

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Pike Road
9575 Vaughn Road
Pike Road, AL 36064

Contacts:

Gordon Stone, Mayor
Charlene Rabren, Town Clerk
(334) 272-9883

October 5, 2011

EDUCATION EXPERTS VOICE SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL PLAN

During an information session on the upcoming tax increase referendum in the Town of Pike Road, three Alabama education experts offered reasons for their support of the plan. Former Alabama Superintendent of Education and Auburn University President, Dr. Ed Richardson, Troy University Chancellor, Dr. Jack Hawkins, and Auburn University Montgomery economics professor Dr. Keivan Deravi each spoke briefly about the school plan and then fielded questions from the crowd of about 200.

Dr. Richardson noted that 90 percent of children in the State of Alabama and nationwide are educated in public schools and that, in light of this statistic, "I believe this school is a great idea for the Pike Road community. It's a great idea for Montgomery County, and I certainly believe it is a great idea for the State of Alabama." Richardson later answered questions from the audience regarding the local school board's relationship to the state board of education and federal government.

Echoing Dr. Richardson's comments, Dr. Hawkins called the referendum a "great opportunity" for the Town of Pike Road. Dr. Hawkins said, "Great communities are reflected by great schools," and asked in regard to the timing of the effort, "If not us, who? If not now, when?" Dr. Hawkins is a resident of the Town of Pike Road.

When asked about the timing of the referendum and school construction, Dr. Deravi asserted that the current economic situation makes this an ideal time to build, noting that the costs of construction and financing are low and that tax revenues only stand to increase as the economy improves.

"The insight offered by Dr. Richardson, Dr. Hawkins and Dr. Deravi is the product of years of experience in the fields of education and economics," said Mayor Gordon Stone. "It is quite remarkable to have the three of them on one stage together, and even more exciting to hear them express their confidence in the Pike Road school plan."

The gathering, which took place at St. James United Methodist Church in the Town of Pike Road, was the fifth of five events which aimed to inform citizens of the details of the school plan and to answer any questions they might have about the referendum and school. Registered voters residing in the Town of Pike Road will have the opportunity to vote in favor of or against the creation of a 16-mill property tax to fund the establishment of a municipal school system in the town Tuesday, October 11 at Pike Road Town Hall.

For more information, please contact Gordon Stone or Charlene Rabren at 272-9883.

###