**Wards Creek Elementary**

**SAC Meeting Minutes-September 14th, 2015**

**Attendance:**

Attendees are attached on a separate list.

**Call to Order:**

A meeting of the Wards Creek Elementary School Advisory Council was held in the Wards Creek Elementary Media Center on September 14th, 2015. Lisa Bielefeldt called the meeting to order. Heather Clubb recorded minutes for this meeting.

**Minutes:**

The minutes were reviewed. Dana Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Teresa Lloyd seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Sales Tax Presentation**

Michael Degutis and Paul Rose from the district office presented on the half-cent sales surtax referendum that is up for a vote in the county in November. St. Johns County Schools has grown over 10,000 students in the last ten years. It is anticipated that over the next ten years we will see over 15,000 new students and will need 20 new schools. This school year alone we had over 1,500 new students. There are 318 “relocatables” district-wide, of which 270 are leased which costs $191,000 a month. There are over 6,000 students being served in these “relocatables.” There are two primary funding silos for schools, capital and operating. Capital includes debt payment, technology, maintenance, buses, equipment, security improvements, new construction, and “relocatables.” We are currently two schools behind. We are projected to need at least 50 new “relocatables” and taxpayers receive no assets for these expenditures.

Under Operating are the salaries, benefits, utilities, instructional materials, etc. The sales tax initiative is to fund needs under the capital silo. Property values have gone down over the last several years and the state has changed the millage as well, which has led to the loss of over $180 million for St. Johns County Schools. There are three major funding misconceptions: lottery funds, impact fees, and school concurrency. The lottery comprises less than 2.75% of the total state operating budget. School concurrency does pay full cost if no capacity is available, but does not address any backlog of capacity deficiencies and cannot be used outside of the generated area.

How is St. Johns trying to address the funding shortage locally?

* 3.18% of total budget spent on district administration
* Refinancing of school construction loans
* Avoided energy costs of over $33 million since 2008
* Advocated for Legislature restore the full 2.0 mills

There is a special election on November 3rd, 2015. The sales tax referendum is the only item on the ballot. It would be in effect for 10 years and would generate $150 million over those years, with approximately $4 million a year paid by visitors. The sales tax would be limited to the first $5,000 for large purchases. All of the revenue would stay here in St. Johns County. If approved the district would begin collecting funds in 2016. The Citizens Advisory Committee will monitor and advise the School Board on the expenditure of the funds. The funds would be primarily used to fund new school construction, renovating current schools, safety and security improvements, and technology upgrades. There are current tentative projects up for discussion.

**SAC Funds Disbursement:**

Ms. Bielefeldt reviewed voting procedures for SAC. The state of Florida allotted $3.50 per student at WCES. This money must be used to enhance the School Improvement Plan and the money must be allocated either by teacher or by grade level or department.

* Kindergarten-The team would like to use the majority of the money to purchase RAZ kids accounts for students. The remaining balance would be used to purchase butterfly life cycle kits. Megan Bastow moved to approve the proposal and Teresa Lloyd seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
* Fifth Grade- The team would like to use the money to purchase sets of books to use with student book clubs. Tammy Stewart motioned to approved the proposal and Elizabeth Janssen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Principal’s Report: (Edie Jarrell)**

Leadership Day will be on October 21st this year. We are looking to have a parent panel as a part of our tour that day. We are looking for parents who are willing to be a part of that panel. It would be a 15 minute stop that would repeat 3 times, 9:30-11:30 am. The following Wednesday (10/28) we will be having a Parent Day focused on leadership with the same tour stops.

**PTO Report: (Amy Lasswell)**

The Fall Festival is coming up on Friday-9/18 from 5:30-7:30 pm. We have McDonalds Night on 9/22 from 5 pm 8 pm. On October 15th, we will have a Chickfila night. There will be another Staff Appreciation Day on October 9th. The remainder of the PTO funds from last year have been transferred over for the purchase of 10 IPADs for each grade level.

**Adjournment**:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dana Smith. Tammy Stewart seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Next SAC meeting will be October 12th at 6:00pm.