



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee

December 20, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kenneth Boyd, Paul Cohen, Ramie Hall, David Moreland, Ramsey Quartey, Randy Scott, John Steakley, Daryl Teblum, William Tubb, Shawn Williams

Committee Members Absent: John DiBiaso, Todd Maurer, Bret Randle, Jason Schwartz, Terrance Siler

Board Member: Chris Patricca

Lee County School Personnel Present: Robert Dodig, Kelly Letcher

Recording Secretary: Barb Gill

WELCOME

Mr. Paul Cohen welcomed everyone to the meeting, which began at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the November 15th meeting were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

N/A

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

Mrs. Chris Patricca shared throughout the presentation regarding House Bill 7069.

PRESENTATION BY ATTORNEY ROBERT DODIG

Mr. Robert Dodig gave the committee an update on House Bill 7069, with the following information:

- Our School Board voted 7-0 to participate in a lawsuit with 12 other school districts in Florida. The Lee County School District will be one of the plaintiff's in the lawsuit against the Florida Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education, and the Chair of the State Board of Education. The lawsuit centers around 6 specific provisions. All of those provisions speak to the local authority of an elected school board in Florida.
 1. Sharing of capital funding with Charter Schools
 2. Local education agencies will compete for federal funds
 3. Requirement of state created contracts with Charter Schools
 4. Development of Schools of Hope
 5. Sharing of Title I dollars with Charter Schools
 6. Use of Turn-Around Schools – reassign students to another school; contract with an outside entity; close the school.

- The counties that are participating in the lawsuit are: Alachua, Bay, Broward, Clay, Duval, Hamilton, Orange, Pinellas, Polk, St. Lucie, Volusia, and Wakulla.
- The suit is filed in Leon Circuit Court, which is the seat of government.
- A parallel matter was filed in the Florida Supreme Court, alleging the legislature violated the constitution.

FAC UPDATES

Mrs. Kelly Letcher updated the committee on past FAC recommendations:

- Naming Rights – Dunbar High School will be the first school to use the Naming Rights process.
- Efficiency Study/Operational Audit – The District is working with Gibson Consulting Group, the firm that is handling the Efficiency Study, by providing them with necessary information. The firm will be coming to the District offices during the week of January 29th.
- Sales Tax – The District is working through the process of collecting in-depth information. During the meeting, a member asked a question regarding an outside group working on the sales tax issue. Mrs. Patricca responded, “It is inappropriate for the committee to discuss that in the Finance Advisory Committee meeting.”
- Hurricane Irma update – The cost to the District from Hurricane Irma has amounted to 23 million. The District has hired Adjusters International to make sure that the District receives the correct insurance reimbursement and accurate dollars from FEMA. The total breakdown of reimbursement to the District will be 75% FEMA, 12.5% state insurance and 12.5% lose to the District.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for **January 17, 2018**, at 4:00 p.m., in the Student Services Conference Room located in Room 01-0002 at 2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida.