

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

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

Thursday, September 23, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Steve Shimp – Chairman
Frederick Atkins-Vice Chairman
Joe Mazurkiewicz, Jr.
Greta Campbell
Chris Simoneau
Cia Sherman-Secretary
James Dozier
Michell Perez-Macias

Absent Committee Members:

Fred Elliott
Dennis Pearlman-Excused
Dan Severson
Brian Rist
Joe Catti

School Board Member Present:

Cathleen Morgan

Lee County School Personnel Present:

Dr. Denise Carlin, Chief of Staff
Kathy Dupuy Bruno-School Board Attorney
Dwayne Alton, Chief Information Officer
Susan Malay, Executive Director – Business Services
Kelly Letcher-Director of Budget
Scott Reichenbacher, Director – Construction
Barbara Cedeno-Assistant Director-Maintenance
James Thompson-Maintenance Administrator
James Spurlock-Maintenance Administrator

- I. Welcome/Introduction/Roll Call
Steve Shimp welcomed the committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. The roll was called by Toni Caro, Executive Secretary.
- II. The committee meeting minutes were forwarded to the members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by James Dozier to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Chris Simoneau. Mr. Simoneau mentioned the minutes were outstanding. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE
- IV. Charter School Discussion was presented to the committee by Kathy Dupuy Bruno.

- Cape Coral Charter School requested funding from sales tax revenue. It was stated that in 2018 the board approved a resolution outlining a list of projects and did not include the charter schools. A resolution went to the public in the form of a referendum and the public agreed with the referendum.
- The District legal office is still reviewing and analyzing the options and legal implications.
- Mr. Shimp informed the committee that they will be viewing a Capital Revenue Slide which shows that \$6.5 million in FY22 was allocated to the charter schools from the State of Florida from the Public Education Capital Outlay Funds (PECO).

V. Susan Malay reviewed the budgeted revenue from sales tax in the fiscal year. The revenue for capital projects was \$265M, in the fiscal year. The sales tax budget is approximately \$160M and is divided across 4 categories and can be carried over from year to year.

- \$6.5M is charter school's capital outlay

VI. Achievements since June's ISSOC Committee meeting

- Two new schools opened
- 3570 new stations provided through Lehigh Acres Middle and Gateway High School
- Combining Lehigh Senior High equals 3783 new stations funded through sales tax and accounts for 3% of students

VII. Quarterly Construction update was presented by Scott Reichenbacher

- "J" Elementary School is the largest project going on right now and is currently in design phase and is next to LAMS project.
- MM Middle School in the East Zone is able to install the enviro packing for soil stabilization due to savings in construction.
- MM and J should be substantially complete in 2023
- AAAA Project is a Pre-K- 8 Estero School with an \$85M budget. Currently, in bid opening. Qualifying bids and GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) are the next step.
- Amazon Challenge-They purchased all the bar joist throughout the US for their warehouses and the cost of steel has skyrocketed along with rebar for the concrete and ceiling material costs. They have had to become creative and have some bar joists fabricated locally.
- Riverdale High School remodel has a current budget of \$41.5M. Next week 6 master plan concepts will be presented to the Superintendent. Revised projection based on the master design concepts are anywhere from \$5-15M over budget.
- Fort Myers Technical College remodel is in the design phase.

VIII. Major Project > \$1M

- HVAC-Cape Coral Elementary and Fort Myers High projects are substantially completed after a material delay due to COVID.
- Orangewood and Spring Creek are new jobs coming on board for design
- Franklin Park remodel just began initial design meeting they will presented to the board for Phase I cost approval
- Old LAMS building is currently in design and is being called the "Annex Building". The cost is \$8M for internal renovation and \$16M for Black Box Art Theater. Adding sprinklers is an example of the investment being made into the school and creating an insurance savings. Since the annex has no seats, we should be able to get the school up to a higher standard and build the annex into a performing arts hall.

IX. Safety and Technology Review was presented by Dwayne Alton

- Due to security risk safety projects are not usually discussed in detail. Surveillance, access controls and alarm intrusion are in the process of being upgraded.
- Implemented panic alarm system in accordance with Allyssa's Law
- Improved radio communications within the schools
- Total of 118 projects have touched every school in the district
- The Atlas project interactive systems in classrooms are on schedule for current projects and have been placed in 7 schools.

X. Maintenance Review was presented by Barbara Ceden and James Thompson

- Cabinet upgrades, switch gears, traffic controls and pavements were recently completed. Edgewood and San Carlos Elementary received new cabinets for a full campus upgrade.
- 74 upcoming projects includes adding 7 security vestibules, gutter upgrades, windows, doors and elevators repair and replacement.
- Multiple locations receiving interior lighting upgrades

XI. Revenue Collections and Projections – Kelly Letcher reviewed the annual projected since inception vs. collected. To date, revenues collected since the inception of sales tax is \$204M. In 2021, \$76M was projected and \$88M was collected.

XII. Financial Report Review- Kelly Letcher reviewed the financial reports with the committee. The report includes the updated revenue projections, year over year by month collection comparison, sales tax revenue by fiscal year and month earned as of September 14, 2021. Annual report shows \$223MM collected to date and expenses to date.

XIII. Motions and Votes- Steve Shimp addressed the committee

- Motion to approve the sales tax financials as presented. A motion was made by Joe Mazurkiewicz and seconded by Chris Simoneau. The motion was unanimously approved by the committee.
- Motion to approve the projects as presented. Motion moved by Joe Mazurkiewicz and seconded by Frederick Atkins. The motion was unanimously approved by the committee. No further discussions.

XIV. Members Comments-The Committee discussed concerns that the accelerated project achievement through bonding is a good thing, the resulting effect of limited projects while we retire debt in later years of this sales tax cycle may be perceived as a negative. The Committee requested that Staff look at this concern and report suggestions and/or actions back to the committee.

XV. Chairman Steve Shimp asked for a motion to adjourn. Cia Sherman so moved seconded by Frederick Atkins. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.