

One-Mill Oversight Committee

Approved Minutes

November 13, 2014

The School Board of Alachua County *One-Mill Oversight Committee* was called to order at 4 p.m. in the Conference Room E, Kirby-Smith Center, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

Members Present: Chairman Perry McGriff, Harvey Budd, Lillian Swanger, and Albert White.

Members Absent: Eric Godet, Sam Goforth, Mike Kline, and Janie Williams.

School District Staff Present: Owen Roberts, Superintendent; Hershel Lyons, Deputy Superintendent; Scott Ward, Assistant Superintendent, Planning and Budget; Karen Clarke, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction; Uma Shankar, Director, Instructional Technology; Alex Rella, Director of Budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Budd

Seconded by Mr. White

Moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2013, One-Mill Oversight Committee meeting, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

INTRODUCTIONS

Because so few members were present, there was a question of whether more are needed. Eight members does, however, meet the requirement of not less than seven appointed members.

Although most committee members had met new Superintendent Dr. Owen Roberts over the last few months, Mr. Ward officially introduced him. In turn, members introduced themselves, as did staff members.

Committee members agreed with Mr. Budd's comment that he was very impressed with the selection of Dr. Roberts as superintendent.

FINANCIAL REPORT INFORMATION

Mr. Ward conducted a review of financial information, updated as of October 31, 2014. Included was:

- Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures from 2009-10 through 10/31/14
- Estimated 2014-15 1-Mill Revenue and Expenditures
- School Budget Requests by Fund/Project/Center and by School
- Open Purchase Orders, which indicate Music and Technology purchases

One of the Budget Requests is \$200,000 to the Tax Collector, which has been paid annually for administration of the One-Mill tax. Mr. Ward reminded the group that other districts have informal agreements whereby this fee is waived. He suggested it might be appropriate to broach the subject, since we have a newly elected Tax Collector.

Mr. Budd asked about the specific wording of how One-Mill monies are to be spent. [SEE PAGE 3 FOR RENEWAL BALLOT LANGUAGE.]

DISCUSSION

The Digital Divide effort was discussed, with Dr. Roberts stating that he has met with Cox and GRU concerning connectivity throughout the county. He stated that the question is: Who will be willing to make a commitment.

There was discussion on the need to more widely promote the fact that the One Mill funds are having a great impact on music, art, and technology needs. Chairman McGriff referred to the Committee's PowerPoint, which is updated annually and presented to the Board. He felt it would be a valuable promotion tool. District PIO Jackie Johnson was credited with the development and updating of the PowerPoint.

Mr. Budd suggested the possibility of airing the presentation on Cox Channel 12. He felt it would provide powerful evidence of the effective use of the One-Mill monies, as well as the need to continue it.

Mr. Budd also suggested 'branding' efforts be made, to make "One-Mill" a recognizable name in the community, when referring to music, art and technology accomplishments, products and performances.

There was consensus to present the report to the School Board at the January 20, 2015, meeting. Committee members suggested that a school Chorus perform at the meeting. [RAWLINGS ELEMENTARY CHORUS HAS SINCE BEEN SCHEDULED.]

Chairman McGriff stated that it would exert an even greater influence if various committee members were to conduct the PowerPoint at community meetings. In addition, it would increase the number of citizens that would be reached.

Dr. Roberts stated that he will be mentioning the One-Mill at his 100-Day Report, which is scheduled for December 9, 2014, at Lincoln Middle School. He agreed with the need for a marketing push, so citizens will realize the magnitude of what One-Mill funds are accomplishing.

MEETING
SCHEDULE

Mr. Ward suggested the Committee change its meetings to February and August. [HE HAS SINCE DETERMINED THAT A BETTER SCHEDULE FOR PROVIDING THE MOST INFORMATION WOULD BE MARCH AND SEPTEMBER.] A specific meeting date was not determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Ballot Language for Renewal

RENEWAL OF THE EXISTING ONE MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING EXPENSES

BALLOT QUESTION: Shall the Alachua County School District's existing one mill ad valorem tax be renewed, beginning July 1, 2013, and ending four years later on June 30, 2017, for necessary operating expenses to fund school nurses, elementary music and art programs, K-12 school library programs, K-12 guidance programs, middle and high school band and chorus programs, academic/career technical magnet programs and to update classroom technology; with oversight by an independent citizens' committee?

YES ____ NO ____