



MINUTES
BAY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOPS
April 2, 2018

HALF CENT SALES TAX – 1:00 P.M. – BOARD ROOM

BDS DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN - 2:00 P.M. – BOARD ROOM

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HALF CENT SALES TAX

Present: School Board Chair Ginger Littleton; School Board Vice Chair Steve Moss; School Board Members: Jerry Register and Joe W. Walker; William Husfelt, Superintendent and Attorney Franklin Harrison. School Board Member Ryan Neves attended via conference call.

Chairman Littleton called the workshop to order at 1:00 P.M.

The Superintendent began by thanking the Citizens Oversight Committee for their diligence in reviewing the invoices, budget, and projects to ensure that the Half Cent Sales Tax is being used properly. Husfelt presented a PowerPoint presentation to the School Board.

• **HALF CENT SALES TAX**

The first ten year cycle was approved by Bay County voters in 1998. It resulted in \$122,446,283 in revenue spent to renovate 29 schools.

The second year cycle was approved by voters in 2010. It began January 1, 2011 and will end on December 31, 2020. As of December 31, 2017, \$126,286,216 has been spent on Technology & Construction Projects, Technology Upgrades at all schools, and Renovation/ New Construction Projects at 20 schools.

When the second year cycle ends, it will result in new construction projects at Bay High School, Hiland Park Elementary School, Lynn Haven Elementary School, Mosley High School, North Bay Haven Charter Academy, and Springfield Elementary School. Major renovations projects from the second cycle have been at Bay High School, Callaway Elementary School, Cedar Grove Elementary School, Hiland Park Elementary School, Mosley High School, Mowat Middle School, Rutherford High School, Springfield Elementary School, and Surfside Middle School.

• **PECO FUNDING**

The PECO funding was highest in 2007 at \$14.5 million and has currently dropped to \$519,000 this year.

• **ADVANTAGES**

The advantages are less property tax, no county impact fees, a large percentage is paid by tourists, and the tax does not apply to food, medicine, gasoline, and is limited to \$25 per purchase.

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Board Members:

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District 1

Ginger Littleton

District 2

Joe Wayne Walker

District 3

Ryan Neves

District 4

Steve Moss

District 5

- **HALF CENT SALES TAX – Third Ten Year Cycle**

If voters approve the referendum in August 2018, there would be no interruption in collection of funds or projects. Voters can view the Project Priority List that will contain major projects at 38 schools which would include total renovations at Lucille Moore Elementary School, Patronis Elementary School, and Tommy Smith Elementary School which would include security enhancements.

- **THIRD TEN YEAR CYCLE NEXT STEPS**

The School Board must approve a resolution for the tax. The Resolution would include a plan designating how the proceeds would be used, Surtax revenues may be used for servicing bond indebtedness but not used for operational expenses.

The Bay County Commissioners shall approve the placement of the Proposal on the Ballot.

The School Board must provide the Proposal to the Supervisor of Elections to print on the ballot. It must be submitted by June 22, 2018.

The public will vote on the Proposal. Early voting begins on August 18, 2018 and the Primary is on August 28, 2018.

If the tax passes, the School Board must notify the Department of Revenue of the imposition of the Surtax within 10 days after the Final Adoption of the Surtax, no later than November 16, 2018.

Bob Miller, Chair of the Citizens Oversight Committee, spoke about the process of reviewing the first list of priority projects. He shared that it is important to review this early and feels that it is important to inform the public of what this tax does for the schools of Bay County. It also increases the draw of new businesses and their employees by improving the school system. School safety has become a concern and something that should be included in the priority list.

Walker asked if there will be a list to review prior to passing the Resolution. The Superintendent stated that the list is being developed and will be ready in 6 weeks. He also asked about school security (fencing, hardening of the school, etc.) which will be on the list.

Moss stated that the public will ask why this is on the ballot 2 years prior to expiring. The Superintendent shared that there would be no break in school improvements and schools that did not qualify in the last 2 cycles can be added to the third cycle. Moss feels school security upgrades are important to many parents and would like the opportunity to implement now.

Walker shared that the School Board is committed to keep the millage rate low. Moss stated that Bay County is the 8th lowest in the state.

BDS DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Chip Shows, Director of Informational Services, presented the Disaster Recovery Plan and Standards and Procedures Manual. He stated that findings in the last audit listed the changes that needed to be made in the manual. Revisions included removing names and inserting position titles, updated the plan with current technology and software, and security measures. It will be updated annually and the staff will be trained once a year as well.

With no further business scheduled to come before the Board, Chair Littleton adjourned the School Board Meeting at 1:50 P.M.



Ginger Littleton
Chair



Bill Husfelt
Superintendent