Liberty Pines Academy

**School Advisory Council**

**April 11, 2024**

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**Welcome and introductions:**

Members present: Donny Hoessler, Stephanie Lowrie, Patty Barrera-Moore, Pamala Hazel, Pamala Cooper, Raquel McAlee, Jeremy McAlee, Jeff Chapman, Bev Slough, Brennan Asplen, Mike Degutis, Ellie Sullens, Jessica McCool. Patricia Barrera-Moore. Gomati Sutaria.

Ms. Lowrie called the meeting to order 4:03 pm motioned by Mr. Hoessler, seconded by Mr. Chapman**.** A motion was made to approve the minutes from March meeting. The motion was carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The current available balance is $26,358.53 Of that, $7,626.09 is available for SAC to distribute to the school for initiatives that support the School Improvement Plan (SIP). $516.04 purchased decodable readers but is not yet recorded on the SAC report leaving the balance then to $7,109.85.

**New Business:**

Dr. Asplen and Mr. Degutis – guess speakers regarding the half-cent sales tax and millage

SJCSD is asking to continue the half-cent sales tax for capital projects. Money spent on Centegix, new roofs, technology, 800 megahertz radios for buses, met the needs of increased student growth.

Currently we are at 51,000 students, projected 60,000 for the 2024-2025 school year. We are looking at 13,674 additional students from 2024-2033.

Struggles if we do not continue the sales tax – prices have doubled in construction costs, struggle to keep up with technology, we would be defer maintenance on buildings.

Millage – SJCSD is the largest employer in St. Johns County 6,438 employees. Clay and Duval have already done their millage.

Vacancies (Classroom)- 46 teachers, 22 ESE, 8 Paras, 40 ESE paras. SLP 30 vacancies

Vacancies (operational)- 45 vacancies, bus attendants 21, Custodians 31 vacancies

New One-Mill for school operations: hope to eliminate teacher shortage, reduce need for substitutes, shortage of bus operators, SLPs, custodians, reduce stress on budget, educational programs and offerings for students.

Discussed impact on homeowners.

Summary: ballot initiatives:

* Half-cent sales tax- Growth is continuing, district will struggle without capital funds. These funds stay here in county. No additional cost to SJC residents.
* One-Mill- 4 year tax. Recruit and retain employees. Safety. These funds stay in the county as well. July 2025-June 2029 collections.

Question from parent: Is there an estimate on where teacher salary would increase to with the One-Mill? Answer: It’s negotiable. 3-4 different models were run and it depends on revenue and how it would be allocated. 85% would go back to employee salaries.

Question from parent: What does half-cent generate? Half-cent generated 27mill this year.

Question from online: How do we get involved with CAC? Appointed by school board member. Maybe 1 opening right now. 3 year term.

Question online: Will all money collected be used for schools? Yes. Enhancements to nurses, STEM, etc.

Increase would help teachers want to stay. People aren’t applying. Graduates are less.

Question from parent: What is the probability of this passing? Highly likely. Election time. Everyone on either side wants a good education for their child.

**Old Business:**

Heggerty classroom decodable readers for small group instruction were ordered.

**Principal’s Updates:**

School recognition funds have been released by the state from the 2022-2023 school year. Staff should be getting it soon in their paychecks.

SAC surveys are closed.

Staff will vote again for possible school recognition funds for next year.

Next meeting: Go over SAC surveys. Much better participation this year in the school surveys.

Ms. Lowrie asked a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 pm. Motion to adjourn by Donny Hoessler. and seconded by Mrs. McAlee and the motion carried.