

## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

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

Thursday, March 25, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

### Committee Members Present:

Joe Mazurkiewicz, Jr. – Chairman-Past  
Steve Shimp – Chairman  
Frederick Atkins-Vice Chairman  
Greta Campbell-Phone  
Joe Catti-Phone  
James Dozier  
Dennis Pearlman  
Brian Rist  
Chris Simoneau  
Cia Sherman  
Michelle Perez-Macias

### Absent Committee Members:

Fred Elliott- Excused  
Dan Severson

### School Board Member Present:

Gwynetta Gittens, Board Liaison to ISSOC

### Lee County School Personnel Present:

Dr. Greg Adkins, Superintendent  
Dr. Ami Desamours, Chief Financial Officer  
Ken Savage, Chief Operations Officer  
Dr. Denise Carlin-Executive Director-Academics  
Dwayne Alton, Executive Director – Infrastructure Services  
Susan Malay, Executive Director – Business Services  
Kelly Letcher, Director – Business Services  
Scott Reichenbacher, Director – Construction  
Barbara Cedeno-Assistant Director-Maintenance  
James Thompson-Maintenance Administrator  
James Spurlock-Maintenance Administrator

- I. Welcome/Introduction/Roll Call  
Joe Mazurkiewicz welcomed the committee members and called meeting to order at 6:00p.m. The roll was called by Jeanne Beatson, Executive Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer. The committee members introduced themselves and welcomed the new committee member present, Cia Sherman.
- II. Joe Mazurkiewicz officiated the election of the new officers. Mr. Shimp was nominated for Chairman by Chris Simoneau. No other nomination or objections. Mr. Shimp took over the meeting and the nomination of Vice Chair. Frederick Atkins was nominated as Vice Chairman by James Dozier with no other nominations or objections.

- III. The committee meeting minutes were forwarded to the members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by James Dozier to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Chris Simoneau. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE
- V. Irma Lancaster, Director of Strategic Communications shared with the committee the Change for Change Educational Campaign dashboard on the District website. The education campaign is meant to be a broad-reaching effort to inform the public on the progress we have made with the additional funding and the positive impact it has had. Her team is working on quality videos to share with the community as well as news releases, flyers for schools and a social media campaign. ISSOC members will be invited to upcoming ribbon cuttings at Gateway High School and Lehigh Acres Middle School.
- VI. Dr. Desamours reviewed the budgeted revenue from sales tax in the fiscal year. As of March 15, 2021, the budgeted FY21 Sales Tax revenue was \$144,345,409.00, in the fiscal year making up 32% of the capital budget. Scott Reichenbacher reviewed the Gateway High School project update which is scheduled to open August 2021. This school will add 2,139 student stations with a total project cost estimated at \$98,193.950. Phase 1 design was completed on time and within budget. Phase 2 construction is currently in progress. MM Middle School (Lehigh Acres Middle School) project update is scheduled to open August 2021 and adds 1,345 student stations with a total project cost of \$54,244,892.00. Mr. Reichenbacher indicated the K & NN Pre-K-8 School is currently in the design phase. The project is located on Three Oaks Parkway in Estero, Florida and is anticipated to open in August 2023. Major Projects greater than \$1 million were reported on, including roofing projects and HVAC projects, Fort Myers Technical School, James Stephens Pre-K and Riverdale High School remodel. Mr. Reichenbacher noted the total anticipated cost over multiple years for Riverdale High School is \$40 million. The cost is likely to be shared between sales tax and capital millage. Barbara Cedeno, James Spurlock and James Thompson reviewed Maintenance Projects providing an update on other significant projects to include cabinet replacement projects, electrical lighting upgrades and elevator repair and replacement. The budget for these upgrades and improvements total \$36,273,083.00. Dwayne Alton reviewed Safety Improvements budgeted for \$26,036,453.00 and Technology Projects budgeted for \$33,131,533.00. Mr. Alton noted that for the sake of security Safety Improvements are not publicly detailed.
- VII. Revenue Collections and Projections – Dr. Ami Desamours reviewed projected revenue collections vs. actual collections to date. To date, revenues collected since the inception of sales tax is \$163.4M.
- VIII. Financial Report Review- Dr. Ami Desamours reviewed the financial reports with the committee. The report includes the updated revenue projections, year over year by month collection comparison, sales tax revenue by fiscal year and month earned as of March 15, 2021. Dr. Desamours shared the cumulative sales tax expenses for the last two years by school level and zone as well as age of school for maintenance only. These reports are being used to make sure the funds that are distributed are equitable and that the schools are being prioritized appropriately by age.
- IX. Motions and Votes- Steve Shimp addressed the committee
- Motion to approve the sales tax financial review in compliance with the Board’s governing language. Joe Catti so moved and seconded by Fred Atkins. The motion was unanimously approved by the committee.

- Motion to approve the projected expenditures of the quarters of FY 2020-2021 as per the projects in the presentation. Motion moved by Joe Catti and seconded by Fred Atkins. The motion was unanimously approved by the committee. No further discussions.

X. Member Comments

- Chairman Shimp asked Dr. Desamours her perspective on the impact that the sales tax has had on the District. Dr. Desamours thanked Mr. Shimp for the question. She stated that there were growing pains but has been working with staff to refine processes and communications. It has been very helpful working with the committee to understand how to package the information to get the stories out to the community.
- Mr. Fred Atkins would like to suggest that the communication that is delivered to the community for the Educational Campaign be a press conference instead of a press release. Dr. Desamours would bring the suggestion back to Irma Lancaster.
- Ms. Gittens would like to suggest the sales tax signs be posted in additional languages.
- Cia Sherman volunteered for the role of recording secretary. The committee agreed.

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.