

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Independent Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Meeting

2855 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Shimp welcomed the committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The roll call was called by Susan Malay.

Committee Members Present

- Frederick Atkins
- Fred Elliott
- Harlan Parrish
- David Shellenbarger
- Cia Sherman
- Steve Shimp
- Chris Simoneau

Absent Committee Members

- Greta Campbell – Excused Absence
- Joe Mazurkiewicz, Jr. – Excused Absence
- Michelle Perez-Macias – Excused Absence
- Randy Krise
- Dennis Pearlman
- Brian Rist

School Board Member Present

- Cathleen Morgan

Lee County School Personnel Present

- Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent
- Susan Malay, Executive Director Business Services
- Kelly Letcher, Director, Budget
- Matthew Acosta, Coordinator Business Services
- Frederick Ross, Executive Director, Operations
- Anissa Drzymala, Executive Assistant

- II. Proposed meeting dates for 2023
 - March 30, 2023 at 6:00 pm
 - June 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm
 - September 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm
 - December 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm

- a. Motion made by David Shellenbarger.
- b. Motion seconded by Fred Atkins.
- c. Motion passed unanimously.

- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 22, 2022.
 - a. Motion made by Harlan Parrish.
 - b. Motion seconded by David Shellenbarger.
 - c. Motion passed unanimously.

- IV. Public Comment
 - a. No Public Comment

- V. Board Member Update – Board Liaison Cathleen Morgan
 - a. Introduce New Board Member Chair and Vice Chair.
 - i. Armor Persons, Chair
 - ii. Samuel Fisher, Vice Chair
 - b. Requesting public to apply to participate as an ISSOC Committee Member.
 - i. We have 4 vacancies for a board of 15 members.
 - c. Hurricane Ian has changed things significantly with regard to sales tax dollars.
 - d. Need community representation and to be able to communicate District efforts with the community.
 - e. Recommendation: Add a slide to presentation deck to encourage people to consider becoming a member of the committee.

- VI. Hurricane Ian Update – Susan Malay, Executive Director, Business Services
 - a. Estimated damages to District property from Hurricane Ian are currently \$273M
 - i. Decisions still need to be made regarding some of our schools.
 - ii. Insurance claims are being submitted – it is estimated the District can receive up to \$75M.
 - b. \$31M in damages were suffered from Hurricane Irma.
 - i. \$22M was recovered following Hurricane Irma.
 - ii. The District is still working on reimbursements from FEMA
 - c. No sales tax funds have been used for Hurricane Ian recovery operations.
 - d. For some campuses - projects funded from sales tax protected our schools from damage. There was some loss of property such as chromebooks assigned to students.

VII. Review of Sales Tax Funded Projects – Frederick Ross

- a. Review of new construction projects – 5 currently in progress.
- b. Review of renovation projects – 10 currently in progress.
- c. Review of completed projects – 2 completed.
 - i. The remaining balances or savings of these projects is \$2,510,339.19 in spite of cost increases.
- d. The report reflects some projects that are fully sales tax funded and others that are partially sales tax funded.
- e. No new expenses of sales tax funds for technology projects, as the focus has been on recovery.

VIII. Budget, Revenue Collections and Projections – Matt Acosta

- a. Estimated Capital Revenue is unchanged.
- b. Abatement is being considered for homeowners whose homes are unlivable.
 - i. Estimated revenue \$9.7 from Sanibel prior to the hurricane.
 - ii. Estimated revenue \$6.8 from Fort Myers Beach prior to the hurricane.
- c. Sales tax has only been collected through September, and we really haven't seen a negative impact on collections from the hurricane.
 - i. Expecting an increase due to purchasing for homes, construction, vehicles, etc.
- d. Loss in tourism revenue vs gain in recovery spending in the area.
- e. Sales Tax Budget breakdown by category review.
- f. Review of year over year, and by month sales tax collections.
- g. Review of sales tax revenue to date.
- h. Information regarding quarterly discretionary funds collected – these are collections provided by the State to “true-up” each prior quarters sales tax collections.
- i. May revise projections after December – when collections from October will be in.
- j. Projects are added when revenue exceeds the projection.
 - i. Reserves are a resource we can use when costs escalate or hurricanes or other unforeseen events have an impact.
- k. Projects are heavily reviewed before sales tax dollars are used.
- l. Action: Send a copy of the referendum to Committee Members.

IX. Motions and Votes

- Motion to approve the sales tax financials as presented.
 - a. A motion was made by Chris Simoneau.
 - b. Motion was seconded by Harlan Parrish.
 - c. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve the projects as presented.
 - a. A motion was made by Harlan Parrish.
 - b. Motion was seconded by Fred Atkins.
 - c. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Members Comments – ISSOC Committee

No comments

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Shimp moved that the meeting be adjourned, and this was agreed upon at 6:51 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting of the Independent Sales Surtax Oversight Committee is March 30, 2023.

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