

Half-Cent Oversight Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes
April 25, 2022 at 4 p.m. (District Office – Boardroom)

**WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Karl Smith called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Members present: Chairman Karl Smith, Karen Alford, Jennifer Boe, Margaret Loy, Tom Mason, Karen McCann, Rik McNeal, Steven Vann and Jeanna Mastrodicasa

Members absent: Brian Scarborough, Dean Cheshire and Jason Haesler

District members present:

Alex Rella, Chief of Finance

Suzanne Wynn, Dir. Community Planning, Concurrency and Major Construction

Community Engagement Coordinator Jamarr Akins.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Motion by Tom Mason

Seconded by Rik McNeal

to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022, with the striking of bullet 3 under Superintendent Updates.

Upon Vote: Motion Passed

FACILITIES UPDATE:

Suzanne Wynn reviewed with everyone the Capital Improvements Projects Update presentation and comments were given:

- They did do a hard bid to save money and incorporated the HVAC system. There is some concern about Westwood, they are hearing construction cost are ranging 30% - 60% higher than expected. It was noted that the UF is seeing the same thing--- materials cost more and you can't get interior doors or furniture.
- Do we have a strategic plan—do we potentially overspend to keep the timeline or do we delay payments
- We are in a difference “space” – how do we communicate and ask for extensions on the half-cent?
- A good time to secure bids on future projects is in the fall.
- We have a responsibility to get information to the public. We need to get a “positive” message out about our progress and plan. Maybe a presentation at a School Board meeting would be the best way. Get message out to the most interested people.

FINANCE UPDATE:

Chief of Finance Alex Rella went over the financial updates and explained the reporting.

Comments & questions:

- What are the rules for “operating contingency” – how are they different than the general operating fund?
- On one-time expenses, if we see an increase in cost in the next five years, when does it make sense to hold back?
- Talked about the priorities list which the general public knows what this list was. Buying property was not on the list—the land has been bought. Talk about making changes to the priority list – does that mean that we're dumping a school.
- Presentations on projects that we've already completed and saying there are challenges ahead. In part, challenges are wages going up, lack of labor, slow supplies.
- There are questions about what is on the list. Hawthorne still has questions coming up.

- We are an oversight committee and we can't lose the trust of the community
- In the past, money bonds have worked well. The plan was for an initial bond offer for Westwood.
- Discussed funds, unspent funds, non-incumbered funds.

DISCUSSION:

In general:

- Thank you from a lot to everybody for all they are doing.
- Election of officers – It was decided to postpone electing new officers until closer to or after the board election in August. We will be meeting in August and hopefully after the election the committee will be fully staffed with new board-appointed members. Maybe have another meeting in the fall, around October for electing officers. We will revisit the election of officers in August.
- We would like to have meetings at a time when the superintendent can also attend.

NEXT MEETING:

August 22, at 4 p.m., in the District's Boardroom.

MEETING TOPICS:

Will need to select or discuss the selection of a nominating committee along with a chair and vice-chair.

**MEETING
ADJOURNED:**

Adjourned at 4:48 p.m.