

One Mill Oversight Committee
APPROVED MINUTES
April 13, 2021

The virtual meeting of the School Board of Alachua County *One Mill Oversight Committee* was called to order at 4 p.m.

Members Present: Debbie Gallagher, One Mill Chair; Harvey Budd, Eric Godet, Sam Goforth, Jean Robinson, and Janie Williams

Members Absent: Albert White, Adrian Taylor

District Staff Present: Carlee Simon, Superintendent; and Alex Rella, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, School Board Chairman Leannetta McNealy, and School Board Member Tina Certain.

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Gallagher called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked all members to introduce themselves.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION Mr. Rella started out by noting the importance of the committee in reviewing the financial aspects that relate to the referendum. As a taxpayer, he stressed the heavy responsibility he feels in overseeing these funds. He really appreciated the committee's contribution over the years. He has taken back many of the ideas shared during the meetings and has implemented them.

Mr. Rella conducted a review of financial information. He shared the following reports with the committee:

- Analysis of One Mill Revenue and Expenditures as of March 31, 2021
- 2020-2021 One Mill Estimated Revenue and Expenditures
- One Mill Budget – Current Year
- One Mill Budget – FY 2021-22
- One Mill by Project (Date: 3/2021)
- One Mill by Center (Date: 3/2021)

Mr. Goforth asked Mr. Rella if changes had to be made due to the 20-21 economic issues. Mr. Rella explained that he did not. He is required to budget at 96%. He anticipates being at that mark again this year. They are currently on schedule.

Mr. Budd asked a question regarding the technology purchased. Were individual computers purchased or classroom equipment? What about the depreciation effect? Mr. Rella answered, when the pandemic hit, the decision was made to purchase 6,000 laptops for the purpose of a shutdown. There are many uses for these laptops. They give flexibility when students are transitioning to new schools. The technology refresh is at 5 years and is being pushed to 6 years. These laptops will help.

Mr. Budd voiced his concern regarding the problem some individuals face that do not have any broadband services and cannot use their devices at home. He would be interested to know what the percentage is of those without service. He would like to

see perhaps some federal money that could be used to address this problem. Superintendent Simon stated that the federal and local government have recognized this problem. Access to internet is now a way of life. It will further be discussed at a joint meeting with the city, county and school board. It has affected students and teachers. This is seen as an equity concern across the board. Mr. Budd further noted that there is technology out there that could be used to address this situation without having to hard wire everyone in the county.

Mr. Goforth asked Mr. Rella if One Mill money was used to buy the hot spots used on the busses. Mr. Rella said it was not used for that, another grant was. If something falls in the grey area, he does not use the One Mill funds.

When looking at the funds by center report, Mr. Goforth asked about the budget increase at Shell Elementary. Mr. Rella said he would look into it. He is assuming they might have added a staff member.

Ms. Gallagher restated that this was a unique year for Music and Art. The district provided more money for Art and Music. She asked, how much was given to the school/teacher? Mr. Rella explained \$500 is given for each program. It is to be used for nothing other than going to the art and music teacher. Those teachers were very appreciative.

Mr. Rella expressed his appreciation for members taking their time to review the information. If there was anything else they needed or would like to see at the next meeting, please let him know.

Mr. Budd asked about Adult Education. Was there any characteristics of the One Mill that could go into that program or is it limited to K-12? Mr. Rella explained that it was for classroom technology. Classrooms look very different now. They are looking to use CROP to help those students who are credit deficient. Dr. Simon further noted that online learning will not be going away. It opens up a lot of opportunities for students who need credit retrieval or would like to go back and get a high school diploma. They have the One Mill along with ESSR funding. They have a lot of opportunities for ideas to come together. With the online setting, they can deliver instruction across the world. They are looking into this to help those individuals acquire the knowledge they are seeking.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Mrs. Gallagher asked the committee if another meeting was needed this year. Mr. Rella stated he did not see a need for it. Mr. Budd said he would like to get together and discuss the equity issue. He would like to know east to west how the money is being spent, so they can analyze things differently. The beginning of next year would be a good time to meet.

In August or September, Mr. Rella stated he would begin working with the Superintendent on compiling this information for the committee using the equity lense. Mr. Rella expressed appreciation for the great feedback.

In addition, Board member Tina Certain offered Mr. Budd information that she had collected over the years and would email it to him.

Ms. Gallagher asked the district if they were looking at having meetings face to face. The answer was yes. She then asked if the committee remembered the suggestion last year about meeting in a community setting. She thought it would be good if it could be advertised so members of the community could also meet and see how the money is being spent. Mr. Rella said he did and it was a great suggestion. Ms. Gallagher said she would like to explore the option of meeting face to face at the next meeting and at a different location and open it up to the general public.

With the upcoming reimagine/rezoning efforts going on at the district, Dr. Simon commented she looks forward to bringing up the information requested by Mr. Budd at that September meeting and having it at a public setting would be perfect.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Harvey Budd

Seconded by Mr. Sam Goforth

Moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed