

**Fruit Cove Middle School Advisory Council Meeting
October 22, 2024**

Present	Not Present	Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
Tee'ha Carroll		x	
Keysha Dixon	x		
Keiysha Cornell		x(tardy)	
Amandia Carnahan		x	
Stephanie Behar		x	
Bryon Jay	x		
Dorinda Geans-Jay	x		
James Chen			x
Tamilla Dow		x	
Rachel Sandler		x	
Annie Moran	x		
Deborah Wiley	x		
Rachel Sandler	x		
Chelsea Knowles	x		
Jenna Yow			x
Quorum: Yes			

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 2:30 PM

Reminders: Please be sure to sign in.

New Business- T. Carroll

- Welcome: October meeting has been rescheduled from October 8 to October 22 due to hurricane events.
- T. Carroll distributed FCM's SAC minutes from the September 10, 2024 meeting. At time there were not enough members present to constitute a quorum. Decision made vote to pass September and October minutes at November 2024 SAC Meeting.
- T. Carroll presented PowerPoint from her attendance at recent District Focus meeting. The School Board discussed the upcoming vote on two specific county referendums and their impact on the school district. The referendums are: 1. To extend the half-cent tax, and 2. To implement the Operating Millage tax. Both of the taxes are crucial to the district in support of:
 - Teachers: Salaries and Benefits, Recruitment and Retainment,
 - School Safety
 - Facilities: Utilities, Infrastructure Improvements, New Builds, Maintenance
 - Student Welfare: Nurses,
 - Education: Instructional Materials, School Supplies (Books, Electronics), Consumable Supplies, Enhanced Programming, Current/Updated Technology

- T. Carroll announced an event on Sat. October 26 at Veterans Park. Volunteers will be canvassing local neighborhoods speaking with people, ensuring all are aware of the ballot referendums and answering any questions. A website is available at halfcentsuccess.com.
- T. Carroll announced that Ms. Jacobson will be coming to the November meeting to discuss and review the proposed School Improvement Plan. It is with hope that Ms. Hiltz, AP, will review as well.
- Voting of new members: T. Carroll motioned to vote in new member. Mr. Chen did not respond. Decision to add new member tabled till next meeting.

Old Business- T. Carroll

- SRF Total from September 10 meeting minutes noted to be incorrect. Correct value is \$3,932.32. Value to be amended and new minutes to be re-distributed. All SAC funds remain the same as of October meeting date.
- SRF \$3,932.32
- SAC \$10,366.19

Principal’s Update – N/A

Public Question Period: S. Behar made key points:

1. According to Michael Degutis-Chief of Staff & Dr. Brennan Asplen-Deputy Superintendent of Operations for the SJCS D on Referendums for the upcoming election, here are some key points from the September 11, 2024 General Meeting I attended:
 - a. As of October 8, the district student count is 52,499 and is growing exponentially.
 - b. St. Johns County School District’s student population has doubled over the last 18 years and continues to steadily increase, while the required local effort millage set by the state has significantly decreased over the past 10 years.
 - c. More than half of all Florida public school students are in school districts which are supported by a half-cent sales tax and an additional millage for school operations.
 - d. St. John County’s sales tax rate is lower than all its neighboring counties at 6.5%. If the half-cent sales tax referendum is passed, the rate will remain at this same low 6.5% rate.
 - e. While St. Johns County School District is consistently rated an “A” school district, its teacher placement salaries are comparably lower than those of adjoining counties. A single mill increase will help the district offer competitive salaries to attract and retain the best teachers for our children.
 - i. Duval County – \$48,700 Base Salary + \$5,400 Millage Supplement = \$54,100
 - ii. Nassau County – \$50,000 + \$2,000 Millage Supplement = \$52,000
 - iii. Flagler County – \$49,451
 - iv. St. Johns County – \$48,642**
 - v. Clay County – \$48,250
 - vi. Putnam County – \$47,500
 - f. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the half-cent surtax generated \$37 million.

- g. 85% of the money will be used for salary improvements to retain and recruit the best staff to serve students. The remaining 15% will support school safety, student welfare, and program enhancements
- h. District has completed construction on two new schools with sales tax proceeds: Picolata Crossing Elementary School (open August 2017) and Freedom Crossing Academy (open August 2018). Half-cent sales tax partially funded construction of Palm Valley Academy (open August 2018) and Pine Island Academy (open August 2021).
- i. Half-cent sales tax has also funded and completed a classroom expansion, dining expansion and chiller upgrade at Liberty Pines Academy.
- j. Info on Future Projects and Costs: <https://www.halfcentsuccess.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Critically-Needed-Project-List.pdf>
- k. We cannot afford for the half-cent not to pass in November, but if it does not, the district would fall further behind on construction of new schools, be forced to defer some major maintenance projects on existing facilities, and fail to keep pace with technology innovations to serve our students. No matter what we cannot ever compromise on school safety.

Adjourned

Motion to adjourn was made by T. Carroll. Seconded by A. Carnahan

Motion Passed

Meeting Convened: 3:22 PM