

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

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

Thursday, December 2, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

Steve Shimp – Chairman
Frederick Atkins-Vice Chairman
Chris Simoneau
Joe Mazurkiewicz
James Dozier
Fred Elliott
Cia Sherman-Secretary
Harlan Parrish

Absent Committee Members

Greta Campbell-Excused
Dennis Pearlman-Excused
Brian Rist
Michelle Perez-Macias
Dan Severson
Randy Krise

School Board Member Present

Betsy Vaughn

Lee County School Personnel Present

Irma Lancaster-Director Strategic Communication
Susan Malay-Executive Director Business Services
Kelly Letcher-Director Budget
Matt Acosta-Coordinator Budget
Fredrick Ross-Executive Director Operations
Denise Carlin-Chief of Staff
Dwayne Alton-Chief Information Officer
Scott Reichenbacher-Director Construction
Barbara Cedeno-Assistant Director Maintenance
James Thompson-Maintenance Administrator

- I. Welcome/ Introductions/ Roll Call
 - a. Steve Shimp welcomed the committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The roll call was called by Toni Caro, Executive Assistant.
 - i. Two new members were introduced
 1. Harlan Parrish – to replace Joe Catti
 2. Randy Krise – reappointed

- II. Sales Tax Communications Plan Update
 - a. 3-year anniversary of the passing of the referendum
 - b. Website has been expanded it includes
 - 1. New video for 2021 was posted in November for the 3-year anniversary
 - 2. Media Coverage Review-coverage by multiple media outlets
 - 3. Video playlist which connects to District YouTube page
 - 4. Sales Tax Tuesday – more information posted
 - c. Community Speaking Engagements
 - Poll committee members as to their interest in speaking at events
 - d. Shimp: Are we able to track visitors to the website?
 - Yes, we have the data and it can be shared
 - e. Simoneau: We are telling the story in meaningful ways
 - f. Hosted a Facebook Live event with the focus on sales tax investments. Will continue to leverage Facebook Live
 - Use committee and community business leaders
 - g. Committee can provide names of people to volunteer to give interviews, etc.
 - h. Sherman: had discussed press conference – what is the status?
 - Had a Media Day in November
- III. Schedule of 2022 Meeting Dates
 - a. March 24
 - b. June 23
 - c. September 22
 - d. December 8
 - e. Meeting times remain at 6 pm
 - i. Motion made by Joe Mazurkeiwicz, Jr.
 - ii. Seconded by Harlan Parrish
- IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion made by Joe Mazurkeiwicz, Jr.
 - b. Second by Fred Atkins
- V. Public Comment
 - a. Louis Navarro
 - i. How do you apply to be a part of this committee?
 - 1. Posted on all communication channels
 - 2. Sent out in email
 - 3. Noticed in newspapers
 - ii. How is the information about this committee reported
 - 1. Everything is online and encourage to stay for meeting
 - iii. Who oversees the spending?
 - 1. Spending decisions aren't made by this committee, but the Committee oversees expenditures to ensure they are within parameters
 - 2. School staff reports to the Committee quarterly
- VI. AAAA Expenses
 - a. Project removed from planning
 - b. Decision to build there was based on population projections that decreased from prior projections
 - c. Housing development is moving slower than anticipated
 - d. Demographics of those moving into the area are older without children
 - e. No sales tax funds were expended on this school

VII. Review of Sales Tax Funded Projects

a. Construction – Scott Reichenbacher

- i. J- Elementary
- ii. MM Middle – new addition due to the growth in the East zone
 1. Open for school August 2023
 2. The cost presented is construction cost only not additional items such as furniture and equipment
- iii. Riverdale High School- is in the design phase
- iv. Franklin Park
 1. In design process phase
 2. ½ will be a community wrap around
 3. Has asbestos and appropriate actions are taking place to remove it
 4. Staging campus in another location while demo and rebuild
Will move over Winter Break
 5. Similar configuration to Tortuga Preserve Elementary - updated to new standards
- v. Cypress Lake Middle
RFQ is in process
- vi. Fort Myers Tech
 1. In design process
 2. Determining what academic programs need to be expanded
 3. \$10 - \$13M projected cost
- vii. Committee Comments-Chris Simoneau
 - a. Do we have reports on the growth rate in each zone?
 - i. We have a department that reviews that information
 - ii. Construction only carries the football once decisions are made to proceed
 - b. With the projected growth rate are we allotting expenses equally by zone?
 - i. East zone has more portables than any other zone and is the fastest growing zone
 - ii. West is not far behind the East zone
 - iii. South is the slowest growing zone
 - iv. We are investing in sales tax projects in every single school in the district
 - v. We do not distribute the funds equally to every zone. Many factors contribute to which schools have projects funded, including number of students, age and condition of buildings, etc.
 - vi. This committee does not have a role in selecting the projects

b. Safety

- i. 21 security upgrades
16 in progress
- ii. ATLAS – Interactive tech projects
Project hit by supply chain challenges
- iii. Equipment will be in for Spring but must order now
- iv. Safety improvements are being done in every school in every zone, so all are brought up to an equitable level
- v. Committee Comments-Chris Simoneau

Do we have any reports on outcomes?

We have a safety and security committee, but it is difficult to draw those parallels as there are many factors that contribute to student achievement

c. Maintenance

- i. Edgewood – gutters are complete
- ii. Gateway Elementary – parking lot lighting
- iii. 74+ active projects
 1. 8 gutter upgrade projects
 2. Windows, roofing, blinds, elevators, intercoms, doors
 - a. Based on assessments of need and age
 3. Lighting upgrades
 4. Electrical switch gear upgrades
 5. Flooring, generators, cabinets, bathrooms, chillers, walkway covers
 6. Paving projects
- iv. Committee Comments-Chris Simoneau

Creating jobs by using subs

- i. Construction manager uses a rotating sub list
- ii. Continuing contract bids are used as well
- iii. Have reached out to FGCU to determine economic impact of the sales tax

VIII. Review of Collections and Projections

- a. From inception to now projected \$286M
- b. Collected thus far \$231M
 - i. Collections are distributed to the district a few months after they are collected
 - ii. We are on track to exceed projections

IX. Financial Report Review

- a. Expenses and budget forecast occur at different times, i.e. not in the same month
- b. Individual projects are highlighted in the annual report

X. Committee Comments

Mr. Shimp-limit report to show prior FY for easier review

XI. Motions and Votes

- a. Mr. Shimp called for a motion to approve the projects as presented.
 - i. A motion was made by Mr. Mazurkeiwicz to approve the projects as presented and the motion was seconded by Mr. Parrish.
 - ii. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Mr. Shimp called for a motion to approve the financials as presented
 - i. A motion was made by Mr. Dozier and the motion was seconded by Mr. Parrish
 - ii. The motion passed unanimously

XII. Members Comments-None

XIII. Adjourn

- a. Mr. Shimp called for a motion to adjourn
 - i. A motion was made by Mr. Mazurkeiwicz and the motion was seconded by Mr. Parrish
 - ii. The motion passed unanimously
- b. Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.