



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

*Finance Advisory Committee*

August 31, 2005

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Keith Banasiak, Lawrence Bush, Cheryl Diamond, David Carleton Hall, Thomas Hodson, Errol Howard, Thomas McNulty, Jack Murphy, Gary Snow, Doug Wells, Fred Whitehouse.

Committee Members Absent: Tracey Battle, Susanne Quattro, Chuck Reynolds, Carl Snipes

Lee County School Personnel Present: Jim Browder, Jeanne Dozier, Michael Olliff

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Becky Demo

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**Welcome/ Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Hall called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. He asked for amendments to the minutes of the previous meeting. As there were none, a motion was made to accept the minutes as read, the motion was seconded, the minutes of May 25, 2005, Finance Advisory Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

**Public Comment**

None

**Board Member's Report**

Mrs. Dozier reported a very busy summer getting ready for schools to open. She reported that we are still short bus drivers. Ms. Dozier made the announcement that Mr. Olliff would be leaving the District and going into the private sector.

Mrs. Dozier stated that it was reported that there was a possibility of the Board making an adjustment in the amount granted for the Superintendent to make purchases. Mrs. Dozier clarified that has not been presented to the Board for discussion and the Board will not act on that until it is presented to the Board.

Mrs. Dozier said that Schools opened and kids are getting to school and doing well. There was an A+ Ceremony and a lot of schools were recognized. Curriculum reading and math courses are in place and we should have even more next year. We expect to have a great school year. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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**Sales Tax Referendum Update**

Materials were handed out with information on the Assumptions of Expenses and Assumptions of Revenues. Dr. Browder stated that the assumption is that we will be building thirty-nine new schools in the next nine years. The Superintendent showed in presentation, that the assumed total expenses for the next nine years, including new schools (39), rebuilding schools (18), ancillary facilities, other capital projects, technology, equipment and buses, transfer for maintenance and dept service would be \$2,843,472,920. The assumed total revenues for the next nine years, including revenues from 2 mill taxes, impact fees, CO & DS, PECO, classrooms for students, miscellaneous (fuel tax), interest income and COPs total \$3,114,119,052. Dr. Browder stated that all of this is flat line data.

Dr. Browder stated that the storm that just hit the gulf coast area would have a dramatic impact on our community regarding growth. People will be leaving this area to go to work were the hurricane hit, gas and materials will be going up. Dr. Browder pointed out that we may not be able to get materials or portables. The storm could bring families here to live that do not have homes and need to relocate. Dr. Browder said that the figures he presented will change. The Superintendent will be asking the Board to approve the purchase of 200 portables so that we will be guaranteed the ability to deal with growth. The Superintendent stated that we do not know what impact the hurricane will have on our community. The committee discussed many of things that could impact the District because of the Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Browder stated that he will bring the data to the committee every six months to show the impact the hurricane on the District. The Superintendent said a determination would be made over a period of time. According to the data presented there was no need for a tax, but that may all change. Dr. Browder stated that the issue that could help us is a relaxation in the class size amendment. The effect of what happened would affect the implementation of the class size amendment because of the problem of getting materials and portables. That would be a statewide concern.

It was suggested by a member that we should welcome the victims of the hurricane with welcome arms. The Superintendent agreed that the whole state should do that. The members discussed other storms and the effects they had.

Dr. Browder concluded by stating that more information would be given to this committee, because of the situation.

#### **Financial Department Management Staffing**

Dr. Browder stated that we advertised the Budget Director's position with six viable applicants, only one from Florida. Dr. Browder stated he would like someone with Florida experience. The Superintendent stated that Jim Buckley, previously the Director of Budget for the District for 25 years, is willing to consult with us, so that takes some of the pressure off to hire immediately. The Superintendent stated that we will find the right person for this position.

#### **Review of Next Year's Budget**

Mike Olliff stated there are changes of the tentative budget increase of \$25,

000,000. He will be running a final report on Sept. 5th and that will set the base for our budget. Mr. Olliff felt it would probably go up. Operations fund balances projected \$60.5 million in the general fund, which is \$700,000 higher. We have carry over to bolster our contingency reserve. The District has one of the best ratings in the state. The District set up the Hurricane Charley fund in the General Fund. The District funded expenses upfront with capital and general dollars. As insurance checks come in we will repay general or capital funds. Mr. Olliff stated that it may take two or three years to get all the money back. We have 13 to 14 million dollars budgeted for repairs for Hurricane Charley. We have collected 4.5 million dollars from insurance and FEMA funds have just started coming in. We are 90% finished with filing our project worksheets. Mr. Olliff handed out copies of the 2005-06 Tentative Budget. Mr. Olliff stated that the final budget hearing will be September 12, 2005 at 5:05 p.m. Mr. Olliff stated that we have increased 112 teachers in this budget.

There was discussion by the committee regarding the shortage of teachers and some of the things The District will need to do to attract teachers. Mr. Olliff gave the following information regarding teachers. There were 150,000 teachers statewide in 2004. Of those, 20,000 of those held Florida Teaching Certificates for the first time. It is projected that in 2005 we will need 21,000 new teachers in the state. In 2006-07 we will need 29,000.

#### **Good of the Order**

None

Mr. Hall adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. in the Human Resources Conference Room on the first floor of the Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center.**