



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee

October 17, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kenneth Boyd, Paul Cohen, Dean Fjelstul, Ramie Hall, David Moreland, MaryBeth Mouriz, Terence Phillips, John Shannon, John Steakley, Daryl Teblum, Shawn Williams

Committee Members Absent: Shannelle Cruz, Julie Martinez, Todd Maurer, Adile Williams

Board Member: Chris Patricca

Lee County School Personnel Present: Greg Blurton, Kelly Letcher

Recording Secretary: Barb Gill

WELCOME

Paul Cohen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

No public comment.

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

Chris Patricca welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that she is looking forward to hearing about the rollback rate from Greg Blurton. She then shared that she would not feel comfortable with any recommendation regarding any audit without the Finance Advisory Committee behind her.

Ms. Patricca thanked Ken Boyd for his submission on additional initiatives the committee might explore if the sales tax referendum does not pass.

ROLL BACK RATE FOR MILLAGES

Greg Blurton began by introducing himself and greeting the new members. He then defined the meaning of "roll back rate" for millages to the committee; "It is the millage rate that is necessary to generate the same amount of money as raised the prior school year using the current year's tax roll".

The millage comparison over the last five years:

2015 7.416
2016 7.285
2017 6.989
2018 6.679
2019 6.401

The difference from the 2018 millage and the 2019 millage is approximately a reduction of 7.2 million dollars for the District. Then it was shared that funds were taken from the K-12 and given it to higher education, in the 10 million dollar range.

It was asked if any school district in the state received an increase in millage compared to Lee County and Mr. Blurton responded, "No". And then explained, "The rollback rate tries to average the amount given to Districts even if housing goes sky high".

A question was asked why the Board uses COPS funding instead of General Obligation Bonds. It was explained that General Obligation Bonds need to be voted on and is more expensive to property owners.

Kelly Letcher shared that the State tells us what we have to millage; "we are directed".

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After a discussion regarding the date for the next Finance Advisory Committee meeting, the committee approved the following dates unanimously: November 14th, December 19th, January 16th, February 20th, March 20th, April 17th, and May 15th.

Paul Cohen distributed a Gibson Report recap for every committee member. John Steakley asked if everyone could rank the findings.

Paul then asked the committee if they are in agreement to have one or more Student Advisory Committee students attend our meetings. Everyone was in agreement that it was fine.

At the end of the meeting, Kelly Letcher read an email in response to the committee's questions on Principal retention and where they are currently.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for **November 14, 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.