

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY**

Independent Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Meeting  
2855 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966

Thursday, September 24, 2020  
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Joe Mazurkiewicz, Jr. - Chairman  
Steve Shimp – Vice Chairman  
Frederick Atkins  
Alissa Brandemuhl  
Greta Campbell  
Joe Catti  
James Dozier  
Fred Elliott  
Jim Nathan  
Dennis Pearlman  
Carmen Salomé  
Chris Simoneau  
Christopher Lopez

Absent Committee Members:

Sandra Dauti- Excused  
Michelle Perez-Macias-Excused  
Randy Krise  
Brian Rist

School Board Member Present:

Gwynetta Gittens, Board Liaison to ISSOC

Lee County School Personnel Present:

Dr. Greg Adkins, Superintendent  
Kathy Dupuy Bruno- School Board Attorney  
Dr. Ami Desamours, Chief Financial Officer  
Ken Savage, Chief Operations Officer  
Trey Davis-Chief Information Officer  
Dwayne Alton, Executive Director – Infrastructure Services  
Susan Malay, Executive Director – Business Services  
Kathie Ebaugh, Executive Director - Operations  
Kelly Letcher, Director – Business Services  
Fredrick Ross, Director – Procurement Services  
Sarah Cox, Coordinator – Business Services

- I. Welcome/Introduction/Roll Call  
Joe Mazurkiewicz welcomed the committee members and called meeting to order at 6:00p.m. The roll was called by Jeanne Beatson, Executive Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer.
- II. Chairman Joe Mazurkiewicz introduced the newly appointed Board Liaison, Gwynetta Gittens.

- III. Board Attorney, Kathy Dupuy-Bruno reviewed the term of the committee members, responsibility of reports to the School Board and Parliamentary Procedures.
- IV. The committee meeting minutes were forwarded to the members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Carmen Salome' to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Steve Shimp. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE
- VI. Dr. Desamours reviewed with the committee the finalized Capital and Sales Tax Plan. The Capital Budget is \$453.8M with the composition of Property Tax revenue 53%, Sales Tax revenue 32%. (\$144.3M) Sales Tax funds will be spent on Construction, Maintenance, Safety (projects intentionally not listed), and Technology. Every school is touched by some category.
- VII. Kathie Ebaugh reviewed the Sales Tax Funded projects to include new schools, Gateway High School and MM Middle School (named Lehigh Acres Middle School). Major Projects greater than \$1 million to include roofing projects, HVAC projects, Fort Myers Technical School, James Stephens Pre-K and Riverdale High School remodel. Ms. Ebaugh noted there has been much public input and discussion regarding the Riverdale High School remodel. Dwayne Alton reviewed Safety Improvements in the amount of \$26,143,430 and Technology Projects in the amount of \$25,496,043. Mr. Alton noted that for the sake of security Safety Improvements are not publicly detailed. Ms. Ebaugh reviewed Maintenance Projects in the amount of \$9,096,436.
- VIII. Revenue Collections and Projections – Sarah Cox reviewed projected revenue collections vs. actual collections to date. Original projections were very conservative given the many unknowns with COVID-19. FY21 projection is \$3.4M less than revenue received in FY20. FY20 collections fell short of the original projection by about 5%, reflecting COVID-19's impact on the economy. To date, revenues collected since the inception of sales tax is \$121.9M. The PowerPoint reflected a month by month comparison of sales tax revenues received over two years, and a new 5-year sales tax projection. We will continue to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on our economy and sales tax collections.
- IX. Financial Report Review- Sarah Cox reviewed the financial report with the committee. The report includes the updated revenue projections, revised interest projections and increase/decrease on fair market value on investments. The total sales tax budget for Fiscal Year 2021 is \$144.3 million. One of the main differences from the 5-year plan is timing of when the outlook was prepared. The budget is constantly changing. The construction improvements include the debt service on this report vs. the debt service being broken out in projects on the outlook.
- X. Motions and Votes- Joe Mazurkiewicz addressed the committee
- Motion to approve the sales tax expenditures of the last quarter of the Fiscal Year in compliance with the Board's governing language. Chris Simoneau so moved and seconded by Carmen Salome'. The motion was unanimously approved by the committee.
  - Motion to approve the projected expenditures for the first quarter of FY 2020-2021 as per the projects in the presentation. Motion moved by Fred Adkins and seconded by Steve Shimp. Chris Simoneau asked if they are voting on the specific quarter of the budget or the entire Fiscal Year 2021. Joe Mazurkiewicz stated the motion was covering the expenditures in those specific areas as being compliant. Chris Simoneau moved to modify the motion to reference the full year of Fiscal Year 2021. Fred Adkins agreed and seconded by Steve Shimp. The motion was unanimously approved by the committee. No further discussions.

XI. Member Comments

- Carmen Salome' was asked by the public at a Bonita event if the roof that collapsed at Bonita Elementary was funded with sales tax dollars. Sarah Cox confirmed that sales tax dollars did fund that project and that an insurance investigation is ongoing.
- Jim Nathan commented that each quarter the clarity of the messaging becomes clearer. He congratulated the incremental movement.
- Chris Simoneau commented that sales tax improved and increased the capital budget by 50%. Is this platform being used in the Home Connect? Dwayne Alton answered yes, it is the same platform.
- Steve Shimp asked that the minutes come out earlier and commented that zoom is inadequate and would like to attend in person. Joe Mazurkiewicz agreed to the in-person meetings. Carmen Salome' commented that the committee received the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Desamours thanked Mr. Nathan and all for the feedback.
- Dr. Adkins stated that what they are learning from Lee Home Connect is a different way to teach. We are getting better every single day. Face to face delivery is our best mode of delivery. Chris Simoneau mentioned 43,000 face to face and using sales tax to enhance our technology for infrastructure. Dwayne Alton commented that we could look into that but the experience tonight was not infrastructure but more of a software issue.
- Dr. Desamours reminded the committee of term lengths and that there would be some expiring in December. At the upcoming December meeting the Chair and Vice Chair seat will be up for vote.

XII. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.