

## SAC Meeting – September 19, 2016

Attendees: Mr. Stenger, Mrs. Fintel, Chris Robertson, Ashley Henderson, Deb Hossenlop, Jillanne Conelias, Natasha Lambertson, Crystal Rothhaar, David Zarghami, Caitlin Saviano

1. Ms. Saunders, the Manatee County Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services, spoke at the meeting to discuss the Sales Tax Referendum (literature from District on the Sales Tax is included at the end of the meeting minutes).

Information provided by Ms. Saunders:

- In 2002, Manatee County voters approved a half-penny sales tax for school construction and improvements. This vote expires in 2017 unless it is extended.
- Currently, changing the outlook of where the need is to expand Elementary Schools
- With the existing half penny sales tax, the District has built 11 new schools, renovated 8 and had projects on many others.
- It is important to note that Impact Fees can't be used for repairs, only tax dollars are available for repairs.
- If found necessary to build school immediately you can bond on the tax dollars
- Elementary and High Schools are needed immediately in the east (eastern Manatee County)
- The new High School will be located in Parrish and pull from Braden River HS, LWR HS, and Parrish HS. Preliminary work has begun and they hope to have it ready January '19.
- The new Elementary School location is not solidified yet but it would be in the east part of the county.
- Schools that have been combined are leaving empty buildings which the government is responsible for managing.
  - Orange Ridge has been deemed decommissioned. District removes tangible things that can be used in other areas. Then it's opened up for charter schools or contracted sites to take things. Finally, it could go up for sale with a closed bid for capital or could be torn down.
- 1/3 of taxes paid by visitors (this number is determined from the past 15 years).

Questions asked by SAC members:

- If an elementary school is built, where would these children feed for middle school?
  - Immediate fix would be to put a wing on 3 east county middle schools – Haile, Nolan, Buffalo Creek as this is where the majority would feed
- Impact Fees are set fees per dwelling which is paid by builders. It only goes to where there's new growth. Districts can't borrow against Impact Fees. There's that is paid by the builder.
- Possible things Willis could get from the tax:
  - New wing and technology
  - A/C and roof to be assessed
  - Repainting

Slides presented by Ms. Saunders

Effect of tax: \$30 million per year

Cost: Nothing new

Return: collected here, stays here

Destination: capital improvements only, not salaries

Proof: comprehensive plan, oversight committee

Buildings Benefit Everyone and Cost No More

Renovate, remodel rebuild, repurpose

Relieve overcrowding

Safety and security

Enhance technology

Recruit best teachers

Improve neighborhoods

Elevate real estate values

Attract business, economic development

2. Minutes approved from the August meeting

3. New Business – no new business

4. Principals Update

- Safety remains a concern and the parking lot continues to be monitored in the morning
- Willis received funding for 3 new teachers: 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers. Willis is also hiring a 1-year 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and a VE self-contained teacher. Mr. Stenger hopes to begin interviewing this week.
- Because of the small candidate pool Mr. Stenger will talk to USF to see if there are any interns who could apply for the positions

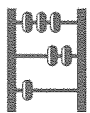
7:26 motion to adjourn

# Right Path, Right Now.



## Steady academic improvement

Consistently increasing graduation rates and student test scores, despite elevated state standards. District students annually win state and national technology and career competitions. Manatee Technical College is recognized as a national leader.



## Financial house in order

Three years of balanced budgets, now meeting state-required reserves. Improved credit ratings and lower interest rates. Positive audit results confirm figures.



## Long-range Master Plan completed

Reputable national firm provided a comprehensive plan for school construction and maintenance with ample opportunities for public participation.



Great things are going on in our classrooms every day.

Search ManaTeach on **YouTube** to see for yourself.

# ManaTeach

WHAT I TAUGHT. WHAT I LEARNED.

Right Path.  Right Now.



# Better buildings benefit everyone.

Manatee County schools need capital funds to accommodate growth, update and maintain existing schools and improve the learning environment. All schools will benefit.

The half-penny sales tax extension will be used to:

- **Renovate**, remodel, rebuild or repurpose old schools.
- **Build** new schools to accommodate growth and relieve over-crowding at existing schools.
- Provide additional **safety** and security for staff and students with updated cameras and gates.
- Enhance **technology** for 21st century learning and to improve internal efficiency.
- Update and replace old and worn out **equipment** (cooling and heating systems, roofs, playgrounds, paint, carpet/flooring, traffic/parking surfaces, buses and vehicles).
- Attract and **retain the best teachers** and staff by modernizing facilities and keeping up with competing schools.
- **Acquire property** at today's prices to accommodate future growth or replacement projects.
- Improve **neighborhood integrity** and pride in local schools.
- **Elevate real estate values** with attractive schools.
- **Attract businesses** and provide a ready workforce for employers.



## Impact of Impact Fees:

Impact fees on developers will help, but it's not nearly enough to meet existing needs, regardless of the rate. Impact fees can only be used to accommodate growth. It cannot be bonded or used for maintenance or replacing out-dated equipment at existing schools.

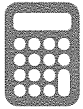
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# Quick Facts



**The Need:** Manatee County schools are asking voters to **extend the current half-penny sales tax**, which will raise approximately \$30 million a year. It will appear on the same ballot as the presidential race on November 8, 2016. Voters approved the measure in 2002 and it will expire in 2017 unless it is extended.



**The Cost:** Nothing additional. **This is an extension, not a new tax.** For example, if you spend \$500 a month on taxable goods, the half penny will continue to cost you about \$2.50 a month to help our students.



**The Return:** All the money collected stays in Manatee County. It doesn't go to Tallahassee or Washington. About a third of the sales tax is paid by visitors. Impact fees won't nearly cover the cost. A citizens' Audit Committee will make sure all funds are spent correctly.



**The Destination:** All the money goes to **capital needs, such as new schools**, renovated schools, maintenance and repair of existing schools, technology, safety and buses. It doesn't go to salaries, nor can salary money go to capital improvements.



**The Payoff:** Schools are an economic engine in our community. We educate more than 48,000 students at 64 public and charter schools and employ more than 6,100 people. We are the biggest influence on real estate values, neighborhood integrity and new business recruitment. **Better buildings benefit students, teachers, taxpayers and employers.**

# What happened to the Promise dollars?

In 2002, Manatee County **voters approved** a half-penny sales tax for school construction and improvements. **This vote expires in 2017** unless it is extended.

Promises were made and here are the results:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11 new schools       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 minor renovations      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 rebuilt schools    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 support site renovated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 26 major renovations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 support site rebuilt   |

## Events after 2002 that directly impacted the sales tax:

- Worldwide recession hit in 2008 that devastated the economy, growth and construction
- Growth projections declined
- Some projects expanded
- Class size amendment passed, adding 6,600 student stations costing more than \$140 million
- State building codes became more stringent
- School projects upgraded to meet hurricane shelter standards
- Portables were still needed to accommodate population shifts

*“By and large, the School District has taken great pains to follow the Promise and deliver according to the original plan despite significant challenges that could not have been anticipated at the time of the original voter referendum.”*

— Sales Tax Accountability Committee