

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

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

Thursday, December 19, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Steve Shimp – Vice Chairman
Frederick Atkins
Alissa Brandemuhl
Greta Campbell
Joe Catti
James Dozier
Fred Elliott
Chris Lopez
Jim Nathan
Dennis Pearlman
Michelle Perez-Macias
Carmen Salomé
Chris Simoneau

Excused Committee Members:

Joe Mazurkiewicz, Jr.
Sandra Dauti
Michelle Perez-Macias

Absent Committee Members:

Randy Krise
Brian Rist

School Board Member Present:

Chris Patricca, Board Liaison to ISSOC

Lee County School Personnel Present:

Dr. Greg Adkins, Superintendent
Dr. Ami Desamours, Chief Financial Officer
Trey Davis, Chief Technical Officer
Lauren Stillwell, Chief of Staff
Dwayne Alton, Executive Director – Infrastructure Services
Kathie Ebaugh, Executive Director - Operations
Susan Malay, Executive Director – Financial Services
Kelly Letcher, Director – Business Services
Fredrick Ross, Director – Procurement Services
Barbara Cedeno, Coordinator – Maintenance Services
Sarah Cox, Coordinator – Business Services
James Spurlock, Facilities Project Manager - Maintenance Services

- I. Welcome/Introduction/Roll Call
Steve Shimp presided in the absence of Joe Mazurkiewicz . Mr. Shimp welcomed the committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. The roll was taken by ISSOC Secretary, Greta Campbell.
- II. Approval of September 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes
Steve Shimp requested that the minutes be distributed with a couple/three weeks of the meeting. No further comments, a motion was made by Jim Nathan to approve the minutes and was seconded by Joe Catti. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.
- III. Public Comment – Jill Moreland stated that she felt Riverdale High School was neglected in prioritization of capital funds. In response, committee member, Jim Nathan asked that feedback be given to the committee regarding the Capital Outlay Plan. Dr. Desamours, Chief Financial Officer, advised that next year’s Capital Outlay plan should be available by July 2020.
- IV. Financial/Project Reviews
 - a. Dr. Ami Desamours – Chief Financial Officer – Reviewed the Sales Tax Budget to Actuals for Quarters III & IV FY’2019 and Quarter I and II FY’2020. All amounts reported were as of December 11, 2019. There was some discussion regarding budgeted and remaining amounts. Greta Campbell suggested that Quarters II, III and IV column for “Budget” be labeled “Remaining Budget” to indicate that the “Remaining” from the previous quarter is the “Remaining Budget” for the succeeding quarter. It was also discussed that School Technology would be upgraded and the funds would be used from the line item currently Indicated as “Modernized Interactive A/V Systems.” Greta Campbell asked about the report from the state regarding Franklin Park Elementary School. Staff reported they had hoped to receive a response prior to Winter Break but that does not seem to be the case. With the Legislative session starting after Winter Break, staff is not sure when the District will receive the report.
 - b. Dr. Desamours reviewed the Referendum Project Summary and Infrastructure Project Summary. Jim Nathan requested information at the next meeting regarding how projects are divided between Sales Tax Funds and Capital Funds.
- V. Financial Review by Sarah Cox included amounts collected by month through December 11, 2019. Ms. Cox noted that March 2020 would mark a full year of Sales Tax Collections.
- VI. Sales Tax Dashboard Preview – Dr. Ami Desamours - CFO
 - a. Dr. Desamours reported 200 – 300 views per month.
- VII. Member Comments
 - a. Steve Shimp provided the following meeting dates for 2020 – March 26, 2020; June 25, 2020; September 24, 2020 and December 17, 2020.
 - b. Jim Dozier would like to see more graphs than numbers on the reports. Others agreed for the four reports a graph report would be simpler. Dozier would like to see more graphs than numbers on the reports. Others agreed for the four reports a graph report would be simpler.
 - c. Steve Shimp brought up the topic of when the committee wants to go public with information. He feels that going forward with outreach to the public is a little premature as the committee is still learning and has not completed a year yet. Committee members responded that the positive results of projects should be published on social media accounts. They would like the staff to draft a one page report, to be presented to the Board by the Chair, highlighting the successes of the Sales Tax Referendum at its one year mark. It was requested that the staff draft and send the draft to committee for approval at their March meeting.
 - d. Carmen Salome reminded everyone of the discussion at the last meeting of providing signage at locations indicating “Your Tax Dollars at Work”. Chris Patricca spoke up that signage is in the works and will be provided at all schools since the tax dollars apply to every location.

- e. Chris Patricca commented that she felt that it would be beneficial for committee members, all of whom are respected community leaders, to write editorials regarding the successes of the projects funded by the Sales Tax Referendum. She further stated “the community is hungry for this information” and she would like the members to consider this suggestion. Mr. Shimp stated, and all agreed, that he would like to wait until the committee receives the staff’s report before writing editorials.
 - f. Chris Patricca reminded the Committee that in the past, they’ve made a motion to approve the past quarter’s expenditures and another to approve planned expenditures in the upcoming quarter. Steve Shimp asked for a motion. Jim Dozier made a motion to approve the past quarter’s expenditures and approve the expenditures for the next quarter. Chris Simoneau stated that he was not comfortable approving expenditures for the next quarter but was ok approving projects instead. All agreed of the change in wording. Alissa Brandemuhl seconded the motion to approve the past quarter’s expenditures and the next quarter’s projects. All were in favor.
 - g. Mr. Fredrick Ross, Director of Procurement, addressed the committee regarding the 2nd Annual Vendor Open House that occurred this morning. It was an opportunity for local vendors to learn about the District and meet key District staff and approved General Contractors for current and future District projects. There were 101 vendors in attendance of which 36 were minority suppliers. The committee members were happy he shared that information. Chris Simoneau suggested the District contact Regional Economic Research Institute at FGCU to do a study of the economic impact of the Sales Tax on this region. The tax dollars are impacting vendors & creating jobs in our community. The RERI report is read by local business leaders. Dr. Desamours will work with Chris Simoneau to contact the RERI.
 - h. Chris Lopez made the point that his one-year term is coming to an end and that he would like information on how to proceed with continuing to serve on the committee. Dr. Desamours stated that they will work on providing this information to all of the committee members.
 - i. Dennis Pearlman shared his appreciation for the transparency of the staff with their reports and the willingness to adapt the reports to meet the needs of the committee. He also encourages the staff to take their media ideas with a sense of urgency. With year one coming to an end, we should be prepared with information prior to the media asking us for it.
- VIII. Chris Simoneau made a motion to adjourn and Jim Nathan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.