flow of traffic at our expense. Data collected from this temporary solution will be used to determine future continued need and responsibility for such personnel.

Third, you have asked how many students Alachua County Public Schools expects to accommodate at Oak View PreK-8 School's portable classroom facilities. As of the date of this letter, we expect to accommodate two hundred students in these facilities. However, in accordance with Florida Department of Education standards, the facilities could accommodate a theoretical capacity of up to 406 students—should future growth require additional space.

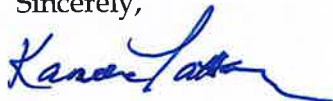
Finally, you have requested data relating to the portable classroom facilities' impact on certain public utilities. Our design professionals have been in consistent communication with the City of Newberry on these issues. For example:

- *Electrical.* Between February 26, 2026, and April 13, 2026, School Board agents (i.e. H2 Engineering) have corresponded with the City of Newberry and have held several virtual meetings to address electrical matters.
- *Wastewater.* School Board agents (NV5) have coordinated directly with the City to coordinate design, including identifying the preferred sanitary tie-in location. Full utility plans were submitted to City staff on May 11, 2026, and coordination is ongoing.

The School Board is committed to continuing to be a strong partner to the City of Newberry. We understand the challenges that come with a growing city, and it is our unique challenge—and great privilege—to serve the children of this growing community. To help meet the operational challenges of rapid growth, the Florida Legislature has chosen to remove portable classrooms from development review. This insulates our operations from the unreliable timelines that often impact traditional development projects.

We look forward to your continued support as we proceed to operating Oak View PreK-8 School this fall.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kamela Patton  
Superintendent  
Alachua County Public Schools