

CYPRESS LAKE HIGH SCHOOL  
SAC Meeting  
04/23/2018

Mrs. Roles opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Dr. Amy DesAmours then took the platform to present regarding the Half-penny Tax proposal to benefit the school district. This movement is entitled, "Change for Change". Dr. DesAmours presented that LCPS has 97,000+ students enrolled, making us the 9th largest district in the state and 32nd largest in the nation. We have students from 149 different countries and speaking 156 different languages. And LCPS is the 3rd fastest growing school district in the state with the enrollment of 1800 new students each year for the past 10 years.

Dr. DesAmours pointed out that education is a driver for local employment. Chicos, Arthrex, and FGCU have provided 12,000+ jobs for local graduates. The State of Florida is the last, #50, in the country in the amount spent on education. However, the State of Florida is #3 in the country spent on health, education, and housing of prisoners.

According to noted statistics, since the 2006-07 school year, we have lost \$270,000,000 total in Capital Funding from property taxes, impact fees, and state funds. Over the next 5 years, it is estimated that the Capital Fund will increase to \$478,000,000. As mentioned above our enrollment has increased by nearly 20,000 students in the same time period. Regarding this growth, LCPS is in need of 7 new schools, 2 rebuilt schools, and 1 additional high school. Maintenance on all existing buildings involves 799 buildings, 13 million sq. ft., on 3,217 acres. Also needed is maintenance and updating in the area of technology, 885 servers, 95 network sites, and 118,000 computers.

The complications of all of this growth includes, students in portables, paying rent on said portables, larger classrooms, and borrowing money needed which increases the debt of the district. The district is currently in debt by \$500,000,000 right now.

All of these statistics bring us around to the Half-Penny Sales Tax. The burden on taxpayers will be minimal. The tax will be paid by all Floridians, including their guests and tourists. The sales tax has the potential to raise \$20,000,000 or more than a property tax increase. Over a year's time, the average family of 4 with \$50,000 income, will pay in approximately \$64. Personal necessities like food and medicine will continue to be tax free, and large purchases will only be taxed on the first \$5,000 on their total price.

Now, how will these additional Capital Funds help our students? New schools can be built, older schools can be rebuilt, new furniture and supplies where needed, updated technology, new technology where needed, enhancements for programs, and of course security for buildings and campuses.

Parent, Maria Bahruth, asked the question, "Who makes the decision as to how our Capital Funds are spent?" Dr. DesAmours told the group that all schools are accountable for the way they use their money. An initial list is put together. This can be done by local school committees which are formed and may include Administrators, Maintenance personnel, SAC members, etc. These groups can give suggestions of prioritized needs and requests for things they feel they need on their campus.

Several schools in our district experienced extra wear and tear during the 2017-18 school year because of sheltering 25,000+ people after Hurricane Irma. These schools may have specific needs because of their use during that most trying time. That is why it will be most advantageous for each school to form its own committee to express their needs.

In conclusion, Dr. DesAmours encouraged all to vote "YES" in favor of the half-penny sales tax in November 2018.

SAC committee member, Bernadette Collier, suggested information be presented at CLHS Open House for the 2018-19 school year. Maria Bahruth suggested a presentation be arranged at her church because the elderly ones are regular voters but need to be educated about the half-penny tax so they understand the small impact it will have on them. That way, even though they don't have children in school, they will understand the money will help the future of their grandchildren and on. Vicky Manietta also suggested that graduating seniors who will turn 18 years old before voting begins should also receive information about the benefits of this tax so they can vote and help the district recover financially which will benefit all students including their siblings.

Next on the agenda was to review minutes from the last meeting. Bernadette Collier motioned for the minutes to be accepted, and M. Broughton carried the second motion. All members voted unanimously.

Then, Tammy Labelle presented the March DAC meeting review:

Board Updates - Board is advocating the half-penny tax campaign. Board member, Mrs. Fisher attended the Peace Walkout at South Fort Myers HS which was brought about because of recent shootings at other high schools. The board sees the need for a focus on Safety in the area of Mental Health.

Dr. Adkins presented:

A Peace Walk of students from around the district met and worked with the superintendent to organize a positive purpose for the walkouts. The goal of the walkouts was to bring awareness of the need and desire for better safety and security on LCPS campuses.

>Dr. Adkins initiated a plan to have increased SRO supervision in schools:

- \*Add an extra SRO on campuses with 2000+ students
- \*Collaborating with City of FM police for officer presence in schools
- \*Beginning program at FM Middle school of 1 deputy and 1 police officer
- \*Safety Goal of complete coverage for all schools by end of next year

>Threat Assessments:

- \*Assess buildings, Plans in place, and technology installed in needed areas - - working on single point entry for all schools
- \*Are we meeting the needs of students and staff?

- >Active Shooter Training: 85% of staff already trained, 100% trained by end of March
- >Training in schools for local Law Enforcement to help them become familiar with building layouts and campuses
- >Looking at Safety Drills planned and unplanned for different situations that may arise
- >Increasing safety for Bus Drivers
- >Mental Health Awareness: working with community mental health organizations (such as Salus Care) to enhance communication and better meet the needs of students
- >Continue active supervision, holding everyone accountable before and after school
- >Increase security for schools with portables with more staff, surveillance cameras, and improved gate system

Dwayne Alton presented about Chromebooks:

- >The goal is to establish a Global Lee Technology program
- >Devices to enhance instruction, not replace
- >Middle/High Schools have 1:1 implementation of devices, elementary schools have shared technology (mobile labs, stationary computers in some classrooms)
- >Launchpad with class links to connect resources to one resource for easy access
- >Tech Support hosting Technology Night, Summer Webinars for Students, Parents, and Staff
- >Researching low cost internet plans. Some plans found as low as \$10/month

Mrs. Roles gave the date of August 8 for CLHS Open House.

Mrs. Roles closed the SAC Meeting at 7:27 p.m.