



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee

May 23, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kenneth Boyd, Paul Cohen, Ramie Hall, Ramsey Quartey, Randy Scott, John Steakley, Daryl Teblum

Committee Members Absent: Laurie Gretten, Julie Martinez, Todd Maurer, David Moreland, Terry Rabicoff, Terrance Siler, William Tubb, Shawn Williams

Board Member: Chris Patricca

Lee County School Personnel Present: Greg Blurton, Richard Parfitt

Recording Secretary: Barb Gill

WELCOME

Paul Cohen welcomed everyone to the meeting, which began at 4:05 p.m.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO) ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Mr. Cohen introduced Mr. Greg Blurton, Chief Finance Officer and Mr. Richard Parfitt, the Director of Safety & Security for the District.

Mr. Blurton began by explaining some of initial facts concerning the placement of SRO's in Lee County Schools per Legislation.

- The County Commission will only be able to fund unincorporated Lee County, which covers 39 schools.
- The Sanibel Schools will be covered by the Sanibel Police Department.
- Both the Cape Coral Police Department, with 19 schools, and the City of Fort Myers Police Department, with 14 schools, (plus the Success Academy and Royal Palm Academy), would like to cover the cost for the SRO's. For both police departments, there is a concern over the cost and the ability to staff. Currently a draft with both departments is being drawn up whereby the District would share the cost 50/50, (with a max. of \$50,000 for the School District).
- There are also discussions in progress with the City of Bonita Springs, Village of Estero and the Town of Fort Myers Beach.
- The District will be receiving *Safe School Dollars* which is also distributed to Charter Schools. These funds will go to cover the cost of the SRO's.
- At a cost of approx., \$50,000 for each SRO times the number of schools equals roughly 8-9 million dollars. The District is going to be short the funds needed.

- Cape Coral Police Departments & Fort Myers Police Departments will have capital needs to cover not only the training of new recruits but additional costs, i.e. cost of vehicles, etc.
- There is a “Guardian Program” where the State may offer more funding, but the Lee County School District has chosen not to participate in the program.

It was suggested to hire a security company to place guards at our schools. Mr. Parfitt explained, “It is not as simple as having an armed guard. We need people that are engaged with the students and want to be there **for** the students and not necessarily just for the pay. If we have the same person at each school, they would notice discerning behaviors.”

Mr. Blurton shared that when meeting with the City of Cape Coral and the City of Fort Myers, “We are very fortunate that they believe that this is a community issue and that we are partners in dealing with this challenge”.

Contacting the Department of Homeland Security for funds was suggested by Mrs. Hall. Mr. Parfitt explained that the State of Florida requests the funds from the Department of Homeland Security and then the state decides how it will be disbursed. “Typically it goes to technology.”

Mrs. Hall also suggested a “GoFundMe” account for either each school separately or the District as a whole. This will be something that the District would need to look into if moved forward.

At this point in the meeting, Lauren Stillwell, the Director of Communications for the School District, addressed the committee with Brian Siakowski from Tebo Partnerships. The District has contracted with Tebo Partnerships regarding the naming rights. Questions were answered regarding the contract and commissions with the company. Handouts were available for examples of the various ways to participate in advertising and naming rights.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

Lori Fayhee introduced herself and asked for everyone’s opinion on sales tax.

BOARD MEMBER’S REPORT

Mrs. Patricca shared that the stop arm camera on school buses was not moving forward at this time.

She then added, “Regarding sales tax referendum, the Board Members have been doing their part in getting out into the public and speaking to groups, handing out educational materials, and an outside political action committee has been formed called, *Quality*

Schools for the Future. The political action committee had a fundraiser where major business leaders have donated to there cause.”

FAC UPDATES

Mr. Blurton updated the committee on past FAC:

- Naming Rights – Presentation by Tebo.
- Efficiency Study/Operational Audit – Soon to be given to District.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The summer dates of: June 20th, July 18th and August 15th were approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 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.