SAC Minutes for October 15, 2015

* Call to order at 4:30 PM.
* Attending: Clay Carmichael, Dawn Sapp, Kate Neff, Cynthia Morrison, Roger Williams, Tim Cavacini, Jasraj Raghuwanshi, Isabelle Pitcher, Alexandra Phillips, Jessica McCloud, Lori Canoura, Martha Mickler, Beth Sweeney, Denise Sadowski, Nancy Little, Tammy Simmons
* Introductions of visitors and welcome
* Half-Cent Sales Tax Powerpoint Presentation by Martha Mickler and Beth Sweeney:
* Details about extensive growth and need for school construction
* Details about relocatables (portables)
* Clarification about school funding silos (capital vs. operating)
* Funding misconceptions
* Steps taken locally to assist funding shortage
* Current state
* Two schools behind
* Continue to add portables at the rate of at least 50 per year
* Special election November 3rd
* If approved by vote, the tax would…
* Remain in effect for ten years
* Generate approximately $13 million per year ($150 million over ten years) of which approximately 25-40% would be paid by visitors
* Be limited to the first $5,000 of a purchase (so the most someone would pay would be $25 per item)
* Produce revenue that would entirely remain in St. Johns County
* Why hold a special election?
* To start collecting money January 1, 2016
* A citizens advisory committee will be created
* The money will only be used to fund new school construction, renovate current schools, increase safety/security, and upgrade technology
* Question/Answer session
* Nancy Little asked about a response to a letter to the editor in last week’s Record (the Bailey’s PAC may do this)
* Clarification was offered regarding moving money from capital funds to operating funds
* Diminishing PECO funding was explained
* The role of charter schools was addressed (sharing PECO funding)
* What can SAC do? Share information with others
* Early voting option
* Calendar update from Dr. Carmichael:
* Jasraj Raghuwanshi introduced as student volunteer of the year
* Homecoming week next week
* Wednesday = skit night
* Saturday – Pink It Up Pedro, golf tournament (AM), dance 8-11 PM
* Lots of testing going on
* Monday = planning day for teachers, in-service day for administrators
* Volleyball districts next week
* NHS inductions on 10/28
* Swim districts next week
* Cross-country districts next week
* Funding request from Adrienne Paone
* Would like to use $1,100 to take 50 AVID students to a Jaguars college/career fair and game in December
* Discussion ensued involving reaching out to all students rather than particular groups and the fact that this is a large percentage of our SAC budget
* Questions brought up include what the money will be sued for specifically
* Kate Neff will email SAC members with more information
* SAC agreed to vote by email once that information is received
* Roger Williams suggested that we need to come up with a budget, particularly concerning “must haves” (such as Turnitin.com)
* Nancy Little motioned to approve $500; Isabelle Pitcher seconded it, but Nancy then withdrew the motion
* Final decision: hold off until we receive more information
* Roger Williams proposed that at the next meeting, we address the budget piece
* School Improvement Presentation by Dr. Carmichael
* Dawn Sapp gave the district view:
* AVID program is growing and having an impact on other schools
* Same for our Athletic Leadership Council
* Adjourned at 5:45 PM
* Next Meeting: November 19th

 *--submitted by Cynthia Morrison*