

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY**

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

Thursday, September 26, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Joe Mazurkiewicz, Jr. – Chairman  
Frederick Atkins  
Alissa Brandemuhl  
James Dozier  
Fred Elliott  
Randy Krise  
Chris Lopez  
Michelle Perez-Macias  
Carmen Salomé  
Chris Simoneau

Excused Committee Members:

Greta Campbell  
Joe Catti  
Sandra Dauti  
Jim Nathan  
Dennis Pearlman  
Steve Shimp

Absent Committee Members:

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  
Ken Savage, Chief Operations Officer  
Dwayne Alton, Executive Director – Infrastructure Services  
Susan Malay, Executive Director – Financial Services  
Kathie Ebaugh, Executive Director - Operations  
Kelly Letcher, Director – Business Services  
Rick Parfitt, Director – Safety & Security  
Fredrick Ross, Director – Procurement Services  
Scott Reichenbacher, Senior Program Manager – Construction Services  
Barbara Cedeno, Coordinator – Maintenance Services  
Sarah Cox, Coordinator – Business Services

Guests:

- I. Welcome/Introduction/Roll Call  
Joe Mazurkiewicz welcomed the committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:02p.m. The roll was taken by SDLC Executive Secretary, Joni Al-Shabibi.
- II. Approval of June 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes  
Carmen Salomé requested a change in the minutes format that a difference be made between excused absences and unexcused absences. Frederick Atkins noted his last name was misspelled. With no further corrections, a motion was made by James Dozier to approve the minutes and was seconded by Chris Lopez. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.
- III. Public Comment - NONE
- IV. Financial/Project Reviews
  - a. Dr. Ami Desamours – Chief Financial Officer – We will review the Project Review Packet that was handed out to the Committee members.
  - b. Dwayne Alton – Executive Director, Infrastructure Services - Technology Projects -
    - Security related projects have been removed from the previous list due to the fact that they are being funded by grants. Projects will be paid with grant funds first since they are more restrictive, then sales tax revenue will be use for the balance of the projects, probably 2021.
    - Moving up on the list is the Atlas Project – interactive technology in the classrooms. Older systems like Smart Boards are being replaced with Atlas components. It will be implemented District-wide over a five-year cycle.
    - Randy Krise asked what the ultimate goal for technology in the classroom?
      1. Maintaining programs and provide richer technology in the classroom improving interactivity & technology design for more flexibility
      2. Not targeting to remove physical books and paper. 60% of curriculum content is being delivered electronically. Not a major savings – copy paper vs updating technology contents.
      3. Chromebooks being used in secondary schools – on a three-year replacement cycle
      4. Were grant moneys expected? Some was anticipated, but since grants are awarded yearly, you don't necessarily know that you will have the funding the following year.
  - c. Kathie Ebaugh – Executive Director, Operations - Construction and Maintenance Review
    - Maintenance information is detailed in the Project Review Packet where you can see the projects and their percentages of completion. In particular, there is emphasis on the chiller water system upgrades and the electrical fixture upgrades.
    - Construction – there are three projects they are working on in relation to the sales tax revenue:
      1. MMM High School
      2. MM Middle School
      3. Two re-roofing projects - North Fort Myers High School & Cypress Lake High School
  - d. Kelly Letcher – Director, Business Services – Financial Review
    - Revenues collected to date:
      - FY19 - \$36.4 Million
      - To date - \$5.7 Million
    - Sales Tax & Budget to Actuals
      - 2019 Actual of \$36,452,000
      - 2020 Actual of \$5,754,030
      - Over \$42,000,000 collected so far, which exceeds the original budget by 5.6%
    - September to December time frame will be different due to snow birds and the holiday shopping season. We will revisit the projected budget as there will be a full year of numbers with which to work.

- We are now analyzing and prioritizing projects based on current revenue collection and shift of funding. Next meeting, we will be coming to you with additional projects. Traffic studies are currently being done to address safety concerns, potential risks and what can be done to make the students safer. (Parent pick-up, parent drop-off & traffic flow at the schools.)
- Predominately focusing at on-site traffic improvements, but working with communities/jurisdictions to improve off-site improvements. The District's responsibility for student safety does not start until they step on the bus. The bus stop improvements are local government and safety supported.

Chris Lopez made a motion to approve the financials and actual expenditures of the 2018-2019 fiscal year. James Dozier seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by roll call.

V. Sales Tax Dashboard Preview – Dr. Ami Desamours - CFO

- Updates:
  - New drop-down in upper right corner – year to year breakdown by school
  - Made change to safety related projects – for safety reasons, there are no details related to those projects listed.
- Dr. Desamours will look into how to track the number of visitors to the website and report back at the next meeting.
- Getting the word out to the community regarding the Dashboard via press releases & local news reports.
- Committee members would like to see a bigger campaign to educate the community better from the District Communications department. Members also feel it is also their responsibility to communicate the sales tax project successes when they are speaking at other community events, meetings, etc.

VI. Member Comments

- Chris Simoneau – Are there any metrics we could utilize to show the impact of the investments that are being made? Is attendance up? Staff/teacher retention improving? Comfort/safety up? – due to the tax dollars being put into the school system. How is it driving metrics that matter? This is a significant investment in the schools, we should show how the dollars made a difference in issues that matter. Dr. Desamours stated they will be working on collecting this type of data going forward.
- Chris Patricca announced that tonight will be her last meeting as a Board liaison, as she is being assigned to a different committee. She is grateful to have been working with the credible committee members and will miss them.
- Alissa Brandemuhl stated that to better get the word out, that maybe committee members could consider attending SAC or PTO meetings at their community schools and present the sales tax dashboard to them. She would be happy to do so. James Dozier also suggested presenting at the Thursday Morning Meetings. Joe heartily agreed but would like to wait a bit until they are able to collect more data of how the tax dollars are making a difference towards issues that matter to the public.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

VII. Motion to adjourn by Frederick Atkins and seconded by Randy Krise. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.