



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee *September 19, 2018* Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kenneth Boyd, Paul Cohen, Shannelle Cruz, Dean Fjelstul, Ramie Hall, Julie Martinez, Todd Maurer, (by phone), David Moreland, MaryBeth Mouriz, Terence Phillips, John Shannon, John Steakley, Daryl Teblum, Adile Williams, Shawn Williams

Committee Members Absent: none

Board Member: Chris Patricca

Lee County School Personnel Present: Susan Malay, Robert Dodig

Recording Secretary: Barb Gill

WELCOME

Susan Malay welcomed everyone to the meeting, which began at 4:02 p.m. She then conducted the election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the 2018/19 school year. Paul Cohen was unanimously voted as Chairperson and Daryl Teblum was unanimously voted as Vice Chairperson.

Paul Cohen thanked everyone for his reappointment of Chairperson for the Committee. He then asked each of the new members to introduce themselves.

Robert Dodig, our School Board Attorney, covered with the Committee members the following:

- Membership
- Organization of Committees
- Reporting Requirements
- Conduct of Meetings
- Roberts Rules of Order
- Public Comment
- Sunshine Law

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the August minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

Randy Scott spoke to the Committee on his views on the District's finances and shared that he is opposed to the sales tax referendum. He urges the members to look at the student enrollment numbers.

Sam Stewart, a former School Superintendent, then spoke to the Committee saying that he believes that the District is being squeezed by the state and by various other means. He stressed the importance of students feeling a part of the school and doesn't see how that is possible with the District's use of 188 trailers. He urges everyone to get out and vote for the sales tax referendum.

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

Chris Patricca began by thanking everyone for serving on the Committee and that it gives her hope. She then stressed that during this next year, the Committee stay on topic and not go outside the realm of what FAC should be focused on. Ms. Patricca would like Mr. Blurton to speak to the committee next month regarding the roll back rate and how required local effort works. She then asked the members to be representatives of the Committee by going out and share their knowledge with the public. Her hope for this year is that the Committee generate strong recommendations to the Board.

REVIEW SRO'S/EFFICIENCY STUDY/OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE/ FY19 BUDGET

Various discussions ensued regarding the location of information on the District's website, below is the location of the ones discussed:

- www.leeschools.net/our_district/reports_publications
(Annual Reports, Budget Books, AFR, CAFR, etc.)
- www.leeschools.net/our_district/change_for_change
(Fast facts regarding the half-cent sales tax referendum)
- www.leeschools.net/our_district/change_for_change/financial_audits
(OPPAGA Audit, the Gibson Operational Efficiency Study and 2010-2017 Financial Audits)

Views/requests were given by attendees:

- Susan Malay – “The State Legislature is against self-funding.”
- Julie Martinez – In reference to information shared by Dr. Adkins, she was apprised with the fact that Lee County is one of the 6 “super growth counties” in Florida and the only district that does not have an additional revenue source.
- Paul Cohen - Asked if someone would like to champion either past and/or new recommendations to the Board.
- Shawn Williams – Suggested that the District look at pursuing the full reinstatement of Impact Fees.
- Mary Beth Mouriz – Shared, “Better schools equals increased property values.”
- Dean Fjelstul and Adile Williams will work on a *Fact Sheet* with the highlights of the Gibson Report.
- Ken Boyd and Dean Fjelstul will create a Fact Sheet with misunderstood points for the public.

- IF the sales tax does not pass, ideas were given that would help the District continue with the existing budget:
 - * A four day school week
 - * Year round school
 - * Double sessions
 - * Additional ideas are needed

The meeting extended to develop bullet points to communicate to the public the Districts issues regarding the need for more funding.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for **October 17, 2018** in the **Intervention Training Room located in Room 01-0202**, located right beside our regular meeting room, at 2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida.