



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee

February 21, 2018

Meeting Minutes

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

Committee Members Absent: John DiBiaso, Ramsey Quartey, Bret Randle, Jason Schwartz, Terrance Siler

Board Member: Chris Patricca

Lee County School Personnel Present: Kelly Letcher, Dr. Jeff McCullers

Recording Secretary: Barb Gill

WELCOME

Mr. Paul Cohen welcomed everyone to the meeting, which began at 4:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Paul Cohen to approve the December 20, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion was then made to approve the January 17, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

N/A

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

Mrs. Chris Patricca began by sharing that she is continuing to speak to groups regarding sales tax and the safety and security of our students, which is what some of the additional funding could improve.

The committee then asked questions regarding House Bill 7069, Teacher's Unions, the lawsuit on the 7069 injunction, and the efficiency study.

Kelly Letcher interjected that a couple of weeks ago, Gibson Consulting Group made a site visit and spoke to all of the Chiefs and Executive Directors regarding all of their areas. A list was created by the firm requesting additional information, which the District will provide to them.

During the discussion regarding the audit, there was an urging to reach out to everyone, i.e. the Support Staff, Teachers, etc., for their ideas for improvement.

Mr. Todd Maurer shared that in his hometown, the *Innovative Pipeline* was started whereby

anyone could submit ideas and their peers would be the ones that voted on the ideas. At the end, a prize would be awarded.

Shawn Williams shared that there is company called *Idea Scale*. “This company is knowledge based where you can vote up or down on ideas”.

Mrs. Patricca stated that *Safe Schools* funding is currently 64 million, for 67 counties. Lee County receives 2.5% of that amount. Eighty percent of our 2.5% goes to SRO’s. “We do not have an efficient funding source currently to place SRO’s at each school. We need to place multiple SRO’s in each school that is larger and/or are more difficult to lockdown.”

“My belief is that we have to take a very purposeful, thoughtful approach to any changes we make to the safety and security in this District”. She then added, “We are already at the cutting edge in terms of active shooter protocols that we use. We need to have doors lock right after you go through a door.”

Mrs. Patricca would like to have thoughtful meetings throughout the District to discuss the safety and security of the students prior to any changes.

PRESENTATION BY DR. JEFF MCCULLERS

Dr. Jeff McCullers, the Director of Grants and Program Development, began by answering a question that Paul Cohen asked of him, “Are there any grants out there for safety and security at this time.” Dr. McCullers responded, “No”.

Dr. McCullers explained the processes ... in the Grant Department. They have 3 major activities:

- **Sponsored Programs Office**
 - Grant proposal planning, development, review, submittal, and authorization
 - Training and resource for principal investigators and program managers of major grants
 - Grant complaints, investigations, and audit resolutions
 - Private school consultation
 - ESEA Coordinating Committee
- **Charter School Liaison**
 - Charter school authorizing, contract management, renewal, and termination
 - Training and resource for charter school principals
 - Charter school complaints and investigations
- **Program Development and Policy Analysis**
 - Problem analysis, research review, Internal Review Board support, and program evaluation
 - Policy development and review
 - Federal and state legislative analysis

The Grants Department has six employees; Director, Secretary, Assistant Director-Magnet Schools, Grant Specialist – Magnet Schools, Coordinator – Grant Development, Administrator – Charter Schools.

One of the Grant Department goals for Vision 2020 is to increase family and community engagement. The goal is to generate strategies, including competitive grants and fundraising, for

a total of at least \$20 million by 2020, as measured by District annual end of year budget reports.

Grant activity from July, 2017 – February, 2018:

Applications	Requested Amount	Awarded Amount
229	\$104,910,571	\$92,669,002

Information slides showed:

Competitive Grant Funds as Percent of Total Grants – 3rd Best in Florida

All Grants:

\$7.5.0M

Competitive

\$10.2M

Grant-Funded Staff as Percent of General FTE's – 3rd Worst in Florida

General FTE:

\$10.5K

Grant FTE

0.90k

Dr. McCullers shared that grants come with additional programs and that the cost of the grant must come out of the grant, per our District. Also, magnet schools assistance programs have a limit of 5 years. A District may reapply but it must be for another school in the District.

The Grant Department will send a representative to schools to teach the process of writing a grant, upon request. Eighty percent of the schools in the District participates in grants.

FAC UPDATES

Mrs. Kelly Letcher updated the committee on past FAC:

- Naming Rights – Nothing new to report.
- Efficiency Study/Operational Audit – Discussed above in Board Member's Report.
- Sales Tax – Discussed above during Board Member's Report.
- Hurricane Irma update – FEMA is in the process of formulating projects and doing site visits.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After the presentation, the committee discussed the following:

- Transportation – Reduced their budget by ½ a million.
- Transportation - The bus vendor is unable to repair the A/C units due to lack of staff...what are we doing about this?
- Construction Services – Saved 2.0 million using direct material purchases.

The Finance Advisory Committee is looking at requesting more information regarding the grant process:

- Procedures: Process for grants start to finish, including tracking of materials.
- KPI's for all years for the Grants Department
- The amounts received for Competitive Grants for the past 10 years, listed by total amount per year and possible detail by grant and who initialed it.
- Mr. Daryl Teblum's suggestion, "A digital signature is necessary on any grant which is submitted."
- Are there grants for solar energy if used at a school?
- 10 year strategic plan – "not there yet" – possible grants?

Human Resources

- How long does it take for a school principal to be changed, if the school has a low grade or is brought forward by the media due to their negative actions?
- Mrs. Patricca stated, "Why aren't schools competing with other schools in grant dollars"? Mr. Teblum added, "Give a \$50 stipend if they win...if they are generating that kind of revenue...why not?"
- "Are we permitted to use an incentive for teacher retention?"
- "What are we currently doing regarding the issue of teaching subs not being able to pass the tests to earn their degree?"

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for **March 14, 2018**, at 4:00 p.m., in the Student Services Conference Room located in Room 01-0002 at 2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida.