

DESTIN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 18, 2018

GOAL: LOOKING AHEAD

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Williams, Stone, Seekamp, Ramswell, Fountain, Locicero

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 16, 2018 with name spelling change

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dolores Morrell (CRA meeting conflict)

Meghan Seekamp

NEW BUSINESS

Heidi Locicero has decided to join the team!

Jim Liafau will also serve as a consultant.

Myra introduced Keith Spence and Kelly from School Financial Services (SFS)

They wholeheartedly welcome the opportunity to share their expertise in assisting communities and interested advisory /exploratory committees on the essentials of preparing an application for FL Charter Schools. SFS has represented and currently represents our neighbors at Seaside Neighborhood School and currently working with Ohana.

- They are accountants not marketers... they handle the money side of things and can complete the budget/finance pieces of a charter application
- They got in at the beginning of charters
- First charter was Pensacola Beach Elementary in 2000-2001; opened 2002;
- Also did Miami Community School- opened with 110 students – now has 1056
- They note many charters lease space their first year or two, often leasing from churches
- They currently have 5-6 in application phase
- Typically ½ get approved and ½ of those actually open- other half usually have enrollment or faculty issues
- Need at least 300 students to be doable
- They feel we have PLENTY of potential students
- They can assist in getting facility if needed
- It is vital to give application weight- excellent, complete details; eliminate doubt; must get past SFS review committee and then they present to school superintendent

- They noted our need to get experts in each relevant category: facilities, curriculum, attorney. Finance, etc.
- They note that curriculum is the most important piece- probably 80% of whole package
- They recommend we hire someone who writes charters for a living- knows them inside and out and what approvers look for
- Application budget is phased, no capital outlay until year three
- They recommend Dr. Christy Noe from Collaborative Educational Network. She is excellent and has 100% success rate. She is picky but has space to accept a potential school.
- CSG- Charter School Grant
- In Okaloosa, schools get about \$7600/student
- Charters only get about 80% of FTE
- Charters do, however, have more options
- FEFP/FFE- school funding usually need 100-150k to start
- SREF- facility requirement/code a bit easier for charters- charters only have to adhere to building codes
- When obtaining land/building consider donor could buy and build then lease back
- We need to become a 501(c)(3) to get ball rolling; need to be an entity; need to find attorney to file a form 1023 for non-profit status
- Keith said **“WE ARE SELLING THE FUTURE”**- this really resonated with many on the committee

The charter application goes to the Florida Dept. of Education – annual deadline is February. If approved could open in August 2020.

Everyone generally feels the timing for us to move forward is now and very positive.

We need to network and expand our pool of experts. Dr. Rosemary Williams, Carlene Anderson, Alexis Tibbitts, Rick with Seaside

One temporary/initial location would be building on top of parking garage at Destin Commons. Discussion ensued about visiting after or before an upcoming meeting.

The committee clarified with SFS what they can do/cost. Keith and Kelly responded that what we have looks very viable and they WANT to help us. They are not paid. They only hope we consider them for financial work once school is opened. They are in to help us if we are interested in them!

This is excellent news and committee is very excited about putting pieces together and moving forward.

REPORTS

Williams noted she reached out to General Gordon Fornell at Eglin about using land on Okaloosa Island; he said doubtful but not impossible; he suggested reaching out to real estate

committee. Seekamp suggested education office and noted one of Fornell's suggested personal contacts was a friend and she did not feel he would be on board. Ramswell reached out to Matt Gaetz but has not heard back yet.

ACTIONS

Ramswell reach out to Dr. Noe

Williams to reach out to Rick at Seaside

Stone to reach out to attorney for 501 c 3 status

Williams sending a thank-you note

DELAYED/REVISIT

- Ramswell to reach out to Steve McLaughlin
- Ramswell: contact Billy Williams at Walton County

ADJOURN

8:05pm