**Williams Elementary School**

**SAC Minutes- October 3, 2024**

**Call To Order:**

A meeting of the Williams Elementary School Advisory Council was held on Thursday, October 3, 2024. Principal Keezer called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Lisa Federowicz recorded the minutes.

**Attendance (Voting members):**

Kelly DiDomenico, Heather Shoup, Hilary Paisley, Kim Bryant, Charles Slate, Tiffany Wachtman, Dr. Kazil

-Quorum met.

**Approval of September 2024 Minutes:**

Open vote: Kim Bryant

2nd: Heather Shoup

Vote: Unanimous- approved

**Kevin Chapman** (Chief of staff in school district) discussed importance of Millage fund, and upcoming school construction.

Benefits of Millage:

1. To keep Manatee County teacher’s salaries competitive with other counties. Instructional time increased by 30 min/day, therefore, test scores increase.
2. Safety and Security
3. Stem programs, Vex/robotics
4. Athletics
5. Early learning, early literacy
6. Home values increase with better schools in district.

-Millage has been approved since 2018, therefore you’re already paying it. This will be amendment 7 on general election ballot, In November 2024.

-All Millage information available at WWW. [manateeschools.net/referendum](http://manateeschools.net/referendum)

-Williams to break ground Jan. 2025 on new building. 8 classrooms will be ready December 2025.

-5 schools still to be built. 2 elementary, 2 schools to alleviate Harvey and Gullett, a H.S. by Premier Sports. A 6th school, k-8, to be built near Hillsborough border.

**Q&A:**

Q: What happened to the money for teachers with lottery?

A: All money went to Bright future scholarships.

Q: Can the developers pay the Millage?

A: The developers pay a millage, impact fees and capital dollars. Money goes toward construction of new schools.

Q: Do we pay from our property tax?

A: Yes, It is a renewal of a tax since 2018.

Q: How do we compete with larger counties such as Sarasota?

A: Sarasota has higher home values therefore bring in more with millage. As long as we have good schools we will attract top talent. Better schools increase home values. A rated schools attracts more people.

Q: Will there be another middle school?

A: North River Ranch being built, and South a K-8. Both to be ready August 2025. Opening plans don’t include re-zoning. Don’t want to lose kids to charter schools.

* In 2026/2027 there will be a re-zoning & a change of school start times.

Q: Do teachers with more experience get more from millage?

A: Every teacher gets close to $9,000 additional to base salary. 23/24 starting salary with millage is $57,572. Principal & VP get less from millage. This is a district wide decision.

Q: Any worry it won’t get renewed?

A: There isn’t. The last 2 were on special elections, but now it has to be in general election. 7th amendment on ballot. Hope people don’t skip it, and are educated on this.

Q: What was District grade in 2018

A: A lower B (B-) based on test scores.

Q: Will Buffalo Creek still be where we will go?

A: Gullett & Harvey need relieving. Yes, until re-zoning.

**Motion to adjourn:**

Motion: Kim Bryant

2nd: Kelly DiDomenico

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM. The next meeting will be Thursday, November 14, 2024.