



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee

June 20, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kenneth Boyd, Paul Cohen, Ramie Hall, Todd Maurer, Randy Scott, John Steakley, William Tubb

Committee Members Absent: Laurie Gretten, Julie Martinez, David Moreland, Ramsey Quartey, Terry Rabicoff, Terrance Siler, Daryl Teblum, Shawn 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, which began at 4:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

No public comment.

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

Mrs. Patricca did not share a "Board Member's Report" but shared regarding school safety.

FUNDING THE NEW STATE MANDATE FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

Mrs. Patricca began by explaining that the law states, "The Superintendent and the School District are to partner with law enforcement agencies." The District has contacted/met with various agencies with the following results:

- Cape Coral - funding half of the cost of an officer at each school
- Fort Myers – funding half of the cost of an officer at each school
- Sanibel – continuing to fund the full cost of an officer

"The Sheriff Department sent an interlocal agreement to Bonita Springs, Estero and Fort Myers Beach municipalities, asking them to pick up half of the cost of SRO's in

each school. But, because the County Commission made a policy change, they are now moving the cost of SRO's, for the municipalities that don't have police departments, into the MSTU - *Municipal Services Taxing Unit*, which would force the residence of these municipalities to pay a separate tax for these SRO's." At this point, Mrs. Patricca feels that everyone needs to meet and come up with a solution for our students.

"The bottom line is", which Mrs. Patricca believes every agency agrees on, "student safety MUST come first." She also shared that this is a result of an unfunded mandate by the state. "At this point, the District has done everything they can do, it is now up to the County Commission and the municipalities to work this out."

Kelly Letcher informed the committee that State gave the District an extra 2 million dollars, "Safe School Dollars", towards the cost of SRO's.

Mr. Cohen asked if there were any student safety grants that the District could apply to for assistance. Kelly Letcher informed the committee that the State of Florida is developing a grant called, *Hardening Our Schools*. A template for this grant will be sent to District's in August which will be for capital purposes only.

It was determined that the August topic will be a review and discussion of the Efficiency Study results. Also, a review of the differences between *Operational Dollars vs. Capital Dollars* will be held at next meeting per Paul Cohen.

Ken Boyd was interested in more information on school repurposing for the District. Chris Patricca agreed to contact Mark Mora, the Executive Director of Operations and Wanda Creel, the Chief Academic Officer, of Academic Services, to collect information from them regarding school repurposing.

Mr. Boyd then suggested having three committee members create a sub-committee that would look into school repurposing. It was agreed upon with the committee and the three members of the sub-committee will be Ken Boyd, John Steakley and Ramie Hall.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for **July 18, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.**, in the Student Services Conference Room located in Room 01-0002 at 2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida.