

MINUTES

Project Oversight Committee Meeting

8/20/2020 4:00 PM

TEAMs Virtual Meeting

In Attendance

Committee Members: Mitch Aten, Sandy Burke Bishop, Ben Flowers, Jake Lammers, Jim Mather, Greg Ubienski

District Staff: Deb Muller, Tom Brown, Steve Grube, Stephanie Doster, Clint Griffin, Gabe Berrio

Welcome

Ms. Muller convened the meeting. After attendance, she talked about the duties of a project oversight committee members. Is it oversight, voting, or recommendations? People have different perceptions of what their actual role is. The committee is for recommending their opinions to the board, and to make sure money was being used for the proper projects that were approved by the voters.

Capital Budget Presentation dated August 25, 2020

Ms. Muller shared the capital budget presentation and highlighted the changes that had occurring since the last time the committee had seen the presentation.

- Debt Service - information for you on Outstanding COPs Series 2014 A, Series 2014 B, 2015 A and 2016A was shared.
- Quotes from our most recent Moody's and Fitch Ratings were shared for Volusia County School District. The district has a large tax base with an institutional presence, and we have ongoing residential and commercial developments. The credit challenges the district has are below average income levels in our county, especially compared to some of our neighboring counties who have who aren't as tourist driven and may have more business types of positions that pay more money.
- In Florida, the legislature sets the tax rates. We also have separate discretionary sales surtax for funding capital needs.
- Capital fund and capital 5-year work plan based on building a K-5 for Ortona/Osceola or a K-8 was shared.
- BRPH scoresheet was shared where we asked the architect to evaluate both sites (Ortona/Osceola) and which site to build on.
- Bonding scenarios for \$50 million and \$80 million scenario were reviewed.
- New Staff Building: The board also requested information on new staff office building.

Committee recommendation was requested to take action on the following:

1. K-5 or K-8
2. What location
3. Borrowing or not borrowing to accomplish a more aggressive schedule.

The vote was unanimous with the following:

1. Recommendation in support of building a K-5 school on the Ortona site. This motion passed 6-0.
2. Recommendation in support of additional financing of \$60-\$80 million to complete the approved projects included in the original Half-cent referendum. This motion passed 4-0 with Greg Ubienski abstaining.
3. Recommendation in support of additional financing - Mr. Flowers made a motion on bonding between \$60-80m depending on the selection of projects and timing to accomplish the original projects. Mr. Aten seconded the motion. Passed 5-0.

Career Center and ATC

Ms. Muller introduced Dr. Berrio, Assistant Superintendent for High Schools. She shared that he was working on the white paper and doing the background research based on Dr. Fritz's vision of what the Career Center may look like. Dr. Berrio shared the information on the Career Center with the committee members.

Questions from the discussion:

- 1. Is this just a placeholder item?**
Initially, we were looking to potentially start the project with a possible opening for 2021-22. But with the budget crunch and also after looking at the timeline for this type of project to be able to be completed, it was decided to be delayed.
- 2. What would the expectation be for the career center from the 1/2 cent sales tax funds? What is the proposal?**
The project would cost approximately \$12m which would come from Capital funds. It will come from LCIF which would affect the capital plan.
- 3. How long did the district research on the career center to come up with the results?**
Results were looked at from the accountability report from Florida Department of Education.
- 4. What about the job placement?**
At school level, we do not track the actual job placement. The district plans on monitoring and tracking that.
- 5. Does this to replace dual enrollment or vocational programs?**
No, it does not. By criteria, dual enrollment students have to have 2.5 or 3.0 GPA. Students that were targeted for the college and career center would be students who are at risk of not graduation or have below 2.0 GPA. The career center will enable the kids to graduate with some type of certification that could potentially lead them straight into careers or give them a better opportunity to go to a post-secondary institution to further increase their skills.
- 6. Will the current programs in high schools be lost due to the career center programs?**
No. College and Career center would be an additional opportunity for student who are struggling to get focused support. Career Center will not take away the programs offered at their current high school.
- 7. What if the students don't have a car or are not old enough to drive to the location?**
The idea is to have one facility start on the east side of the County to build that program first. And then have a second facility for the West.

8. What is the operational cost associated with this?

We are not sure yet because there are still unknowns, for example, will we need a new building or a repurposed facility that might come open. The district did deed over 24 acres of the ATC building to Daytona State College back in 2013. We still have 76 acres left there that is on the market which could potentially offset some of the loss we took at the time and also give us some revenue to either put back into a building like this or use someplace else in the district.

Other Discussion

The committee has requested a tour of George Marks elementary school.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.