



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee

December 11, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kenneth Boyd, Paul Cohen, Alex Dworzanski, Craig Evan, Joel Gordon, Ryan Lurie, Tamika Seaton, John Shannon, Mike Stamatopoulos, Daryl Teblum, Bill Tubb

Committee Members Absent: Ramie Hall, Elena Phillips, Mary Watford, Shawn Williams

Student Liaison: none

Board Member: Chris Patricca

Lee County School Personnel Present: Ebaugh, Kathie, Kelly Letcher, Ken Savage

Recording Secretary: Barb Gill

Public: none

WELCOME

Daryl Teblum welcomed everyone to the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

No public comment.

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

Chris Patricca informed the committee that she attended the combined meeting of the Florida School Board Association and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents meeting in Tampa. The committees created a joint statement introducing a new teacher starting pay of \$47,500.00.

Chris Patricca stated that even though this statement was very positive, she felt that all teachers need an increase in pay. The response that was given was, "We look forward to working out the details with you."

DISCUSSION

PLANNING & OPERATIONS

Kathie Ebaugh & Ken Savage

The discussion began by Kelly Letcher introducing the group to the committee: Kathie Ebaugh, Executive Director of Planning and Operations; Ken Savage, Chief Operations Officer of Operations; and Dominic Gemelli, Planner - Long Range.

Ken Savage began by explaining that they oversee 5 departments; Planning, Construction, Maintenance, Transportation and Safety. He stated that they would be glad to provide any information that the committee would need. He then needed to go to another meeting.

Pending Minutes

After Kathie Ebaugh introduced herself, she shared her background information, and then informed the committee that their department was in the process of hiring a GIS Planner, and soon thereafter, a CAD Planner. “Tallahassee rules what we do,” Kathie explained. “A lot of the processes and procedures are not determined here by the local level, so there is so much we can and cannot do...we are very tied by the State Statutes”.

Dominic Gemelli introduced himself stating that he has been with the district for 13 years, with his current interest being in planning.

The discussion then moved to the possibility of reconfiguration of current schools in order to accommodate more students. Kathie Ebaugh explained, “Not only is cost an issue with this idea but also being up against Florida’s SREF Standards”, (State Requirements for Educational Facilities).

Both Dominic and Kathie both believed that the answer for the School District is to move forward with a Proximity Plan. This will begin with the elementary level and will be going to the Board for approval in January. It will be a smaller community based, smaller school. This idea will cut down bus time and travel time to schools for families.

The following was shared with the committee: The minimum for a school is 13 acres. The breakdown in acres:

Elementary	13 – 20 acres
Middle	20 – 30 acres
High School	40 acres

They also shared that our District is looking into hiring a California company which can look at school planning with a specialized GIS based model – which is a way to analyze information in a geospatial form.

They are also looking at “shared areas” for schools, i.e., facilities, libraries, and/or cafeterias. The District is increasing by 1,600 students per year.

Tallahassee states...”to build a school, you have to prove the need”, ...but our need is already here!

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2020, in the Intervention Training Room, Room 01-0202 at 2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida.