

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY**  
2855 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966

Independent Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes

I. Meeting called to order 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Shimp

Susan Malay – Roll Call

Committee Members Present

- Frederick Atkins
- Great Campbell
- James Dozier
- Fred Elliot
- Joe Mazurkiewicz
- Harlan Parrish
- Cia Sherman
- Steve Shimp
- Chris Simoneau

Absent Committee Members

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

II. Announcement of Superintendent Dr. Christopher Bernier

III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Mr. James Dozier
- Motion seconded by Mr. Harlan Parrish

IV. Public Comment

- A member of the public inquired about sharing the sales tax with charter schools; and using the sales tax for teacher salaries.
- Mr. Mazurkiewicz responded that the original referendum did not include language for charter schools to participate.
- Mr. Shimp responded that teacher pay is funded from the operating portion of the budget, and funds from sales tax collections may not be used for salaries.

## V. Chair Update

- Communications effort to the community
  - Outline of PowerPoint has been drafted and initial draft has been reviewed
  - At December meeting this presentation will be shown to ISSOC for review then to the whole Board
- Where to be communicated:
  - Horizon Council
  - School Foundation
  - Panhellenic Council
  - Service Organizations
  - This list will be expanded over time

## VI. Security Update

- Rick Parfitt – Coordinator Threat Assessment
  - Implementing best practices through FL DOE Office of State Schools and MSD Foundation
    - Training
    - Meeting recommendations annually
  - Had a round table discussion and active assailant drill
  - Region 6 reunification meeting
  - Mr. Simoneau
    - Anything needed from our funds?
    - Response: We have the funding needed.

## VII. Direct Sales Tax Communications

- Addressed during Chair Update
- Visit the website Change for Change and become familiar with the available information
- Mrs. Irma Lancaster
  - Keeping a log of communications
  - Analytics for the website
    - 10,000 views on the main page
    - Each school has about 150 views
    - Sales Tax Tuesday – weekly social post that drives back to this page with causes uptick in visits
    - Average time spent on the site 2.7 seconds
  - FGCU economic impact study
    - Research and reporting presented to the board and ISSOC this Fall
  - Signage
    - Increased signage needed at 17 locations – requesting board approval
    - Specific signs at the new school locations and in parent pick up lines
    - Bigger signs coming listing with projects completed at that location
    - Using digital bill boards and student flyers sent home with the students

### VIII. 10-Year Growth Forecast

- Frederick Ross, Executive Director, Operations, Planning & Projects &
- Joel DeGuzman, Coordinator District Planning
  - Board suggested to share with ISSOC the 10-year student progressions, based on work from consultant Davis Demographics
  - Then completes a Build Out Study – assume every available space was developed
    - This has never been done for the district in the past
  - Residential Developments
    - Cape Coral is projected to see 28% growth
    - East Zone -primary Lehigh Acres projected to see 21% growth
    - New Projects in next 5-10 years for all education levels

Discussion ensued:

- Joe Mazurkiewicz stated he is happy to share what he has learned through his research on planning and growth.

### IX. Sales Tax Funded Updates

- Scott Reichenbacher presented a review of construction of new schools and major renovations.
- Kenneth Schwartz, Coordinator IT Infrastructure Management presented a review of safety, security and technology projects.
- Barbara Cedeno, Director Maintenance Services presented a review of Maintenance projects.

### X. Budget, Revenue Collections & Projects

- Matthew Acosta presented revenue collection information.
  - Seeing a 28% increase over projection and 24% over prior year
  - Conservative projections from the District are based on COVID and the uncertainty of consumer spending.

### XI. Motions

- Approve the Projects as presented in compliance with referendum requirements
  - James Dozier made motion
  - Frederick Atkins seconded motion
  - Unanimous agreement to approve
- Approve the Revenue and Financial reporting as presented in compliance with referendum requirements.
  - Joe Mazurkiewicz made motion
  - Harlan Parrish seconded motion
  - Unanimous agreement to approve

### XII. Member Comments

- Chris Simoneau – understands why safety and security isn't presented to the committee as a whole, but could some more detailed information be shared with the Chair so there is a greater level of confidence the projects comply?
- Steve Shimp – be careful that we ensure that we are not mixing projects that should be capital and not sales tax projects.
- Board Liaison Cathleen Morgan encouraged the team to have other community members apply.

XIII. Move to adjourn by Steve Shimp

- Joe Mazurkiewicz so moved