

HALF-CENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
Wednesday, June 5, 2019

The Half-Cent Oversight Committee held their inaugural meeting at 4 p.m. in Conference Room E of the District office, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

Members present: Karen Alford, Dean Cheshire, Tom Mason, Karen McCann, Brian Scarborough, Karl Smith and Steven Vann. Members absent: Carrie Bush, Jason Haesler, Shane Johnson, Sue Legg, and Al Losch.

District Office staff present: Karen Clarke, Superintendent; Jackie Johnson, Public Information Officer; Alex Rella, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; and Paul White, Assistant Superintendent Facilities.

Guests present: Mr. Rob Hyatt, School Board Chairman; Mr. John Gilreath, GIS Manager, DRMP; and Dr. Leanetta McNealy, School Board Member.

WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS

Superintendent Clarke welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Half-Cent Oversight Committee and expressed her appreciation to committee members for accepting this responsibility. This initiative will help revitalize district facilities and provide opportunities to children in our community. Members each had the opportunity of introducing themselves.

School Board Chairman Rob Hyatt also thanked the members for their willingness to serve on this very important Board.

REVIEW OF
RESPONSIBILITIES
AND GUIDELINES

Mr. Alex Rella, Assistant Superintendent Business Services, also thanked the members for serving and noted that this committee will strive to be transparent to the taxpayers of Alachua County and ensure that the money is spent correctly. He reviewed the responsibilities and guidelines of the Oversight Committee, as set forth in the *School Capital Outlay Surtax Oversight Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines* document (approved by the School Board on December 18, 2018).

Mrs. Clarke informed the committee that their responsibilities would be similar to the One Mill Oversight Committee, which requires a detailed report presentation to the public at a School Board meeting highlighting expenditures by-school-by building.

FINANCIAL
UPDATE

Mr. Rella provided a financial overview and presented each member with information packets which included:

- Analysis of Half Penny Surtax Revenue and Expenditures as of June 5, 2019
- 2018-19 Sales Tax Receipts
- Half Penny by Project (Dated 5/2019)
- Half Penny by Center (Dated 5/2019)
- District Projects Schedule (Dated June 6, 2019)

Members expressed an urgent need to continue to regularly inform the public on the projects schedule and assurances that their tax dollars are hard at work, as was promised. Suggestions on disseminating information were discussed, including a newsletter for citizens who do not computer access, etc.

Superintendent Clarke indicated that a Quarterly Projects update would also be distributed and shared with the public.

Mr. Rella noted that all related documents will be linked to the District Half Cent Website for the public to view.

Committee members expressed concern that misinformation was being relayed to the public and the need to get the correct facts circulated. Mr. Hyatt suggested that the best way to let the public know how their tax dollars are being spent is to have a sign at each project site indicating that their tax dollars are at work.

Superintendent Clarke informed the committee that the signs have been designed and are ready to go.

School Board Member Dr. McNealy stated that as the School Board's District 4 representative she knows that there are a lot of misconceptions about what is going to happen, even with Mr. Gilreath's recent presentation at Springhill Church. She informed the committee that she will be taking an additional step by working with Mr. White and Mr. Gilreath to schedule another presentation to answer the many questions from citizens in the community.

Additional questions focused on campus safety and security, which included the installation of security measures at all schools, and the facilities project list.

Public Information Officer Jackie Johnson assured the committee that the message was getting out to the community in the form of social media, press releases, the Website, and also with the help of organizations such as the Alachua County Council of PTAs (ACCPTA).

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT SCHEDULE AND STORYBOARD

Mr. John Gilreath, GIS Manager, DRMP, conducted a thorough presentation entitled: *Alachua County Public Schools Facilities Investment Initiative District Projects Schedule*, dated June 6, 2019, which included:

- Review of the Initiative
- Overview of effort to date
- Definitions/Timelines
- Project Considerations
- Project Schedule

ELECTION OF
OFFICERS

Superintendent Clarke opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Cheshire nominated Mr. Scarborough to serve as Chairman, but he declined the nomination.

Mrs. Alford nominated Mr. Smith to serve as Chairman, and Mr. Scarborough to serve as Vice-Chairman. Nominations were closed and all were in favor of Mr. Smith as Chairman, and Mr. Scarborough as Vice-Chairman.

Both Chairman Smith and Vice-Chairman Scarborough graciously accepted the nominations and thanked the committee for their support.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Half Cent Oversight Committee will be held on **Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at 4 p.m.** All meetings will be held at 4 p.m. in Conference Room E of the District Office.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.