



Master Facility Plan Implementation

Tracking the impact of the voter approved half-penny sales surtax

February 28, 2025, Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Member-to-Member Meeting – Ramon Day and Mike Hightower

Committee Members Present

Ramon Day, Mike Hightower, Marion Tischler, and Erdine Johnson

Board Members in Attendance

Ms. Cindy Pearson

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 AM. By Northeast Florida Builders Association's Oversight Committee Member, Mr. Ramon Day.

Items to be Discussed

1. Open Governance Review

Duval County Public Schools Chief Legal Counsel, Mr. Ray Poole, presented information regarding the Sunshine Law requirements for the committee members while serving on the Sales Surtax Oversight Committee.

All members engaged in conversation with Mr. Poole and asked some clarifying questions to better understand the rules and guidelines regarding communications amongst members.

2. Review of DCPS Dashboard with Oversight Committee Members

Mr. Day gave background to his experience and scope of work. He explained that he would like to see the reporting on the dashboard delivered in a different format to make the dashboard content more readable and understandable:

- CSI Divisions in an overview format and not line-by-line regarding the stages of CSI-mobilization, site prep, and internal construction (MEP).

Marion Tischler gave input regarding the depth of the reporting and the extent of content, and would like to see the progress reporting presented in a manner where the information is specific to areas by district level, so committee members can report back to their organizations and constituents with more comprehensible information.

Mr. Mike Hightower gave input regarding his thoughts on the oversight committee and the content presented by staff at regular meeting updates.

He stated that things seem staff driven in the content delivery and not something that the public can understand.

He is frustrated in a number of areas regarding the reports and his personal thoughts on the meeting content:

- He suggests that there should be an executive summary showing how things are going, where are we on current and upcoming projects, what are the expenditures, and where will the progress be in the next year.

- That the committee take a pause and gather an update of the current membership and what they would like to see in the meetings in order to take the information back to their constituents and schools.
- He would like to see a better understanding of the group – what is your constituency and does the meeting information you receive at a meeting give you enough content to take back to them. What are you looking for when you leave the meeting.
- He commented that the importance of the work and the success of constituent transparency are the school board members.
- Mr. Hightower stated he would like to see a regular meeting take place where a facilitator can attend and capture the takeaways from each committee member of what information they are looking for and the committee narrow down that list as a group to ensure the information received during the meeting can be taken post-meeting back to the constituents and organizational leadership in a way that can be easily reported out.
- Mr. Hightower also gave input on the scope of the committee regarding focus on charter schools and that because the charter schools are accountable to state legislature, the committee should not be exhausting so much time into charter school reports.

Erdine Johnson addressed the comment Mr. Hightower made about what information you are looking for when you are leaving the meeting. She talked about her experience with project features that were a concern of constituents brought up in a prior meeting during public comment and from her expressing concerns. These concerns included:

- Rutledge Pearson's loss of storage space in classroom and the resolution that was shared for her.
- Instances where she emailed and asked questions to get an explanation of why the class size and instructional space being minimal under the new construction that is supposed to be improving instruction.

Raymon Day asked Ms. Mihalik if there are bylaws for this committee – Ms. Mihalik informed him that the Duval County School Board Policy – 9.66 – Sales Surtax Oversight Committee, outlines the role and duties of the committee and there are not bylaws.

Ms. Tischler and Mr. Day discussed the opportunity for subcommittees - Mr. Poole and Board Member Pearson provided a response to the group that subcommittees are allowed within this committee.

Ms. Johnson brought up the "punch list" items that were somehow missed at Rutledge Pearson regarding loose wiring and inoperable interactive learning screens. These items should be inspected to ensure when it comes to the money being spent, these items should have been caught before work was completed.

Board Member Pearson gave feedback and stated her take away is that there is a gap in communication between the Board's discussion and review of information that is reviewed and voted on financially before changes are made and it is reaching the Oversight Committee. Ms. Pearson continued discussions with Mr. Hightower, Mr. Day, Ms. Tischler, and Ms. Johnson, regarding the reporting of district schools. She mentioned a detailed report that is in the form of a "district roundup" through Facilities SharePoint to stay up to date on projects and in-depth details are available through the filters in the District Dashboard.

Board Member Pearson also stated her takeaway from this discussion:

- As members of the oversight committee would benefit from some talking points that you could take away from the meetings and the information presented that would benefit sharing updates with the public and your respective organizations.
- As new members are onboarded – providing an overview of the oversight committee when there is a change in committee membership that would include an executive summary of the committee and an executive summary by board district may be beneficial to onboarding purposes.

Ms. Johnson, Mr. Hightower, and Ms. Tischler provided additional comments and feedback to Board Member Pearson.

Mr. Hightower referenced his initial request to have the committee consider asking for a facilitator and to take input from all members on the committee in order to repurpose the committee's role and goals; and take everyone's input to narrow down a list as an Oversight Committee

Board Member Pearson and Mr. Hightower held in depth discussions about the progress and messaging to constituents shows that the district has made progress and district schools are better than where they were.

Ms. Johnson asked Board Member Pearson about the news reporting regarding their planning periods.

3. Discussion of Information Presentation to Oversight Committee Members

Mr. Day asked for final comments.

Marion made the comment that the oversight committee is geared towards facilities for the optimal performance of our students. She mentioned site visits regarding the status of projects. Erdine Johnson suggested that the names and participants of decision making processed

Additional inquiry – Ms. Mihalik can connect member to the appropriate staff and that staff member can respond directly to the member's questions/concerns

Mr. Day commented on the roles charter schools and public schools play and the difference in the requirements of how the reporting requirements are met. He also engaged BM Pearson on her thoughts regarding the charter schools.

Discussion about PECO Funds.

Mr. Hightower – the next meeting to address how the dashboard is not user friendly for my constituency – a meeting that members give who the rep and how the dashboard can be user friendly to meet these needs. – a facilitator to capture the details and narrow down the scope to bring back to staff to address the usability to meet the needs of the committee.

Marion suggested a second meeting in March to invite all other committee member regarding gathering information to enhance the oversight committee's members knowledge and information.

Mr. Raymond Day made a request to hold an additional meeting before the Oversight Committee's upcoming interim meeting on April 16, 2025. Ms. Mihalik, Coordinator to the Chief of Staff, captured the request and will work with district staff to provide meeting space availability.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 AM.

Minutes were taken by Megan Mihalik, Coordinator to the Chief of Staff.

These minutes were approved at the April 16, 2025, Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Interim Meeting.

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