



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee

April 18, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kenneth Boyd, Paul Cohen, Laurie Gretten, Ramie Hall, Todd Maurer, David Moreland, Terry Rabicoff, Randy Scott, Terrance Siler, John Steakley, Daryl Teblum, William Tubb, Shawn Williams

Committee Members Absent: Julie Martinez, Ramsey Quartey

Board Member: Chris Patricca

Lee County School Personnel Present: Kelly Letcher, Robert Codie, Marc Mora

Recording Secretary: Barb Gill

WELCOME

Paul Cohen welcomed everyone to the meeting, which began at 4:04 p.m.

PRESENTATION BY ROBERT CODIE & MARC MORA

Robert Codie began by presenting the Transportation's VISION 2020 Goals, which were:

- Reduce the overall cost of transportation
- Improve Operational Efficiency

The Transportation Department has shown a cost savings of \$2,100,000 and has made 38 route reductions. The department also cut their shelved items in half by running a min/max system with parts.

Here are a few of the facts that were presented at the meeting:

- Currently the bus fleet consists of 326 buses under warranty, 586 out of warranty.
- The busses that are 12 years and older are used as spare buses.
- The District has 728 bus routes and currently have 728 drivers along with 111 sub drivers.
- Transportation transports 49,119 students very day.
- The District purchased 190 buses in 2017 and 58 buses in 2018.
- All buses are equipped with air conditioning.
- The District is looking at a 12 year replacement cycle for buses.
- An average bus travels 88 miles per day.
- With a class of 21 students in a CDL class, by completion of the class, that number falls to 8.

- The average maintenance cost for a bus 12 years or older is \$8,000 per bus. Average cost for a bus within warranty, \$2,000, which shows a difference of \$6,000.00.
- Lee County is 7th in the state for bus driver wages.
- At this time, mechanics are difficult to find but the department does pull from 3 Lee County Schools.
- Safety training for bus drivers are given 2 times per year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Paul Cohen to approve the March minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

N/A

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

Mrs. Patricca began by stating how much she appreciates bus drivers! Mrs. Patricca then asked if the Committee would like to look into ways to reconfigure our schools to provide a cost savings to our District. During the discussion, the following ideas were presented:

- Change in bus times
- Double sessions for high schoolers – (currently not permitted due to the state testing window)
- Convert elementary schools to K-8
- Year round schools – (Mrs. Patricca stated that the educational benefits of this has been proven.)
- Look at a K-3, 4-8, 9-12 structure and to identify if there would be a cost savings.

The discussion then moved to the School Resource Officers. Kelly Letcher shared that the District pays a flat rate of \$52,000 per officer. Currently, the sheriff's department has placed 40 additional officers in the schools at no additional charge.

An update on the sales tax referendum was then requested. Mrs. Patricca explained that a law was passed by the state that an OPPAGA (Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government) audit is required to be done, (on the capital side of the house), and MUST be completed and placed on the District's website 60 days before the election is to take place. The District is already looking into this and is moving ahead with doing whatever is necessary and requested by the state.

A motion was made and seconded to look into advertising on buses and installing bus stop arms on all buses. After a discussion, the motion passed: 12 approved and 1 opposed.

FAC UPDATES

Mrs. Kelly Letcher updated the committee on past FAC:

- Naming Rights – No movement since the last update.
- Efficiency Study/Operational Audit – Due to the hurricane, the new dates of completion was extended.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Prior to dismissing, the discussion regarding continuing FAC meetings over the summer months was debated. A motion was then made to continue meetings for the months of June, July, and August and they would be called the Workshop Meetings. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for **TBA**, at 4:00 p.m., in the Student Services Conference Room located in Room 01-0002 at 2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida.