

BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

K.C. WRIGHT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
First Floor Board Room
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
October 5, 2015
5:38 p.m. - 7:53 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Thomas C. Cooney, Esq., Assistant General Counsel
Robert Nave, Florida TaxWatch
I. Benjamin Leong, C.P.A., Chief Financial Officer
Omar Shim, Capital Budget Director
Ivan Perrone, Treasurer

Bond Oversight Committee Members

ATTENDANCE:

Adam Rabinowitz, Esq., The Florida Bar, Chair
Ann Siegel, Esq., Disability Rights Florida, Vice Chair
Maxine Lewers, President, Broward County PTA
Laura Aker Reece, Budget Manager, Florida Government
Officers Association
Joe Monaco, South Florida Technology Alliance
Donald DiPetrillo, Fire Chiefs Association of
Broward County

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 MR. SHIM: Good evening. My name is Omar
4 Shim. And welcome to the Bond Oversight
5 Committee meeting. I'm going to go ahead and
6 call the meeting to order and point you to the
7 agenda. The first topic on the agenda is to
8 select a chair and a vice chair. But before we
9 do that, I think what we'll do is go ahead and
10 introduce ourselves or let the Committee
11 introduce yourselves and then we'll introduce
12 ourselves as well. So --

13 MS. LEWERS: I'm Maxine Lewers, for Broward
14 County PTA.

15 MS. SIEGEL: I am Ann Siegel with Disability
16 Rights Florida.

17 MS. REECE: I'm Laura Reece, representing the
18 Florida Government Finance Officers.

19 MR. RABINOWITZ: I'm Adam Rabinowitz. I'm a
20 member of the Board of Governors of the Florida
21 Bar.

22 MR. MONACO: I'm Joe Monaco, representing
23 South Florida Technology Alliance.

24 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: I'm Don DiPetrillo,
25 President of Broward County Fire Chiefs

1 Association.

2 MR. PERRONE: Ivan Perrone, Treasurer for the
3 District.

4 MR. LEONG: Ben Leong, Chief Financial
5 Officer School District.

6 MR. NAVE: Hi, my name is Bob Nave. I'm Vice
7 President of Research for Florida TaxWatch.

8 MR. COONEY: Thomas Cooney, Assistant General
9 Counsel. I am not -- notwithstanding my name tag
10 here, I am not General Counsel. He could not be
11 here tonight. He is attending the funeral of a
12 fiend so I'm here to sit in on his behalf.

13 MR. SHIM: Thank you.

14 So the first item on the agenda is to select
15 a chair. So what we'll do is we'll begin and
16 sort of let the Committee discuss, have the floor
17 to discuss selecting the chair and perhaps
18 nominate someone for chair, and then after that
19 I'll turn it over to the chair to select a vice
20 chair. So I'll go ahead and turn it over to the
21 Committee to have discussion about the chair.

22 MR. RABINOWITZ: I know the rules of order
23 but does that mean that I have to do it? What,
24 because I'm a lawyer? Come on, you're a lawyer
25 too. Don't all be so eager. Fair enough.

1 That's fine.

2 MS. LEWERS: I make the motion to nominate
3 Adam.

4 MS. REECE: Second.

5 MR. LEONG: Yes. Go ahead. We have a
6 nomination and then, you know, any discussion.
7 No?

8 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: I don't think so.

9 MR. LEONG: Okay. All in favor please say
10 aye. Unanimous.

11 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

12 MR. LEONG: Any opposed?

13 Okay. I'll turn it over to the Chair then.

14 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Congratulations.

15 MR. RABINOWITZ: Thank you very much. We can
16 commence the meeting now. I think we need a Vice
17 Chair; do we not? We need to make a nomination
18 for the Vice Chair.

19 Anybody?

20 Ann, you're the next lawyer in the group.

21 MS. SIEGEL: Do you want me to nominate
22 someone?

23 MR. RABINOWITZ: No, I think we should
24 nominate you.

25 MR. MONACO: I second that.

1 MR. RABINOWITZ: Do we have a motion?

2 MS. REECE: So moved.

3 MR. RABINOWITZ: Second?

4 MR. MONACO: Second.

5 MR. RABINOWITZ: Vote? Everybody say aye.

6 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

7 MR. RABINOWITZ: I think it's unanimous. The
8 motion passes.

9 MS. REECE: He knows the rules of order.

10 MR. RABINOWITZ: What else is on the agenda?

11 Well, I think the other thing on the agenda
12 is whether we were nominating a secretary, as
13 well. I don't know, I read somewhere that it
14 wasn't mandatory.

15 MR. LEONG: Right now, according to the
16 Board's resolution there is no requirement for a
17 secretary. And I think, Mr. Chair, I know that,
18 you know, you didn't have the benefit of
19 discussing the agenda today, in the future we
20 would be discussing with you about the agenda
21 item, or TaxWatch will. The next item is that
22 TaxWatch is -- they did a best practice and they
23 would like to take this opportunity and present
24 it to you, and that recommendation may have a
25 secretary recommendation and then, if I may,

1 Chair, you may ask TaxWatch to begin their
2 presentation.

3 MR. RABINOWITZ: They can proceed.

4 MR. NAVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Congratulations. Congratulations Madam Vice
6 Chair.

7 I'm Bob Nave, Vice President of research for
8 Florida TaxWatch. I want to apologize in advance
9 for putting you through what may be the longest
10 PowerPoint presentation you've ever sat through,
11 but I think it's important.

12 What we tried to do is outline a set of best
13 practices to guide the outline and operations of
14 this Committee. And, also, this is the first
15 time Melanie and I have had a chance to work
16 together, so it may take us a couple of slides to
17 get synchronized here, so bear with us.

18 You may not know much about Florida TaxWatch,
19 but we are a private nonprofit. We have been
20 around since 1979 and we are, essentially, a
21 government spending watchdog. We conduct
22 independent nonpartisan research on issues that
23 are relevant and important to Florida taxpayers.
24 We focus on things that can improve the
25 efficiency and productivity of government and

1 ways to cut government spending. We are
2 supported 100 percent by voluntary memberships
3 and private grants. We don't receive government
4 funding. We are, perhaps, best known for our
5 Annual Budget Turkey Watch Report. It's a report
6 we do. We look at the General Appropriations Act
7 and we identify projects that usually are slipped
8 into the budget at the last minute. These are
9 projects that have not been subject to public
10 debate, have not been subject to the scrutiny of
11 committees. It doesn't mean they're bad
12 projects. It just means they haven't gone
13 through the normal appropriations process.

14 I think it's important now more than ever to
15 have a strong independent review of government
16 and evaluations of how the government conducts
17 itself and how it runs its programs and
18 activities. When you look historically at
19 TaxWatch, we have been very vocal and we have
20 supported measures to hold government accountable
21 and promote accountability, integrity and
22 efficiency in government. One of our centers of
23 excellence is the Center for Government
24 Efficiency. The advisory board oversees our
25 research, looks, specifically, at ways to cut

1 government costs and improve government
2 efficiency.

3 Our role in this engagement is limited to
4 three things, one of which we'll do tonight, and
5 that's to provide a research report on best
6 practices that we have seen in other bond
7 oversight committees and the intent is to help
8 you structure your operations and lay out, if you
9 will, bylaws for going forward and to help you in
10 overseeing this bond referendum.

11 Another thing we will do is we will review
12 the quarterly project reports that are put
13 together by the District. When the District
14 sends those to you, they're also going to send a
15 copy to us. It's important to note that we will
16 supplement and not supplant your oversight role.

17 So one of the things that we will do is we
18 will come back to you at the next meeting and
19 we'll present our findings of our review of those
20 reports so you can compare our review to your
21 review.

22 Then another thing we'll do is we will be a
23 resource to the Committee. When it comes time to
24 preparing reports and recommendations that go
25 before the School Board, we'll be here to help

1 you put those together and we'll just kind of
2 walk through that process.

3 What I would like to do now is just kind of
4 walk through the best practices. And we first
5 made these available, I think, the third week in
6 August in anticipation of the August 31st
7 meeting. So I'm hoping that you've had a chance
8 to look through those. I would ask that when you
9 go through those make note of ones that you think
10 are worthy of recommending to the Board, also,
11 make note of those that for some reason may not
12 be appropriate to recommend to the Board.

13 But it's important to note that this review
14 is based on our review of best practices of other
15 bond oversight committees. California, for
16 example, has a number of bond oversight
17 committees. There are other states that we
18 looked at. And we tried to put together what we
19 think is the best practices out of all of those.
20 And that's something that you guys can use as
21 benchmarks and you pick the ones you like and
22 then you pick the ones that you don't like.

23 We've written them in a way that is intended
24 to be actionable in a way that you can adopt them
25 or not adopt them. We have numbered them in a

1 way that would make it easier for the Committee
2 to make clear which ones they like and which ones
3 they don't like.

4 And, again, the intent is, if you choose to
5 implement all of these or some part of these, the
6 intent is to help you going forward and to help
7 you manage this process and, again, hold this
8 process to a higher standard, which is what I
9 think the taxpayers in Broward County and,
10 certainly, what Florida TaxWatch would expect.

11 So the first area of best practices we looked
12 at what is the membership and selection. And if
13 you look at the resolution that the Board passed,
14 it identifies the types of organizations that
15 would be represented on this Committee. And I
16 think what you'll see here is there's an awful
17 lot of overlap between what the Board adopted and
18 what the other bond oversight committees we saw
19 adopted. So there's a pretty good closeness of
20 fit between what the School Board did and what we
21 would recommend. You'll see organizations that
22 are active in the business community; parents,
23 guardians who have children in the schools.
24 You'll see a lot of what we recommended that are
25 also recommended in the resolution. Background

1 and experience in construction management.
2 That's an area that we think is critical. Also,
3 the experience in public financing and having
4 people who are experienced in looking at public
5 financing documents, those are important.

6 And, also, had TaxWatch not been in this
7 role, we probably would have recommended that a
8 group like TaxWatch sit on the bond committee.

9 So, right now, there's a pretty good fit
10 between what we recommend and what the School
11 Board adopted.

12 And, again, if at any time you want to stop
13 me to discuss these I'll leave it up to the
14 Chairman to decide whether you want to hold your
15 questions 'til the end or whether you want to
16 stop me at any time.

17 All right, Melanie. We can go on.

18 The number of members, it depends. It
19 depends on the size of the bond referendum and it
20 depends on the size of scope of work that the
21 Committee has to do. The sweet spot that we
22 found is somewhere between 12 and 18 members.
23 The bond resolution originally had 11, so it's
24 pretty close. 12 to 18, I think, is big enough.
25 It's small enough to be manageable, but it's big

1 enough to allow the appointment of subcommittees
2 and dividing up the work if you choose to do
3 that.

4 Attendance, we felt attendance to these
5 meetings ought to be mandatory. This is an
6 important process and we think -- and we're
7 confident that because you have chosen to do this
8 that you will make the commitment to come to the
9 meetings. We all recognize that there are going
10 to be times when, for whatever reason, whether
11 you're sick or you have other commitments that
12 you just can't get out of, you can't be here, and
13 excused absences, we think, should be
14 permissible. Sending a proxy we don't think
15 should be permissible. If -- we recommend that,
16 if a member has so many unexcused absences over
17 the course of a year or so many consecutive
18 meetings are missed, then that person should be
19 replaced according to the process that is laid
20 out in the resolution.

21 And, again, we think that the member
22 organization should have a reasonable amount of
23 time to pick those replacements and we think 30
24 days or less is a reasonable amount of time to do
25 that.

1 Terms of service, the current resolution
2 limits, as I understand it, consecutive terms.
3 And this is something that we did take exception
4 with and it was our recommendation that -- or our
5 recommended best practice that if one of the
6 Committee members is willing to make the
7 commitment and willing to serve the county and is
8 doing good work and they want to serve more than
9 two terms, TaxWatch sees no problem with that.
10 And, again, that may be something that you may
11 want to consider recommending to the School
12 Board, but it's something that we -- we did not
13 have a problem with exceeding that provision in
14 the resolution.

15 Compensation, this has been addressed in the
16 resolution. We didn't see any reason to deviate
17 from it. You guys aren't getting paid for this.
18 You shouldn't get paid for this. This is a
19 voluntary activity. However, if reimbursement
20 for, if you wanted to go visit a project or you
21 wanted to go see something for yourself and it
22 required mileage or something like that, then
23 reimbursement for those incidental expenses
24 consistent with the county's procedures seems
25 reasonable to us.

1 Conflict of interest, it's covered in the
2 current resolution. All of the other bond
3 oversight committees addressed this. Obviously,
4 Committee members should not work for any entity
5 that either does work with the county or is
6 looking to do work with the county. You all
7 signed statements attesting that you don't have a
8 conflict of interest and we think that that's a
9 good practice and I don't see anything that we've
10 recommended that conflicts with the current
11 provisions in the resolution.

12 MR. RABINOWITZ: And if I can just comment
13 for just a moment. Conversations I've had with
14 the county before, someone as myself, I'm a
15 partner in a large statewide firm, and while I
16 don't have any matters and my office doesn't have
17 any matters that are adverse to the county, and I
18 don't mean adverse in the sense of a lawsuit, I
19 mean has business dealings and things of that
20 effect, I think there needs to be something that
21 resolves a potential conflict of interest because
22 I can't control what my law partners will do in
23 the future. And I know that other members of my
24 firm, for example, sit on other bond committees
25 across the state. For example, I know with the

1 Orlando Airport, for example. And in those
2 circumstances where a member of my firm gets
3 asked to, you know, consider that issue, they
4 just simply recuse themselves in that
5 circumstance from participating in a vote where a
6 developer client or contractor is associated with
7 the county or public entity, and I think that
8 should be included, because to preclude it
9 otherwise, you may not ever have a lawyer on this
10 board, unfortunately, in the future.

11 MR. NAVE: And I think that may be something
12 that needs to be addressed with the District's
13 general counsel. I don't know the answer to
14 that.

15 MR. RABINOWITZ: Fair enough.

16 MR. NAVE: Autonomy, the Committee,
17 obviously, shouldn't be influenced by the School
18 Board, members of staff, any of the District
19 members of staff or any of the contractors or
20 project managers.

21 And this is a little bit of a walk on a
22 slippery rock because absolute autonomy is going
23 to be difficult to achieve, because, on the one
24 hand, you depend on the District's staff for
25 information and they provide an administrative

1 and support type function to the Committee, but,
2 also, they may be here providing testimony and
3 information on projects.

4 So I think it's important to distinguish
5 between when District staff is here serving a
6 support role, like they are here tonight, as
7 opposed to when they are here before you
8 providing testimony on projects and things like
9 that. So that's something, I think, to be
10 mindful of.

11 I think having TaxWatch review the quarterly
12 reports and to supplement the work that you all
13 are doing, I think that will help preserve some
14 of that autonomy. I think having TaxWatch help
15 with some of the preparation of reports and the
16 recommendations may help preserve that, as well.
17 That's just something that we'll see to what
18 extent the Committee needs that -- that resource.

19 Next one, please.

20 The structure, again, the structure should be
21 tied to the scope of the work and the number of
22 members. And, again, I think the structural
23 issue is whether the Committee chooses to appoint
24 one or more subcommittees. It may be that a
25 subcommittee on finance is appointed. It may be

1 that there's a subcommittee on legal issues or on
2 contracting or something like that. You have
3 very broad discretion and the Chair can appoint
4 one or more subcommittees on whatever subjects
5 the Chair deems appropriate. So that is --
6 that's an option.

7 Melanie, can we go back to the budget? See,
8 I told you it would take us a while to get the
9 synchronization worked out.

10 The budget, I don't recall the resolution
11 addressing a budget, per se, but I don't see
12 anything that stops this Committee from preparing
13 and presenting a budget to the School Board if
14 you think it's necessary. Some of the bond
15 oversight committees that we looked at had done
16 that. However, I would caution that if the
17 Committee does choose to do something like that,
18 the consideration and approval of any type of
19 budget would need to be done in a duly noticed
20 public meeting like this one.

21 MR. RABINOWITZ: Well, what kind of expense
22 will the budget create; what kind of expense did
23 you see?

24 MR. NAVE: They didn't go into a whole lot of
25 details on that. Mostly for travel, for

1 inspections and tours and things like that. It
2 wasn't -- it wasn't great budgets. Some of -- I
3 think one or two of the oversight committees had
4 done -- had utilized a performance evaluator, a
5 contractor to do a performance evaluation in
6 addition to the financial audit. So there was an
7 expense for that.

8 And it may be that that's not necessary here.
9 But I wanted to bring that out because it was a
10 best practice utilized by some of the other bond
11 oversight committees.

12 MR. RABINOWITZ: Thank you.

13 MR. NAVE: Orientation, at the last meeting
14 it was mentioned that the District has a
15 45-minute on-line training program that is
16 available. TaxWatch thinks it's a good idea for
17 all the members to take and pass the orientation
18 program. So if you guys have not done it, you
19 might want to consider requiring yourselves to do
20 that. I think it's a good idea. And, again, we
21 believe that members, if you have not, you should
22 make sure that you have been provided copies of
23 the bond resolution, Robert's Rules of Order, the
24 ethics requirements, government and sunshine
25 documents, everything that you need to conduct

1 the business of this oversight committee.

2 And, again, as members drop off and new
3 members are added, new members should receive the
4 same type of orientation and training.

5 Rules of order, Robert's Rules of Order, it
6 was described in the resolution that the Robert's
7 Rules of Order would be used to conduct the
8 meetings. Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair, if you're
9 not familiar with those, you need to get
10 familiar. If you don't have copies, you should
11 have copies, because that's the procedures that
12 you will be using to conduct these meetings.

13 And, again, there may be an exception, and,
14 again, I would defer to the District's general
15 counsel where some other provision of law might
16 contradict something in the Robert's Rules of
17 Order, and then, in that case, I would imagine
18 the provisions of law would prevail and control.
19 So I throw that out there in the event that there
20 is an exception.

21 Quorums, as we learned at the first meeting,
22 we need a simple majority of the appointed
23 members to legally conduct business.

24 Fortunately, we have a quorum tonight and we have
25 a Chairman and Vice Chairman and we will conduct

1 business. In the absence of a quorum there's not
2 much that the Committee can do. Again, we saw
3 that last time. We couldn't elect Chairs. We
4 couldn't make recommendations. We couldn't
5 approve or adopt anything. So it's important
6 that we have quorums.

7 Melanie?

8 Committee officers, the resolution specifies
9 a Chair and a Vice Chair. And some of the
10 oversight committees we saw elected a secretary,
11 and we'll talk a little bit more later about the
12 duties and the responsibilities of the secretary,
13 and then it would be up to the Committee to
14 decide whether that is something you all would
15 want to pursue or whether those duties and
16 responsibilities can be performed by someone
17 else, like the District staff.

18 And, again, we elected officers tonight, so
19 that's a good thing. Officers should be elected
20 to serve one-year terms. So one year from now
21 when we meet we will elect new officers.

22 The recommended duties of the Chair, what we
23 saw in the other bond oversight committees, the
24 Chairman calls the meetings, set the dates,
25 established the agenda, and was the presiding

1 officer in the meetings. The Chairman also
2 served as the committee's spokesperson on all
3 matters that went before the School Board, the
4 media and the public. The Chairman would be
5 responsible for preparing all committee reports
6 that go to the School Board, and, also, as I said
7 earlier, for making subcommittee appointments.

8 The duties of the Vice Chair, and then this
9 is the job I would want, because in the absence
10 of the Chair the Vice Chair performs the duties
11 of the Chair. If the Chair is here, the Vice
12 Chair really doesn't have any duties or
13 responsibilities.

14 The secretary, what we saw in the other bond
15 oversight committees was that the secretary,
16 basically, performed a lot of administrative
17 functions of the committee and was responsible
18 for overseeing the preparation and recording and
19 distribution of all of the committee documents.
20 This was a person that got the agendas put
21 together and got all of those distributed to the
22 members, made sure that the meeting notices were
23 done correctly, made sure that all the minutes of
24 the meetings were taken and distributed and
25 reviewed and made sure that all of the reports to

1 the School Board were done. And just anything
2 else that -- any official action of the
3 committee, the secretary took care of those.
4 Also, at the beginning of the meeting the
5 secretary would do rollcall to take attendance to
6 make sure that there was a quorum, and then if at
7 any point in the meeting it looked like there
8 wasn't a quorum, then the secretary would notify
9 the Chair that it didn't look like there was a
10 quorum.

11 The presiding officer, again, when the
12 Chairman is here, the Chairman is the presiding
13 officer and the presiding officer's duties would
14 be to open the committee meeting and call the
15 meeting to order. The Chair determines that a
16 quorum is present. Consistent with Robert's
17 Rules of Order the Chair recognizes members of
18 the committee that wish to speak, also,
19 recommends and recognizes members of the public
20 that wish to speak. Any question that requires a
21 vote on the committee, the Chair puts that
22 question before the committee members. The Chair
23 decides all questions of order that go before the
24 committee and the Chair adjourns the meetings.

25 And, again, as we saw earlier in electing the

1 Chair and Vice Chair before, any issue or matter
2 that can be officially acted upon, a proper
3 motion has to be made and seconded by Committee
4 members. And, again, motions require majority
5 vote to pass and once a motion has been made and
6 seconded the Chair has the discretion to permit
7 debate on that motion before the vote is taken.

8 And, again, it's up to the presiding officer,
9 which is, again, normally the Chair to close
10 debate and call for votes on motions. But,
11 again, the Chair normally will make sure that all
12 Committee members have had a chance to speak
13 before closing debate and calling the vote.

14 And, again, motions to reconsider can be
15 made, but if you're going to make a motion to
16 reconsider, the best practice is to -- it has to
17 be done at the same meeting. It has to be done
18 on the same issue. And it had to be done by
19 someone who is on the prevailing side. If you
20 lose, you can't ask for a motion to reconsider.
21 It just looks like you're a bad sport. So we
22 recommend that.

23 On voting, all of your voting should be done
24 in public and every Committee member's vote
25 should be publicly and officially recorded. So

1 unless there's a conflict of interest, every
2 Committee member is expected to vote on every
3 issue.

4 And, again, if there is a conflict of
5 interest or potential conflict of interest on the
6 vote, you are required by Florida law to disclose
7 that potential conflict of interest.

8 And, again, when the vote is taken, the
9 results should be publicly disclosed and should
10 be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

11 Meetings, the School Board resolution
12 requires Committee meetings to be held at least
13 quarterly. You can meet as often as you want,
14 but you have to meet at least once quarterly, and
15 the meetings have to be duly noticed consistent
16 with public law. And, again, we believe that at
17 least once annually there should be a joint
18 meeting between the Committee and the School
19 Board, at which time the Committee would present
20 an annual report of its activities to the School
21 Board.

22 Now, there will be other meetings between the
23 Committee and the School Board at which the
24 Committee would make its recommendations to the
25 School Board, but we think there should be at

1 least one joint meeting annually between the
2 Committee and the School Board.

3 Special meetings and emergency meetings can
4 be called by the Chair at any time, and, again,
5 the duly notice requirements for special meetings
6 should be consistent with the regular meetings.
7 Emergency meetings, depending on the nature of
8 the emergency, you may not have time to meet the
9 public notice requirements, so you take the most
10 expedient best notice way you can.

11 And, again, all -- any special meetings, any
12 emergency meetings, minutes should be kept, they
13 should be run just like regular meetings, but I
14 just want you to be aware that, in addition to
15 the regular meetings, you can have special
16 meetings and there are emergency meetings from
17 time to time so --

18 Recommendations, when the Committee approves
19 recommendations, those should be presented to the
20 School Board at the next regularly scheduled
21 School Board meeting. Again, the recommendation
22 the way we have seen this done in other oversight
23 committees is those recommendations were
24 transmitted to a single point of contact in the
25 District, and then that way the District made

1 sure they got included on the School Board agenda
2 package for the next meeting. And then once
3 those recommendations are presented to the School
4 Board, there should be some period of time, a
5 reasonable period of time, in which the School
6 Board acts on those recommendations. And we
7 thought 30 days was a pretty reasonable amount of
8 time for the School Board to either approve or
9 reject your recommendations.

10 As far as the agenda and order of business,
11 the agenda, once the Chair sets the agenda, it
12 should be made available to the members. What we
13 saw was 48 to 72 hours before the meeting. And,
14 again, if there are changes or addenda to the
15 agenda, the same practice would apply there.

16 Again, the Chair determines whether agenda
17 items are appropriate. If you want an agenda
18 item on the agenda, you make the recommendation
19 to the Chair, the Chair decides whether it's
20 appropriate or not. We saw in a number of
21 instances where the Superintendent's offices were
22 given an opportunity to review and comment on the
23 agenda before it was finalized. And that's not
24 approval. I mean, you guys are autonomous from
25 the School Board, but it's more of a courtesy to

1 the School Board so --

2 As I mentioned a minute ago, any Committee
3 member should be able to recommend an agenda item
4 for consideration. When the agenda is put
5 together, the agenda should be put together in a
6 way that it's clear what the issues are. So any
7 proposed agenda item should be explained in
8 sufficient detail so that the public and the
9 other Committee members know what it's about.
10 And, again, that -- that gives the public an
11 opportunity to know whether they want to be here
12 to hear on that. It gives the District's staff
13 an opportunity to have the right people here to
14 answer your questions on the issue.

15 And, again, any issue that doesn't meet that,
16 that's something you would bump to a future
17 meeting.

18 There may be circumstances, emergency
19 circumstances, that require you to take action on
20 items that aren't on the agenda. Those kind of
21 issues are ordinarily bumped to the end of the
22 agenda or they are moved to a future meeting and
23 that's the practice we recommend you consider.

24 Consent agendas is a common practice just
25 about everywhere. The bond oversight committees

1 we saw used consent agendas and we recommend that
2 this committee use those, as well.

3 And, again, if you want to add, delete,
4 change anything to the agenda, you can do that
5 through a motion and it goes through the same
6 process any other motion goes through.

7 Workshops, the Committee can schedule
8 workshops. And these are a little different than
9 meetings. They're generally less formal than the
10 meetings. They're generally on -- they're
11 generally issue specific and they give an
12 opportunity for you to invite District staff to
13 come in or outside consultants to come in or
14 experts on a particular issue to come in and
15 brief you on an issue to help you better
16 understand what this issue is. Generally, you
17 don't -- generally, you don't take public comment
18 on the workshops. It's just -- it's to inform
19 and to educate you. It's for your benefit. It's
20 to help you better understand what the issue is.
21 You may take official action, but, generally, in
22 workshops, you don't.

23 Briefings, briefings are probably less formal
24 than the workshops. And, again, they're here to
25 help you better understand issues. This is when

1 you bring in the District staff or consultants
2 and you ask them questions and you -- it helps
3 you better understand. With the briefings you
4 don't take official action. This is just to help
5 you better understand or help you get educated.

6 Public hearings, this is an area where our
7 recommendations may vary a little bit with the
8 School Board's resolution. To TaxWatch the
9 public hearings are more of a formal process.
10 It's to get input on a proposed recommendation or
11 an issue. For example, if the District amended
12 its capital improvement plan and the way the
13 money was going to be allocated or the way that
14 the timing of projects was going to change and
15 the Committee wanted to invite public comment on
16 that, then it may be appropriate to have a duly
17 noticed public hearing just on that subject or on
18 those subjects. And, again, those would be
19 public noticed and, again, very formal.

20 Related to that is public comment. Public
21 comment, we saw the other bond oversight
22 committees generally set aside a period of time
23 in every meeting just to give the public an
24 opportunity to speak on just about whatever they
25 wanted to speak as long as it was germane. And,

1 again, I think the difference is the level of
2 formality. The public hearing, to us, is a way
3 more formal process. Public comment is just you
4 want to hear what people have to say.

5 On the agenda tonight in the middle of ours
6 we have a public hearing. So in the middle of
7 this Committee meeting it looks like you're going
8 to take a break, have a public hearing, and then
9 reconvene, which is fine. And, again, when
10 people do speak, I think it's important that they
11 fill out speaker cards or public comment cards.
12 And I think it's important that they, for the
13 most part, limit their comments to three to five
14 minutes, although, the Chair has very broad
15 discretion to extend that if he thinks it's
16 appropriate. If people are getting off topic or,
17 you know, not behaving themselves, then the Chair
18 can cut the comment off.

19 But I think the distinction between public
20 comments and public hearings is an important
21 distinction.

22 The minutes, written minutes, we have a court
23 reporter who is taking down everything we say, so
24 we'll have a very detailed transcript of this
25 Committee meeting. But, anyway, the minutes

1 should be taken in writing and should be made
2 available to the public and upon request. The
3 minutes of previous committee meetings would be
4 distributed, should be distributed and read, and
5 if there's something wrong it needs to be
6 corrected and then you do that. And that's
7 something you do at the next meeting.

8 If you can go back one, Melanie?

9 Governance model may or may not be
10 applicable. What we're envisioning here and what
11 we've seen is, to help in the decision making and
12 to guide when points escalate, to develop a
13 governance model that just kind of shows the
14 relationships between the Committee and the
15 different layers in the District, to show who
16 reports -- you know, how the different offices in
17 the District relate to the Committee, who the
18 players are, who reports to the Committee, who
19 the players are and if there are disagreements or
20 points that can't be resolved, where those points
21 of escalation are. It may not be applicable
22 here, but it may be something that you want to
23 consider.

24 Change management, we saw in the other bond
25 oversight committees best practices that provided

1 the committee the opportunity to review and
2 comment on all proposed major changes to the bond
3 programs and to every bond program. And what
4 these other bond oversight committees did was,
5 they established criteria to determine what
6 constitutes major change. And it can be
7 something as -- like if it's a 10 percent change
8 in project budget, if it's a six-month delay in
9 completion of the project, whatever those
10 thresholds are, if that change is going to trip
11 that threshold, then that change would be
12 submitted to the oversight committee for review
13 before it was approved.

14 And we, also, think -- in addition to that,
15 we think that those proposed changes should
16 require public disclosure to make sure that
17 that's as transparent as we can make it.

18 Melanie, if you can go back one?

19 Administrative support, again the District
20 staff is providing the administrative support,
21 providing a lot of the administrative functions
22 that the secretary of the Committee would do if
23 you chose to elect a secretary. But what the
24 District will do is, you know, they will appoint
25 a liaison to the Committee. They will be

1 responsible for preparing the meeting like they
2 did this evening. They did a wonderful job
3 putting this meeting together tonight, because we
4 were here watching them, keeping the minutes,
5 and, more importantly, retaining the documents.
6 Everything that we do here is subject to the
7 public records retention requirements in Chapter
8 219. So all of the documents have to be kept and
9 the District staff will be the repository for all
10 the Committee's documents.

11 Capital outlay planning, it's important, and
12 we saw this with the other bond oversight
13 committees, that the Committee review the capital
14 outlay plan that the District puts together. And
15 that's important because it will help make sure
16 that the list of projects that are going to be
17 funded through the general obligation bond is
18 thorough and complete.

19 The expenditure schedule, for the same
20 reason, it's important that the Committee look at
21 the schedule of expenditures that the District
22 staff puts together. You'll need to look at
23 individual project budgets. And that's important
24 for a couple of reasons. One is, it will provide
25 some insight into when the next round of bonds

1 need to be issued, and it will, also, reduce the
2 risk that those bonds will not be timely issued.
3 Because, right now, we're working on the first
4 cycle of bonds, and then at some point another
5 cycle of bonds will be issued. And I think it's
6 important that the Committee keep their eyes on
7 that and make sure that that next cycle of bonds
8 is issued when it's supposed to. Cash flow
9 analysis, folks do this with their business and I
10 think it's important that the Committee do this,
11 as well. It's important to look at the cash flow
12 projections associated with this bond referendum.
13 And, again, for the same reasons that you would
14 look at the expenditure schedule, you want to
15 look at the timing of when is revenue coming in
16 and when are expenditures going out? Because
17 that, too, will help provide insight as to when
18 new bonds need to be issued and it will, also,
19 reduce the risk that they won't be timely issued.
20 So that, I think, is important.

21 Database, most, if not all, of the bond
22 oversight committees we looked at had a single
23 database that the District maintained where
24 committee members can go to get whatever
25 information they need. So we think that's

1 important.

2 Website, it's important that the public have
3 an opportunity to view what is going on and the
4 District has established a website and
5 information is being put on the website. Some of
6 us, like me, have had a hard time accessing, but
7 we finally figured out what we were doing wrong
8 and we now have been able to access the website,
9 but it's important that that relevant information
10 be made available to the public on the District's
11 website and that it is easily accessible. In an
12 ideal website you get there with one click. I
13 think here it takes a couple of clicks to get
14 there, but if you can get there --

15 MS. LEWERS: It's still not working. I tried
16 to get there earlier today. Are they going to
17 fix it or give out information on how to get to
18 it?

19 MR. SHIM: Yes, I think there is something
20 wrong with the link to the website, but we're
21 going to make sure that gets fixed.

22 MR. NAVE: Again, if you get there within the
23 first couple of clicks, that's pretty good. And
24 I think once it's figured out, you'll be able to
25 get there with -- I think you click on the smart

1 icon and in the smart you click on the bond
2 oversight icon and you get there pretty quick,
3 so --

4 MR. MONACO: Will there be access to the
5 database through the website, as well, to any and
6 all records?

7 MR. SHIM: Yes, we are going to post all of
8 the information that is provided to the Committee
9 on the website.

10 MR. NAVE: Melanie?

11 And we list here the types of information
12 that, that other bond oversight committees put on
13 their websites, and that's, you know, committee
14 member contact information, so that public, if
15 they want to contact you, they know how to
16 contact you. List of all active projects,
17 timelines, budgets, things like that, any
18 changes, deferred maintenance, things like that
19 should be on there. Comparisons of actual
20 budgets and timelines to the projected budgets
21 and timelines, so the folks can see whether
22 things are on time and on budget should be on the
23 website. Notice of any future meetings and
24 workshops, minutes of meetings, any reports or
25 recommendations or any work products that come

1 out of the Committee should be on there.

2 And, again, the role of outside resources and
3 experts like TaxWatch should be on there, because
4 it's important that the public knows what our
5 role is and what it is not.

6 The dashboard, a lot of you are familiar with
7 the dashboard concept where you use charts and
8 graphics to provide at-a-glance information so
9 that the public can click on and see -- get a
10 pretty good quick view of what is really
11 important. And, again, moneys budgeted and
12 allocated, the extent to which women-minority
13 owned and historically underutilized businesses
14 are being used, milestones for each project,
15 progress to date, these kind of things can be
16 easily displayed on the dashboard on the website.
17 And we saw quite a few of those used by other
18 bond oversight committees.

19 Committee reports, there should be quarterly
20 reports. There should be an annual report and
21 when the Bond Oversight Committee finishes its
22 work there should be a final report that
23 summarizes all the activities of the Committee.

24 District reports, I understand that in the
25 next probably couple of weeks we will see the

1 first District report. What we hope to see in
2 that report would be a list of all the projects
3 with the status. And, again, that status would
4 be with respect to the original project scope,
5 implementation schedule and budget. If there are
6 any plans to or proposals to defer maintenance we
7 would want those identified.

8 And, again, if there's anything that the
9 District is doing that would have the effect of
10 implementing cost saving measures to stretch the
11 bond revenues further, we would like to see those
12 identified as well.

13 And, again, other things that should be in
14 the report, if there is failure -- if contractors
15 are not following cost reduction strategies,
16 they're not doing what they're supposed to, we'd
17 like to know that. We think you should want to
18 know that. Change orders, any proposed change to
19 the projects, those things should be reflected in
20 the quarterly reports. Again, the extent to
21 which minority-women owned businesses,
22 historically underutilized businesses are being
23 used, that's something we think you would want to
24 know. And, again, certification that every penny
25 expended is consistent with the referendum. The

1 District needs to certify to you that they are
2 spending -- that this money is being spent
3 properly. And that -- that, too, should be
4 publicly disclosed.

5 Inspections and tours, there's -- nothing
6 should preclude the Committee from going on-site
7 and inspecting facilities and grounds, if that's
8 what you guys want to do. So I think -- I didn't
9 see anything in the resolution that limited that
10 or would prohibit the Committee from taking a
11 look, if they wanted to see, firsthand, why a
12 project was being delayed or why a project was
13 costing more.

14 MS. LEWERS: And we do have to go as a
15 Committee or can we go as individuals?

16 MR. NAVE: That, I would have to defer to the
17 District's general counsel. There are Sunshine
18 Law requirements, and I'm not an attorney, so
19 I --

20 MR. RABINOWITZ: I guess that would be up to
21 us.

22 MS. LEWERS: Okay. Okay.

23 MR. NAVE: And, again, under the government
24 and the sunshine, if two members of the Committee
25 decided to go inspect something, I believe you

1 would have to publicly notice that, otherwise,
2 you're tripping over the Sunshine Law. So there
3 are constraints you have to be mindful of. And,
4 again, I would -- I would bring that up with the
5 general counsel of the District before I did
6 anything like that to make sure that you guys are
7 doing everything the way you should.

8 MS. LEWERS: Okay.

9 MR. NAVE: The financial audit, again, the
10 audit should be conducted in a manner consistent
11 with general accounting principles. The
12 Committee ordinarily should be given an
13 opportunity to participate in the screening of
14 the financial auditor. I think it's probably a
15 little late in this process. I know we have an
16 auditor that's been -- financial auditor that's
17 been selected, but, you know, down the road, in
18 the event if a new auditor is selected, the
19 Committee may choose to be involved in the
20 screening of auditors. And, again, when draft
21 audits are prepared, we saw a number of bond
22 oversight committees were given an opportunity to
23 review those draft audits before they were
24 finalized.

25 MS. REECE: May I ask a question? So is the

1 auditor the same auditor that does your CAFR; is
2 that the auditor he's talking about or is there a
3 separate?

4 MR. LEONG: Well, that's, actually, a very
5 good question. I think that I need to clarify
6 that with Bob. The district has a financial
7 audit doing, you know, a comprehensive financial
8 audit for the School District. We have selected
9 an auditor in that regard. What we're talking
10 about here, the financial audit, I would imagine,
11 is the financial pertaining to the bond program.
12 So it's not a complete set of comprehensive
13 financial audit that we're talking about in here.
14 When I saw that, this recommendation that -- Mr.
15 Chair, I think that the Committee would -- if you
16 would like to, you could select a different
17 auditor, but you need to go through the selection
18 process in accordance with, you know -- in
19 accordance with law. You could choose the same
20 financial external auditor to do the same set of
21 financial audits, but that would be what we call
22 agreed upon procedures, that, you know, you agree
23 with the auditors what are they auditing. It's
24 not a financial statement audit for the School
25 District. So I hope I answered this question.

1 MS. REECE: Not quite. So you're saying that
2 there is the intention of having a separate audit
3 from the audit that's required as part of your
4 CAFR; so you do that, plus another audit?

5 MR. LEONG: That's what my understanding is.
6 Bob, can you clarify that? You're not talking
7 about the District's financial audit here?

8 MR. NAVE: No. What we looked at was, again,
9 the other bond oversight committees that, when an
10 audit was going to be done on the moneys that
11 were raised under the referendum and how they
12 were spent, that the committee was at the table,
13 had an opportunity to screen -- to participate in
14 the screening, had an opportunity to review draft
15 reports and stuff like that so that they were, to
16 some degree, at the table. I don't know -- I'm
17 not an auditor either and I don't know what the
18 District plans are for auditing the bond
19 referendum. But in the event an audit is going
20 to be done on these moneys, we're just saying
21 that the Committee should be involved in the
22 screening, should have an opportunity to talk to
23 the candidates, should be able to review and
24 comment on draft audit reports before they are
25 finalized and be part of the process.

1 MR. RABINOWITZ: So I'm clear, as well, is
2 it -- has an auditor already been selected to do
3 the general audit for the county and within their
4 scope of work they're also tasked with doing an
5 audit of the bond, as well? Am I understanding
6 you correctly?

7 MR. LEONG: No, the auditor selected is for
8 the general District type audit. What Bob is
9 referring to, the bond program audit, you
10 certainly can ask for a bond, you know, financial
11 audit.

12 Now, remember that Bob has the next section,
13 which is performance audit, which is, I would
14 imagine that, you know, I'm not speaking for Bob,
15 it's a different kind of audit. When we produce
16 to you the annual report or quarterly report, the
17 financial report, not the construction activity
18 report, those data the Committee would like to
19 have someone to look at what we reported has
20 basis to form those reports, such as your budget,
21 your expenditure and your remaining balance or
22 your amended budgets. Those are the audits that
23 I think that by reading this is different from
24 the whole scope of the District audit.

25 MR. RABINOWITZ: Thank you.

1 MR. NAVE: And, as Ben mentioned, in addition
2 to the financial audit there may or may not be a
3 performance audit. A performance audit focuses
4 more on the procurement methods, the
5 non-financial aspects of the bond referendum.
6 The contractors' performance, the extent to which
7 projects came in on time, on budget, the
8 utilization of women-minority businesses and
9 things like that. Those are the kinds of things
10 you would want to look at in a performance audit.
11 And in the event a performance audit on the
12 referendum was done, then the same kinds of
13 things that we would recommend to get you all to
14 the table, and this audit would be similar to the
15 ones we recommended on the financial audit. So
16 it's just a different scope of work.

17 And, Melanie, we can go on to the next slide.

18 As Carnac would say, this brings us to the
19 last envelope.

20 In dealing with the media, we found in other
21 bond oversight committees that the Chair
22 generally served as the official spokesperson for
23 the committee, but, again, you have to recognize
24 Committee members are free to speak publicly
25 about matters that come before the Committee.

1 But it's also important when you do that to
2 remember to make clear that the views you are
3 expressing, whether it's on social media, or to
4 reporters or in public forums, that these are
5 your opinions and they may not necessarily
6 reflect the opinion or the position of the
7 Committee until the Committee takes action on it.
8 Then that's the Committee's position.

9 And, again, when -- it's important to note,
10 remember, that public meetings and meetings that
11 are open to the public are also open to the
12 media. And we're going to have media coverage of
13 these meetings and the media are going to want to
14 talk to you and they're going to want to know
15 your opinions and thoughts on things, and it's
16 important that every effort be made to
17 accommodate the media at these meetings so that
18 they can communicate to the public what is going
19 on here.

20 Again, it's important. I would caution you
21 not to speak about pending legal matters that are
22 before the Committee to the media or the public.
23 There's a forum for resolving those. And the
24 media and the public is not the proper forum.

25 And then the final best practice word of

1 caution is that all interviews are on the record.
2 Whether you think they are or not, they are.

3 So, again, I appreciate your indulgence.
4 That is a walk-through of our recommended best
5 practices. I will answer any questions you have.

6 MR. RABINOWITZ: Anybody have any questions?

7 MS. REECE: I do. So when you talked about
8 an auditor coming before us and different folks
9 going out into the field, have you seen that, for
10 example, the Chair would appoint different people
11 to do different things even if it's not
12 subcommittees in the interest of not breaking the
13 Sunshine Law to say, maybe, Ann, can you check
14 out this project, and, Joe, can you go look at
15 this; have you seen that in your bond research?

16 MR. NAVE: I don't recall seeing that. But,
17 again, if -- if the direction -- if the Chair's
18 direction to a Committee member is made at a duly
19 noticed public meeting like this and it's on the
20 record, then, again, I would probably have to
21 defer to the District's general counsel, but,
22 again, it's in the sunshine. The action is being
23 taken in the public. And then that staff member
24 would maybe go look at the project and report
25 back to the Committee at the next meeting.

1 Something like that I think may be an acceptable
2 way of dividing up work short of appointing a
3 subcommittee.

4 MS. REECE: Thank you.

5 MS. LEWERS: I do have a question. Does the
6 Committee approve our general meeting minutes as
7 a Committee at the general meeting and then the
8 workshop meeting minutes at the workshop?

9 MR. NAVE: I think you would approve them at
10 the next meeting, whatever it is.

11 MS. LEWERS: Thank you.

12 MR. RABINOWITZ: Any other questions?

13 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I
14 think there's a couple points that were very
15 important and I think we need a budget for the
16 Committee to be able to do some of our work that
17 was brought up earlier. In all of the documents
18 I've looked at I haven't seen anything that
19 establishes that. So I think we should put a
20 draft budget together and bring it together for
21 the next meeting for our ability to do your work.

22 MR. RABINOWITZ: I agree. And that raises a
23 question in my mind. If you don't mind, I call
24 you, Bob, as well. Bob, have you seen any other
25 budgets and what kind of value was put on them in

1 the other committees in the research that you've
2 conducted?

3 MR. NAVE: No, sir, I have not. It was just
4 a general reference to the budget and how to go
5 about developing and approving the budget. The
6 emphasis was more on making sure that it was done
7 in public and that the budget was acted on at a
8 public meeting than any details or specifics
9 about the budget. So I can't give you any more
10 advice on that.

11 MR. RABINOWITZ: What was your next point? I
12 think you said you had a couple.

13 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Well, that was the first
14 one. Yes. The second point would be, what's the
15 current status, based on the fact that we've just
16 finished the fiscal year, there were a number of
17 projects that were outstanding, and I would like
18 to get the Board to give us an update on where
19 they are in reference -- there was an article in
20 the paper back in August in reference to some of
21 the problems getting started. I would like to
22 have those addressed, as well, by staff. Perhaps
23 at the next meeting, an update.

24 MR. SHIM: Yes, we are -- we are prepared to
25 present that at the next meeting. Towards the

1 end of this I think the Committee will move
2 forward with the next -- set a meeting. Our
3 first quarter would be the quarter ended in
4 September, a few days ago.

5 MR. RABINOWITZ: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

6 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Yeah, also, I would like
7 to know if some of the items in the particular
8 article were addressed. There were some staffing
9 shortages and some other issues that were being
10 dealt with. There was a contractor that was
11 supposed to be hired to look at guidance on some
12 of these projects and get a report on that, as
13 well.

14 MR. RABINOWITZ: It will be put on the
15 agenda.

16 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Yes. Thank you.

17 MR. RABINOWITZ: I mean, I'll ask a question
18 of the District, as well. I would imagine
19 because we're all new to the Committee, whether
20 or not on an annual basis the District will be
21 providing, essentially, what the vision is for
22 the coming year? Is it the intention of the
23 District to provide us a report, say, at the next
24 meeting concerning what those projects are, what
25 we'll be looking at, what the expectations of

1 those contractors are, what the expenditures will
2 be, for us to examine?

3 Again, I think we're all new, so we need to
4 know what the county's intent is to do, relative
5 to the projects that are being commenced and the
6 ones that will be commencing in the next fiscal
7 year.

8 MR. LEONG: Mr. Chair, I think that the next
9 meeting that we set in November, which is going
10 to be looking at the quarterly end of September,
11 and we will provide, you know, the budget report,
12 and, also, we, also, asked the construction and
13 facility department to provide a status report.
14 And so the next meeting we're going to have that
15 and, also, in addition to that, in the bond
16 program, you know, it's more than the \$800
17 million bond is what we call the bond program is
18 almost a billion dollars. General obligation
19 bond is only 800 million. The other 200 million
20 was provided from some other sources. So we're
21 going to be prepared to do that at the next
22 meeting. Within that program you also have some
23 information technology implementation. They are
24 prepared to also, you know, to report to the
25 Committee.

1 Chair, I would like to just, you know,
2 clarify the issue regarding the selection of the
3 auditor, if I may. We have an internal audit
4 department that's headed by, you know, Pat Riley.
5 He, also, has an independent audit committee
6 meeting, an audit committee, and they are the
7 ones that on an annual basis or a periodic basis
8 select auditors. So I'm not saying that, Bob,
9 that we would prevent this Committee from
10 interacting with the audit committee, but the
11 audit committee, it is their duty and their
12 charge to select auditors. So if it comes to
13 that point, we can, you know, select auditors or
14 whatever the Committee wishes. But I would, you
15 know, invite Pat Riley to come and talk to the
16 Committee and so that we, you know, we can work
17 that out.

18 MR. RABINOWITZ: Thank you. If TaxWatch has
19 concluded it's presentation, I assume, if there's
20 no other questions; am I correct?

21 MS. LEWERS: I just have one. You know I
22 know they've already given us a budget. Where
23 would it come from? Would it come from the bond
24 money or would it come from the District?

25 MR. LEONG: The budgets for the Committee,

1 we'll work with the Chair how to eventually do
2 the budget, it has to come from general funds.
3 It would not come from the general obligations
4 bond.

5 MS. LEWERS: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. LEONG: In fact, Mr. Chair, I didn't know
7 that the auditor director is here, so if you want
8 to speak regarding the selection of auditors.

9 MR. RILEY: If I may, Mr. Chair?

10 MR. RABINOWITZ: Sure. Please.

11 MR. RILEY: Good evening. As Ben Leong
12 mentioned, we do have an audit committee and part
13 of their bylaws duties, you know, report that
14 they are in the process of selecting our external
15 auditor. Our external auditor, the next time we
16 will be doing that will be for the 16-17 school
17 year, so it's more than a year away where we will
18 be doing that. They currently have a five-year
19 contract and they're -- and we will be starting
20 the last year of that contract. But that's one
21 of the things they do, but I'm sure that that
22 could be something that could be brought up to
23 the Committee as an agenda item. The Committee
24 -- and I'm sure they would welcome additional
25 people to be on the selection committee. There

1 is a formal process that we work with the
2 purchasing department, you know, we put out the
3 bids, the committee selects the external auditor
4 and makes a recommendation to the Board. So, I
5 mean, I'm sure they would be fine adding
6 additional, if you would like to participate in
7 that, and we can just bring it up as an audit
8 committee item on the agenda when that time
9 comes.

10 MR. RABINOWITZ: The question is who is eager
11 to be on that committee?

12 MS. REECE: It's two years away. I
13 volunteer.

14 MR. RILEY: You could also observe it, too,
15 also, if you don't necessarily want to be on it.

16 MS. LEWERS: And, actually, the Broward
17 County PTA does have a representative that does
18 sit on that committee.

19 MR. RILEY: Right.

20 MR. RABINOWITZ: Could we just get your name,
21 please, so it's on the record?

22 MR. RILEY: Pat Riley.

23 MR. RABINOWITZ: The question, I think,
24 that's now before this Committee is whether or
25 not there would be a motion to adopt the best

1 practices as presented to us.

2 As the Chairman sitting on Committee's like
3 this before, I would personally recommend that we
4 table it, to review it. I just got it today. I
5 don't know when everybody else got it. So I
6 would table consideration of adopting these best
7 practices until our next meeting.

8 Do we all agree? Do we have a motion to
9 table it?

10 MS. REECE: Moved.

11 MR. MONACO: Second.

12 MR. RABINOWITZ: Everybody say aye?

13 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

14 MR. RABINOWITZ: I think we're unanimous in
15 that regard.

16 The next agenda item is Recommendation of
17 Community Organizations.

18 MR. LEONG: Mr. Chair, may I just interact a
19 little bit in here, that the Board originally
20 when it adopted the resolution to create this
21 Committee originally had nine Committee members
22 and three of the organizations decided not to
23 send a representative because of potential
24 conflicts, that they may have members that their
25 organization, potentially, in the future doing

1 business with the School Board or intended to do
2 business with the School Board, so they declined
3 to participate.

4 So now before the Committee, I believe, is to
5 recommend whether to replace those members by
6 other organizations or the Committee would like
7 to just have a discussion and think about it.
8 Because right now the resolution is created in
9 such a way -- and, also, that when you review
10 TaxWatch's wonderful report, their best practice,
11 you need to also look at, you know, the
12 resolution that we provided you a copy, because,
13 for example, just to give you one example, that
14 the best practice recommended that public input
15 comments is important, that you may set aside 30
16 minutes or so for public comments, and in the
17 resolution that, in a business meeting like this,
18 no public comments is allowed. So that's a
19 little conflict that you need to look at when you
20 think about the next time when we put an agenda
21 item if the organization doesn't change.

22 MR. RABINOWITZ: Thank you. Because we
23 didn't have the discourse with those other
24 organizations, I, actually, expressed a concern
25 myself about those potential conflicts of

1 interest. And it's really a question I have. I
2 would imagine, does the Committee, itself, have
3 the power to make the proposed amendment to the
4 resolution, or was that something the District
5 created?

6 MR. LEONG: I spoke with the general counsel
7 before and general counsel's opinion is that you
8 can make the recommendation to the Board and the
9 Board has to amend the resolution in order to
10 make that happen.

11 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay. So we have to then
12 vote on a potential amendment to the resolution
13 and present it to the Board. Did I say that
14 correctly?

15 MR. COONEY: Yes. That's correct.

16 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay. I'm trying to think
17 of how to articulate it. Because, as I mentioned
18 before, a firm like mine, Broad & Cassel, we
19 certainly represent developers and contractors
20 and, also, as a member of the Board of Governors
21 of the Florida Bar we want a representative on
22 this board, but it would -- there is a
23 potentiality for conflicts of interest in the
24 future.

25 And so what organizations -- if I may ask,

1 what organizations declined to participate on
2 this Committee based upon concern?

3 MS. REECE: It's on page 2.

4 MR. RABINOWITZ: Thank you.

5 MR. LEONG: I think that Omar can help me.
6 One of them is that the Associated Builders and
7 Contractors, Florida East Coast Chapter. It's on
8 page 2 of the resolution.

9 MR. RABINOWITZ: Got it.

10 MR. LEONG: And another one is that the -- I
11 think it's the NAACP.

12 MR. SHIM: The Minority Builders Coalition.

13 MR. RABINOWITZ: I think we've figured it
14 out. It was the NAACP, The Broward County
15 Minority Builders Coalition and the Engineering
16 Contractors Association of South Florida.

17 MR. LEONG: Yeah.

18 MR. RABINOWITZ: Obviously, they were not
19 rejected by us. They're, obviously, important to
20 have on a committee like this for all of the
21 obvious reasons. If it would -- did they raise
22 the same concerns that I did concerning the
23 conflicts of interest and inquire whether or not
24 there can be a recusal of an individual if they
25 participated and one of their clients, for

1 example -- I mean, what happened in that
2 circumstance?

3 MR. LEONG: I didn't speak with those
4 committees, but I think that in one of the
5 conversations I had with Bob that, I don't know,
6 Roberts, from TaxWatch, that he indicated one of
7 the organizations indicated to you maybe a
8 potential conflict of interest.

9 MR. NAVE: If I may, Mr. Chairman, in trying
10 to organize the first meeting I tried to contact
11 as many of the original appointees as possible
12 with the intent of trying to get some time on
13 their calendar in advance of the meeting and --
14 and I -- it was just that. The groups you talked
15 about, the minority builders, the contractors,
16 clearly did not want to participate because
17 members of their organization anticipated bidding
18 on some of these projects. The NAACP I don't
19 remember. I think they may have had a similar
20 concern. But I think that was pretty much the
21 concern I heard from all three groups.

22 MS. LEWERS: I see that you also have on here
23 the members of the Broward County Police
24 Benevolent Association. Do you know why they
25 stepped down?

1 MR. LEONG: Yeah, I think that if you look at
2 the amendment to the resolution the Board decided
3 to, you know, to -- not to include that
4 organization.

5 MS. LEWERS: Okay.

6 MR. RABINOWITZ: I suppose the question
7 before the Board is, do we need a resolution to
8 open up membership to the Committee? I welcome
9 discussion.

10 MS. REECE: I mean, I think these are really
11 good groups to have on, too. So I don't know if
12 it's like an additional outreach where you can,
13 you know -- I mean, if you have a conflict, it's
14 probably just as much as them. I don't see that
15 the NAACP would, you know, they're representing
16 that group, you know, not themselves. It just
17 seems unfortunate that these key groups aren't
18 here.

19 MR. RABINOWITZ: It seems to me, as well,
20 that we're not getting participation by minority
21 organizations that are necessary to have in an
22 organization that is representative of our
23 community.

24 MR. LEONG: I think it could be the Committee
25 wanted a recommendation for the Board to

1 reconsider, you know, this issue, but the issue
2 with the Board is that how do you maintain the
3 independence of the Committee and so that they
4 can clearly, you know, give an independent
5 opinion about the progress of the bond program.
6 You may have to have a compromise, just like you
7 said, the Chair may be able -- the matter go
8 before the Committee that they can recuse
9 themselves, but that's something that the
10 Committee needs to discuss and, you know, when
11 you make the recommendation to the Board, that
12 would be a discussion.

13 MR. RABINOWITZ: Then I think it's something
14 that we need to almost address now. When is our
15 next meeting scheduled to be? Has that been set
16 yet?

17 MR. LEONG: I think it's sometime in
18 November. We would like to propose November 9 to
19 be the meeting, but it's up to the Committee, you
20 know, the Chair, you decide it and then, you
21 know, all the schedules for the Committee members
22 in order to have the next meeting. Because we
23 have six members. That's, you know -- that we
24 would like to have at least six or five because
25 right now five can constitute a quorum.

1 MR. RABINOWITZ: I think that we need -- it's
2 something that needs to be drafted, and I don't
3 know if this is something that's drafted along
4 with or with the help of general counsel, but we
5 need some kind of amendment to the resolution
6 permitting a member of the Committee to be able
7 to withdraw from consideration of something
8 before the Committee if there's a conflict of
9 interest that's presented before us. Should that
10 be something -- I mean, I'm a lawyer, it's
11 something I could draft. I don't know if I could
12 do it this very second. But I don't know if
13 there's something that the general counsel could
14 provide us or guide us with.

15 MR. COONEY: I think the best way to handle
16 that would be to submit that together with any
17 other questions, legal opinion questions, to our
18 office and maybe propose some language that we
19 can take a look at. And I'm sure as we go
20 through this meeting we're going to have other
21 issues that arise. If you, as a Committee, could
22 generate a letter or memorandum to us, we can
23 look at all these issues at the same time.

24 MR. RABINOWITZ: Because I want to maximize
25 all of our participation in this and have

1 maximum, you know, the appropriate number of
2 Committee members, I don't recall -- I looked at
3 the resolution, obviously, before I came here,
4 but can we have a vote on something like that as
5 a special meeting via e-mail? I don't recall --
6 or do we have to, physically, reconvene a
7 meeting? I see people in the back shaking their
8 head that we have to have a meeting in person.

9 MR. COONEY: You need to be, physically,
10 present.

11 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay. Thank you.

12 MS. REECE: Are you looking for
13 recommendations on additional groups to add or
14 what -- I know that TaxWatch recommended 12;
15 wasn't that the minimum of like nine to 12 or
16 something like 12 to --

17 MR. NAVE: 12 to 18.

18 MS. REECE: 12 to 18, so that's even more.
19 So, I mean, are you looking for us to say here
20 are some other groups that might be good and
21 reach out to them? I'm not sure what the -- what
22 you all are looking for us to do right now.

23 MR. NAVE: Well, if I may, Mr. Chairman, from
24 TaxWatch's perspective, we -- and, again, we
25 looked at the experiences of other bond oversight

1 committees to see what type of organizations they
2 had on their membership and that's what we
3 presented to you tonight. So when you look at
4 those you get a pretty good idea. What -- what I
5 think is important is -- is some of the -- the
6 organizations represented here, that's important,
7 but it's also important to look at the skills
8 that are represented on the Committee.

9 And, as the Committee, you're being asked to
10 oversee and monitor how, you know, millions and
11 millions of dollars are being expended. And, you
12 know, we have someone with public finance
13 experience. Is one person enough? I don't know.
14 Maybe somebody else with public finances. But,
15 you know, when I look, I'm looking for someone
16 that's got construction management, project
17 management type experience. These -- I think
18 that's an essential skill for this Committee.
19 Public finances skills are critical. So the
20 organization, that's just part of it, the skills
21 are also important. It's tough when you look for
22 organizations with construction management type
23 of experience because they are the ones that want
24 to bid on these projects.

25 So it may be that there -- you know, is there

1 an organization out there that has those types of
2 skills that isn't going to bid on these types of
3 projects? And when I think about that, I think
4 about a group like Broward College or someone
5 that, a public entity that deals -- that builds
6 the same type of facilities these guys build and
7 is not going to compete with them for or bid on
8 their projects.

9 So maybe someone in the college system or the
10 university system. Maybe there's folks there in
11 the facilities planning department that has the
12 types of skills that might help here. I don't
13 know. I just offer that.

14 MR. RABINOWITZ: I think that's a good idea.
15 And I don't know how everybody else arrived here
16 tonight. I don't mean that, physically. But has
17 the District thought about or anybody at the
18 county thought about other organizations that
19 would make for good candidates to be on the
20 board? And who would go about contacting those
21 individuals to participate?

22 MR. LEONG: To answer your question is that I
23 think it's the Committee can recommend, you know,
24 just like what Bob's saying, it doesn't have to
25 be an organization. It could be, you know, the

1 Broward College, they may have, you know, the
2 construction department, the dean or whatever
3 that we can ask him to come and serve, not to box
4 ourselves into an organization. It's difficult
5 to have someone that a company doing construction
6 participate in a Committee and kind of sign a
7 conflict of interest statement saying that they
8 are not going to do business with the School
9 Board. So it's going to be very difficult to
10 find that kind of people. So maybe the approach
11 is, you know, take that kind of thinking. And,
12 also, some people, maybe they're retired, you
13 know, from that area that have expertise in that
14 area. So they would be willing to serve. You
15 know, just like what Bob's saying, the skill set
16 is the important part in the Committee to help
17 the Committee to render the opinion of the
18 Committee.

19 MR. NAVE: And to Ben's point, Mr. Chairman,
20 we recommended in our best practices senior
21 citizen organizations and, you know, these are
22 the groups that might have retired people with
23 construction experience, construction management
24 background. I think that's what Ben was getting
25 at.

1 MS. REECE: I had a -- I thought about it
2 after our last meeting, too, and I have a few
3 suggestions. Did you all ever consider during
4 the process the Building Officials Association of
5 Florida; was that brought up?

6 MR. LEONG: No, we have not. It's a good
7 suggestion.

8 MS. REECE: Because they're public building
9 officials. They would have knowledge of project
10 management. Also, I work for the City of Fort
11 Lauderdale and our project engineers go through a
12 project management course at FAU. So I don't
13 know if somebody from the university would maybe
14 be a good representative, much like what Bob said
15 for facilities, somebody who leads a project
16 management curriculum or is involved somehow.
17 And then you said financial management. I know
18 Florida Government Finance Association is who I'm
19 representing. They had like five or six
20 candidates that would be honored to serve on this
21 Committee. So I'm sure they would send someone
22 else if you wanted more than one government
23 finance.

24 MR. NAVE: Well, I know in Tallahassee we see
25 meetings of the Florida Association of State

1 Budgeting Officers, so I know there are groups
2 at -- at that level. I don't know to what extent
3 they have district chapters or how they are
4 organized, but they have members statewide. So I
5 think if you look close enough I think there are
6 folks throughout that have the kinds of skills
7 that the Committee could use to make its work
8 easier and more effective.

9 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: If I might, there are some
10 other expertise out there in government, former
11 city managers and other folks of that nature that
12 have dealt with these projects in the past.

13 There are some folks I could reach out to
14 including a few of these others here that are on
15 the list. Again, I think we need the ability to
16 recuse ourselves if we have a conflict, but --

17 MR. RABINOWITZ: I agree.

18 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: -- there are a number of
19 other issues. But I think that would be good so
20 we don't create a problem with the Committee.

21 MR. LEONG: And, Mr. Chairman, also, the
22 board resolution that was created, only one
23 organization can send one representative. Maybe
24 the Committee can recommend, you know, like a
25 government officer, you know, Finance Officer

1 Associations or planning, why just limit it to
2 one person? So there's something that the
3 Committee can recommend to the board for
4 consideration.

5 MR. RABINOWITZ: Thank you.

6 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Mr. Chair, in reference to
7 the size of the Committee, again, usually the
8 voting issues are usually odd numbered Committee
9 members in case there's a vote so the Chairman
10 has to break the tie. My concern is that if the
11 Committee is too large we won't get anything
12 done. So I hope that maybe by next meeting we
13 could come up with a total, if we can find enough
14 volunteers. But I would hope that it would be in
15 the lower number, say 13. It gets a little
16 unwieldy, from my experience, with more people
17 than that.

18 MR. RABINOWITZ: Which leads to a question.
19 Based upon your research, have you come up
20 with -- I know that it's between 12 and 18, but
21 have you seen that one number that's on average
22 that's worked or it's all over the place?

23 MR. NAVE: No. And as far as breaking the
24 tie and stuff like that, for motions to be
25 approved it requires majority. So if there is a

1 tie, the motion fails.

2 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: That's not a good thing.

3 MR. NAVE: I think that's Robert's Rules of
4 Order.

5 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: It is, but you don't get
6 business done when you have a tie. So -- I can
7 tell you that from presiding over my meetings.

8 MS. REECE: 12 seems really large. When you
9 look at commission -- Board of Commissioners or
10 things like that, I mean, you rarely see above
11 nine. How did you get to 12? I mean, that
12 seems --

13 MR. NAVE: Well, again, we looked at the
14 experience of other bond oversight committees.
15 The original bond resolution here had 11 members.
16 Wasn't it 11 originally? And a couple dropped
17 off. And then three withdrew and we're down to
18 six now. So, the original intent was to get 11,
19 which I think was -- 11 was doable. When you
20 look at the original intended composition that
21 would work. But with two dropping off and then
22 three dropping off, we're -- we're short.

23 MS. REECE: Right.

24 MR. LEONG: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I think
25 that during the discussion when the Board,

1 originally, they were thinking 11, and I think
2 the Board, finally, settled down with nine. I
3 think the issues, just like what Laura is saying,
4 they worry about too large a member, you cannot,
5 you know, get everyone together. That's why they
6 settled down to nine. So, after they determined
7 nine and then the three dropped off because of
8 conflict of interest issues, that mostly affected
9 it.

10 MR. RABINOWITZ: Well, we have six,
11 currently. Do we want to consider the number now
12 and have a motion to set the number of members?

13 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: I would have no problem
14 with that at all.

15 MR. RABINOWITZ: All right. Do I hear a
16 motion to set the number; and what would it be?

17 MS. LEWERS: I make the motion to set the
18 number at nine.

19 MS. REECE: Second.

20 MR. RABINOWITZ: There's a second.

21 Aye?

22 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

23 MR. LEONG: So, Mr. Chair, if you would like
24 to -- the Committee decided nine board members,
25 if you make some recommendations, we'll

1 definitely, you know, make the phone calls and
2 maybe some of the Committee members know someone
3 who'd like to serve, we would welcome, but we are
4 willing to do the work and make the phone calls
5 and so forth. And if you recommend an
6 individual, like if you want to expand the number
7 of representatives for one organization, you
8 know, maybe that's one of the recommendations to
9 the Board. Now, again, I have the understanding
10 of general counsel's point of view, you can't
11 change the resolution until you make the
12 recommendation to the Board.

13 MR. RABINOWITZ: When is the next time that
14 they meet for the resolution to actually be
15 presented, assuming that this Committee
16 establishes a conflict of interest provision?

17 MR. COONEY: I'm not sure when the next
18 regularly schedule board meeting would be that
19 your resolution would be able to make it on
20 board. But, as I understand the resolution,
21 currently, you've got to go to your next meeting
22 to approve the minutes. So I'm not sure of the
23 timing of that. We can provide a list of all
24 upcoming Board meetings and the timing would
25 depend on that.

1 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay. Thank you. I'm
2 trying to think -- are there any other issues?

3 Assuming that members of the Committee have a
4 recommended individual from whatever organization
5 it may be, I don't know who the liaison currently
6 is. I mean, when I have questions it would be
7 Mr. Shim, so would we send recommendations to him
8 about prospective members?

9 MR. SHIM: Yes.

10 MS. LEWERS: Mr. Chair, I have a question.
11 And I know that just the Board and how they go
12 back and forth on voting on stuff. Can we go
13 back to the original list and go from there?

14 MR. RABINOWITZ: I think that the original
15 list, the individuals didn't want to participate
16 because there was no ability to resolve conflicts
17 of interest. So for purposes of moving
18 forward --

19 MS. LEWERS: Well, if we plan to redo the
20 provision, that might be an option to go back to
21 them?

22 MR. RABINOWITZ: I agree, but from a timing
23 perspective, that's why I asked general counsel's
24 office about -- the reality is, if we create an
25 amendment to the resolution resolving conflict of

1 interest, that wouldn't happen 'til our next
2 meeting in November. So we would establish a
3 proposed resolution, then we'd present it to the
4 Board, the Board would then have to consider it.
5 So we wouldn't, actually, have three more members
6 from this body, this proposed body, until two
7 meetings from now.

8 MS. LEWERS: Well, knowing the School
9 District, I don't even see it happening that
10 quick, because we're going to have public
11 speakers. I watched it when this whole nine was
12 picked originally. It went back and forth. So I
13 don't really know the time. It was pretty -- if
14 you watched the School Board meeting and it
15 wasn't easy for them to pick just this list right
16 here. I anticipate that again, because you had a
17 lot of public input and people said no and then
18 the vote was split and it just went back and
19 forth. So, I mean, us picking the nine,
20 realistically, from the School District
21 perspective, Benjamin, when do you think it could
22 happen? What are we looking at timeframe?

23 MR. LEONG: What you are talking about is
24 recommending three different organizations, and I
25 think that the -- you know, I would not go to the

1 Board just for one recommendation for the board
2 to amend the resolution. If you have any other
3 issues relating to the organization of the
4 Committee you make all at one time. Because, for
5 example, right now you have the issue about
6 public comments. You may or may not want to
7 continue with that. There's a couple other good
8 recommendations from TaxWatch you would like to
9 adopt. So you would like to include those. And,
10 in my point of view, you're not going to have any
11 recommendation to the Board until the next
12 meeting, which is sometime in November, mid
13 November. And after that, then we're going to
14 quickly draw the resolution and then forward it
15 to the next Board meeting. I would say time
16 probably is going to be, because the agenda needs
17 to be, you know, forwarded to the Board and, you
18 know, you have to deliver the resolution seven
19 days ahead of time and so forth. I'm talking
20 about mid December for the resolution to go back
21 to the Board. And then after that we have to
22 contact the organizations. It's not stopping us
23 from contacting the organizations. The problem
24 is that you don't want to contact the
25 organizations and then later on the Board decides

1 not to, you know, to adopt an organization.

2 So --

3 MR. RABINOWITZ: Then I think that what the
4 Committee would ask Mr. Shim to do is go back to
5 those organizations and find out whether or not a
6 conflict of interest amendment to the resolution
7 would dissuade their concerns such that they
8 would then, you know, nominate or suggest a
9 member of that organization for this Committee.
10 Because that would make it easier because then we
11 would stay with those individuals or that
12 organization and not have to venture outside of
13 what was already approved.

14 MR. SHIM: Well, we did go back to these
15 groups. We kind of originally took over the
16 process in the middle of constructing the
17 Committee and we were informed that three of
18 those groups weren't participating. So we tried
19 to go back and confirm that. We got a
20 confirmation from the engineering association
21 that they were not going to participate because
22 of potential conflicts of interest and the other
23 two really didn't respond because I think they
24 had already told us that they weren't going to
25 participate.

1 MR. RABINOWITZ: Yeah, but to my point is, if
2 you advised them that there would be a resolution
3 amended that would resolve any concern about a
4 conflict of interest allowing somebody to be
5 recused from consideration of an issue concerning
6 a member or their organization in particular,
7 would that then, you know, encourage them to have
8 participation?

9 MR. SHIM: We can go back and ask them.
10 Which, you know, to your point, we could do that;
11 yes.

12 MR. RABINOWITZ: I appreciate that. Thank
13 you.

14 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Mr. Chair, in reference to
15 the Florida TaxWatch and adopting their
16 recommendations, can we wait until the next
17 meeting to review these a little further to see
18 if there are particular issues that we would like
19 to accept or reject?

20 MR. RABINOWITZ: Yes. That's why I had asked
21 to table it before.

22 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: I wasn't sure if we were
23 going to have to take a vote.

24 Did I miss that somehow? Okay. Sorry.

25 How about if we just put an ad in the paper

1 and see who shows up? No, I'm just kidding.

2 MR. RABINOWITZ: And I'll have no comment for
3 every single meeting. I'm kidding.

4 Were there any other issues?

5 MS. LEWERS: I don't see the meeting minutes
6 from the last meeting. Did we get a copy of
7 that; do you know?

8 MR. LEONG: We have the transcript. The
9 issue is the last time we didn't have a quorum,
10 so you don't have to approve the minutes from the
11 last time.

12 MR. SHIM: Right. But they are posted on the
13 website once you make sure you can get on there.

14 MR. RABINOWITZ: So does that, technically,
15 mean there really was no meeting or is there
16 actually minutes to approve and we have to make a
17 motion to approve those?

18 MR. SHIM: Technically, the meeting did not
19 occur, from what I understand, and that you don't
20 have to approve them. But they are posted
21 on-line for anyone to read thoroughly.

22 MS. LEWERS: Since I can't get onto that
23 website and you haven't given us a date that it
24 would work can you e-mail that to the members of
25 the Committee.

1 MR. LEONG: We'll e-mail you a link.

2 MS. LEWERS: As long as that link works.

3 MR. SHIM: We can e-mail you that document,
4 but, also, I'll have that, the website working
5 tomorrow. I just realized what the problem was
6 today.

7 MS. LEWERS: All right. Thank you.

8 MR. RABINOWITZ: The next agenda item, I
9 guess, we'll move on to that.

10 MS. REECE: Before you move on, did you
11 have -- Bob, did you have a list of things that
12 would need to be amended in the resolution in
13 order for your recommendations to be implemented?
14 Did you all -- is there like an easy place that
15 you can refer to, say, to follow the
16 recommendation, here's the things we need to
17 change?

18 MR. NAVE: We -- in putting the best
19 practices together, we -- we tried to number them
20 in a way that would make ease of reference, make
21 it easy to reference these. So you might want
22 to, you know, the recommendation might be we want
23 sections 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, but not 4.0, or you could
24 go 1.1 -- we tried to set it up so you could just
25 go through and pick the ones that you wanted to

1 recommend to the Board or not. So we tried to
2 make it easy for you.

3 MR. RABINOWITZ: When I received it today it
4 came in PDF. Could you possibly send it to us in
5 Word or WordPerfect so that we could,
6 potentially, redline it if we wanted to?

7 MR. NAVE: Sure.

8 MS. REECE: So that was sort of the answer to
9 my question, but, for example, the public
10 comments, does that mean that -- you referred to
11 it would need to be changed in the resolution in
12 order to follow your recommendation; was that the
13 only other item that would need a change or was
14 there additional things that maybe --

15 MR. NAVE: Well, obviously, the membership
16 and the size are a little different than what is
17 in the current resolution.

18 MR. LEONG: I think what I propose to do is
19 that I can take the initiative working with Omar
20 to do a little comparison in here and I can see
21 that, you know, for example, in the resolution
22 it's very specific saying that a report has to be
23 presented in a public hearing. You may not want
24 to do that. Your recommendation -- your
25 findings, your recommendation summary must be

1 presented at the workshop, and those you may want
2 to look at the resolution and you may want to
3 change that, you know, that --

4 MR. RABINOWITZ: Is there any other issues
5 before we move on?

6 I think we can move on to the next agenda
7 item, which is Recommendations of Community
8 Organizations.

9 Is that what we just covered?

10 Okay. And then we have changes to the
11 resolutions -- to the resolution. Did we cover
12 that, as well?

13 MR. LEONG: Right.

14 MR. RABINOWITZ: The next agenda item,
15 Approve use of court reporter transcript as the
16 official meeting minutes of the board. Was that
17 already --

18 MR. LEONG: No, the general counsel is saying
19 that, you know, originally saying that the
20 minutes, it was in the resolution, the Committee
21 can decide using the transcript, you know, the
22 court reporter as -- instead of taking minutes.

23 MR. RABINOWITZ: I think that makes
24 everybody's life a lot easier.

25 So we need to have a motion, then, to the use

1 of a court reporter as the official minutes for
2 our meetings.

3 MS. LEWERS: I make the motion have an
4 official -- I'm sorry. What is it called again?
5 Court reporter for our minutes.

6 MR. RABINOWITZ: Is there a second?

7 MR. MONACO: Second.

8 MR. RABINOWITZ: All those in favor say aye.

9 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MR. RABINOWITZ: The motion passes.

11 The next meeting date is the next agenda
12 item. I think there was mention of November 9th
13 as the prospective date.

14 MS. LEWERS: Mr. Chair, I cannot do that
15 date. I'm out of town, so --

16 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay. Are there any other
17 dates from the District relative to a prospective
18 meeting or is that up to us at this point?

19 MR. LEONG: It's up to you, the Committee.
20 Bear in mind that the September -- you know, the
21 meeting, the report that we intended, you know,
22 proposed to you, will be forwarded to TaxWatch
23 for their review sometime in either the third
24 week of October or so. We agreed on the October
25 13th. The issue is that we were originally

1 thinking about a November 2nd meeting, but we
2 couldn't be -- most of the staff was going to be
3 out attending a finance officers meeting, so we
4 were proposing to move it to the 9. So, my
5 thinking is that, TaxWatch needs two weeks to
6 review the report, so that's why we're thinking
7 about the 9. We're not -- anything after, you
8 know, the 9 would be up to the Committee to
9 decide. It doesn't have to be Monday.

10 MR. RABINOWITZ: Is there any day of the
11 week, before we talk about dates in particular,
12 that is good for members of the Committee that's
13 better than others?

14 MS. LEWERS: I think Mondays are better for
15 me, but I'm flexible.

16 MS. REECE: Tuesdays are bad.

17 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay. Tuesdays are out.
18 Anybody else? How is Monday, the 23rd.

19 MS. LEWERS: Yep, can do it.

20 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: November?

21 MR. RABINOWITZ: Yeah we're talking about
22 November.

23 MS. REECE: It's only commission meetings
24 that I'm bad for.

25 MR. LEONG: Tuesday is also bad for the

1 School Board because it's traditional School
2 Board workshop, School Board meeting.

3 MS. LEWERS: So Chair are we going back to
4 the 23rd?

5 MR. MONACO: We have one; daughter's
6 birthday.

7 MR. RABINOWITZ: We don't want to do that to
8 your daughter.

9 If we want to keep it on Mondays, the 30th?

10 MS. LEWERS: Works for me.

11 MR. RABINOWITZ: Well, do we want to take it
12 on a day of the week other than a Monday or a
13 Tuesday? I can't do the 16th, I'm going to be in
14 Chicago.

15 MS. SIEGEL: I was going to recommend the
16 16th.

17 MR. RABINOWITZ: That's why I skipped over
18 it.

19 MS. REECE: That's right after Thanksgiving,
20 so I'm thinking that may be a conflict.

21 MR. RABINOWITZ: Can you imagine this with
22 nine people? If we do it on a Thursday, is there
23 any problem with Thursday? How about the 12th?

24 MS. LEWERS: Thursdays don't work for me. My
25 kids are in marching band.

1 MR. RABINOWITZ: Can't do it on the 12th.

2 The 19th?

3 MS. LEWERS: Thursdays are bad for me. My
4 kids are in marching band.

5 MR. RABINOWITZ: Can't do this on a Saturday;
6 huh?

7 MS. LEWERS: So, Laura, are you back here on
8 the 30th or no?

9 MS. REECE: We haven't finalized our plans
10 yet, so that's the problem.

11 MR. RABINOWITZ: So you're definitely out?

12 MS. REECE: 90 percent sure.

13 MR. RABINOWITZ: Well, that pretty much
14 knocks out Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays the
15 entire month.

16 MS. REECE: We can do it Monday the 30th.
17 I'll try to plan around it. And if I missed it
18 --

19 MR. RABINOWITZ: We won't vote you off the
20 island just yet.

21 MS. REECE: I'll try. If that's all that
22 works for anybody.

23 MR. RABINOWITZ: 30th; okay? Chief, good for
24 you?

25 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: I'm just checking. If

1 it's not during the day it's fine.

2 MR. RABINOWITZ: I would imagine we would
3 have the meeting at the same time, 5:30, here.

4 MS. REECE: Yeah, I'll try to plan around it.

5 MR. RABINOWITZ: November 30th it is.

6 I guess we have a recess now.

7 MR. COONEY: Mr. Chair, before you recess,
8 it's recommended that the Committee jointly
9 determine a limit as to the minutes for each
10 public speaker. For our open board meetings we
11 limit it to three minutes. The Committee can
12 choose any length of time it wishes. But that
13 was a recommendation and it's also pursuant to
14 Section 6(2). It's your choice. You may
15 reasonably limit the time each member of the
16 public can speak at the public meeting.

17 MS. REECE: I move three minutes.

18 MR. RABINOWITZ: Is there a second?

19 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Second.

20 MR. RABINOWITZ: All those in favor say aye.

21 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

22 MS. LEWERS: I'm opposing. I want four, but
23 I'm going to oppose it.

24 MR. RABINOWITZ: Does anybody have an
25 objection to it being four?

1 MS. LEWERS: Thank you. You know, I just see
2 that, my thing is we have to be careful and give
3 the public the opportunity to voice their
4 opinion. This is a very hot topic and I hear it
5 all the time when I go out to a school and I just
6 want to make sure that the public, when they do
7 come to speak, that they will get their voice
8 heard. And that's something that's e-mailed to
9 me all the time and three minutes goes really
10 fast especially when you're passionate about
11 something.

12 MR. RABINOWITZ: I apologize I skipped over
13 the discussion part of it.

14 Based upon the discussion I asked for the
15 vote, we have to take the vote and if people say
16 nay based on the discussion, then --

17 MS. SIEGEL: You can amend it; right?

18 MR. RABINOWITZ: Well, you can. It can be a
19 friendly amendment to a motion.

20 MS. SIEGEL: I'll amend the motion to four
21 minutes.

22 MR. RABINOWITZ: Based upon the friendly
23 amendment to the motion and making it four
24 minutes, all those in favor say aye.

25 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

1 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay. Four minutes it is.
2 So will the general counsel's office, actually,
3 make that amendment, because we don't have this
4 in word either, so what's the function of getting
5 amendments made?

6 MR. COONEY: If you guys are making
7 amendments to the resolution, currently, we can
8 record that and document that and keep it
9 together with any other resolutions.

10 MR. RABINOWITZ: Great. Thank you.

11 Was there any other order of business before
12 we take a break?

13 Hearing none, we will be in recess.

14 MR. LEONG: Mr. Chair, Bob just reminded me
15 the meeting day you probably need a motion to
16 adopt to set the next meeting.

17 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay. Is there a motion
18 for -- to schedule the next meeting on November
19 30th, 5:30, at the current location we're at now?

20 MS. LEWERS: I make it.

21 MR. RABINOWITZ: Is there a second?

22 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Second.

23 MR. RABINOWITZ: All those in favor say aye.

24 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

25 MR. RABINOWITZ: Is there anything else? Any

1 other order of business before we recess?

2 No? Hearing none, we're in recess.

3 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken).

4 MR. RABINOWITZ: All right. As long as we're
5 ready, we'll reconvene. After the recess the
6 next agenda item is to convene a public hearing
7 and there has been a request by Andrea Blackwood
8 to speak. You're here? You have four minutes.

9 MS. BLACKWOOD: No, I would rather not speak
10 today. Thank you so much for the privilege of
11 being here. You guys are doing a great job so
12 far.

13 MR. RABINOWITZ: We thank you for coming.

14 All right. So the next agenda item is
15 adjourning the public hearing. That took less
16 than four minutes. We're all very grateful.

17 The next agenda item is the reconvening of
18 the business meeting. I don't know what other
19 items there are to discuss as a matter of
20 business before the Committee, if any.

21 MR. LEONG: I don't have any, Chair. We set
22 the meeting date, and, so, unless the Committee
23 members have any other questions or anything --

24 MS. SIEGEL: I guess the only other thing may
25 be to go over what our assignments are for the

1 next meeting to make sure that we all know what
2 we need to review.

3 MS. LEWERS: And then I have one, also, if
4 they can resend us the website to do the
5 45-minute test.

6 MR. RABINOWITZ: I think that we should all
7 expect ourselves to do the orientation and
8 hopefully pass the exam.

9 MR. LEONG: Chair, if I may, we can talk a
10 little bit about the next meeting, you know, so
11 that we can kind of help to set the agenda next
12 time, Chair, with you. I think the next time
13 we're going to present an overall of the bond
14 program. I think that last time we had the
15 orientation meeting, unfortunately, we didn't
16 have the, you know, the quorum, so we're going to
17 make the presentation to the Committee. At the
18 same time we're going to make a presentation to
19 the Committee about the quarterly report that's
20 ending September 30th. And that's all. So is
21 that something that Committee members would like
22 to add? One of the things we would like to, is
23 that the conflict of interest statement, you
24 know, that you need to execute so we probably
25 will have that ready next time we meet.

1 MR. RABINOWITZ: So I think that, for the
2 purpose of the next meeting, a couple of things
3 are not only -- well, do you have a copy of the
4 old agenda, because I don't have a copy of it and
5 one of my responsibilities is --

6 MR. LEONG: We can forward it to you.

7 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay. Please do that. I'd
8 appreciate it. So it seems as though our next
9 meeting will be our orientation.

10 MR. SHIM: Yes, the materials are actually in
11 your packet for the members that did not attend
12 the last meeting so we provide the actual --

13 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay. Thank you.

14 And, in the meantime, if there are any
15 Committee members that have recommendations for
16 other individuals to participate, can you provide
17 them to Mr. Shim so we can at least discuss that,
18 as well, and it also sounds like the request is
19 to, basically, go over what the status is will be
20 addressed at the next orientation, as well.

21 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: I believe they stated that
22 they would do that as part of the quarterly
23 report.

24 MR. RABINOWITZ: Will a proposed agenda be
25 prepared by Dana, as well, and provided to us?

1 MR. LEONG: Yes, with consent of the Chair.

2 MR. RABINOWITZ: Thank you. And is there
3 anything else.

4 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Yeah, just one quick
5 question. If we have an item that we want to
6 bring forward to the rest of the body to be
7 reviewed, can we give that to you and have the
8 Chairman bring that up prior to a meeting to look
9 at or does it have to be --

10 MR. LEONG: Yes, send it to us and we'll run
11 it by the Chair.

12 MR. RABINOWITZ: Just so the logistics are
13 clear, if a member of this Committee has a
14 suggested agenda item, it goes to Mr. Shim, Mr.
15 Shim gives it to me and then it will be posted to
16 the agenda?

17 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Right.

18 MR. RABINOWITZ: Okay.

19 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: So then can I enter an
20 item into the record? Can I enter this article
21 into the record for everybody? Just so we know
22 what we're up against.

23 MR. RABINOWITZ: Sure. What's the discussion
24 about?

25 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: This was one of the

1 discussions that were brought up. So I just want
2 to make this available to everybody so, you know,
3 there's a number of points in here that were
4 brought up in this article. I would like to make
5 sure the Committee addresses them and that we're
6 not reading about ourselves in the headlines
7 here.

8 MS. LEWERS: Chief, can you tell me what day
9 and what newspapers? What's the date?

10 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: This is the Sun-Sentinel.
11 The date was August 9th. It was Sunday in the
12 local section.

13 MS. LEWERS: Okay. Great. Thank you.

14 MR. RABINOWITZ: What's the title of the
15 article?

16 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: Schools Projects Delayed.
17 You could probably Google it, but --

18 MS. LEWERS: Thank you.

19 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: I believe it came out
20 after our first meeting.

21 MR. RABINOWITZ: Is there any other
22 discussion item before adjournment?

23 MS. LEWERS: Actually, I have one on Chief's
24 article. Does the School Board have something in
25 place when an article does come out like that to

1 respond back or put a statement out regarding
2 what we are accomplishing?

3 MR. LEONG: I didn't know about that article
4 because there are several articles. And I think
5 that the Superintendent did respond to, you know,
6 what they were saying was delay. In an editorial
7 he did mention about the bond approved by the --
8 you know, by the voters in November 2014. If you
9 count, it's only about 10 months, you know, ago.
10 And he mentioned about that we went through the
11 bond validation process, the court process that,
12 you know, went all the way to the hearing and
13 then with the 30 days appeal periods at the end
14 of April. And so he did have a response to that
15 article. So what we're going to do, Committee
16 members and Chair, is that when that article, if
17 it's going on be on the agenda, we'll make sure
18 that the facilities department will have someone
19 here to, you know, to have a discussion.

20 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: My concern is, I try to
21 keep up with the news, but I don't necessarily
22 get a chance to review every day. I just
23 happened to come across this one. If it's
24 possible, if anything relates to the bond, Mr.
25 Chairman, that you provide it to all the members,

1 so that we have that information to help resolve
2 some of the political issues.

3 MR. RABINOWITZ: So I think our other
4 homework assignment is to stay up on the news?

5 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: I suspect that there will
6 always be something. Perhaps, you know, the
7 folks and staff can help us with that.

8 MR. RABINOWITZ: Anything else?

9 Do we need a motion to adjourn.

10 CHIEF DIPETRILLO: So moved.

11 MR. RABINOWITZ: Any second?

12 MS. REECE: Second.

13 MR. RABINOWITZ: All those in favor of
14 adjourning?

15 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

16 MR. RABINOWITZ: Unanimous.

17 I thank you.

18 (Meeting was concluded at 7:53 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF BROWARD

I, Timothy R. Bass, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large, hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings, and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes thereof.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither an attorney, nor counsel for the parties to this cause, nor a relative or employee of any attorney or party connected with this litigation, nor am I financially interested in the outcome of this action.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2015, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida.



TIMOTHY R. BASS
Court Reporter



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