



## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

### *Finance Advisory Committee*

April 17, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members Present:** Kenneth Boyd, Paul Cohen, Ramie Hall, Julie Martinez, David Moreland, Terence Phillips, (by phone), John Shannon, Daryl Teblum, Jeff Werderman, Shawn Williams

**Committee Members Absent:** Jonathan Heiland, MaryBeth Mouriz, Lance Pullen, Raul Toledo

**Student Liaison:** none

**Board Member:** Chris Patricca

**Lee County School Personnel Present:** Dr. Greg Adkins, Dr. Angela Pruitt, Kelly Letcher

**Recording Secretary:** Barb Gill

**Public:** none

#### **WELCOME**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the March minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)**

No public comment.

#### **BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT**

Chris Patricca shared that her trip to Tallahassee was encouraging. She was impressed with Florida's new House of Representatives member, Jose Oliva, who is now Executive Vice Chancellor for K-12 at the Department of Education.

Ms. Patricca stated the following, concerning *The Standards Review Process...* "Chancellor Oliva is stripping the politics out of that process, by putting each standard on line and asking the public to comment on the standard by accepting the standard or reject it, and then state why." She added that he is there to help school districts and to streamline processes. She then met with the Governors' staff to restate our request of \$300,000 for our *Grow Your Own Project*.

The workshop on Safety and Security, invited all Law Enforcement leaders from Lee County regarding the bill on safety for all students. Two issues were addressed; arming teachers and the guardian program. It was a unanimous vote of "No" to each program.

A long discussion ensued regarding the current issues of dabbing and vaping in schools and ways to solve these problems.

Dr. Adkins informed the committee that he met with the high school principals regarding the both problems. He explained that the District is currently working on various ways to address this issue. He also shared that they will be working on a communication plan to alert parents about vaping.

### **FINAL RECOMMENDATION(S) FOR ANY DEEP DIVE REVIEW**

Dr. Adkins shared with the Committee that the Board has decided to hire an external auditor from RSM International. The contract will be a six to eight month contract, so it will allow the Board to do a Risk Assessment.

The Committee then made a motion to have the following members Paul Cohen, David Moreland, and John Shannon be available for interviews to discuss the Finance Advisory findings regarding the Gibson Report, without violating the Sunshine Law. The committee approved unanimously.

### **MEETING IN THE SUMMER MONTHS - DISCUSSION**

Paul Cohen asked the committee whether they would like to meeting through the summer months. There was a unanimous “Yes” throughout the committee. He then asked for the committee to vote on the next two meeting dates, Wednesday, May 15 and Wednesday, June 19. The two dates were approved unanimously.

### **FY20 SCHOOL ALLOCATIONS**

Dr. Adkins, Dr. Pruitt and Kelly Letcher shared with the committee how the allocations were attained for the FY20 school year. It was stated that a few thoughts needed to be considered:

- NATIONALLY, teacher compensation is an issue.
- On the first day of school, (FY19), the District had 100 teacher vacancies.
- On the first day of school, the District also had a shortage of bus drivers.

Dr. Adkins shared, “In order to keep up with the pace with compensation and remain competitive with this market, we have to provide teachers with additional pay.” As he was providing current salary information, he explained that, “As an example, a 1% increase in salaries across the board, equates to 5 million dollars”.

Due to the fact that the state has reduced the Districts funding, we needed to become more efficient with our budget.” Below are some of the changes that were made to the FY20 budget that would help with employee compensation:

- Reducing projects
- Using grants instead of District funds for items within grant guidelines
- Reduction of field trips and school activities
- Review all allocations at schools

By making the above changes, the district is able to avail 22.7 million dollars. In order to update the DRA, (District Resource Allocation), program, the District needs to take 5.2 million of these dollars. (One DRA equates one teacher salary with benefits).

Here are other changes that are being made:

- 2 student increase to elementary classes, but must comply with Class Size Amendment

- Tier 3 schools allocation will remain the same as last year
- Middle Schools & High Schools will have approximately the same number of students per class
- Most schools are not losing staff next year due to personnel retiring and positions not being refilled
- Waived insurance funds are helping to pay for the raises
- Transferring funds from Capital
- Through the Gibson Audit, which the Finance Advisory Committee recommended, one of the findings was more of the Indirect Costs could be charged to a Federal Food Service Grant, which freed up approx. 2 million dollars
- ½ day Bookkeepers and ½ day Information Specialists for schools with a small population of under 550 students

A discussion ensued regarding DA schools, *Differentiated Accountability*. Dr. Adkins shared that the District has gone from 23 schools with a DA status, to 13 schools, to 12 schools, to 5 and then to 1. If they had rated this school on this year's graduation rate, it would have been given a C.

Everyone in the committee applauded for Dr. Adkins for all of his efforts and this successes.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2019, in the Intervention Training Room, which is located in Room 01-0202, located right beside our regular meeting room, at 2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida.