

## Fairhope EAC Meeting Minutes, 12.5.18

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*Members Present:* Tanya Bosarge, Ken Cole, Colby Cooper (via phone), Elizabeth Hammock, Hill Robinson

*Guests:* Gary Gover; BCBE Representatives, Cecil Christenberry and Jon Gray; FEEF Board Members, Amy Foley and Carrie Mackey; and Principals, Julie Pierce, Carol Broughton, Patrice Wolfe and John Cardwell

1. Chairman, Ken Cole, called meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and offered a moment of silence in honor of President George H. W. Bush.
2. Jon Gray posed the question, “Why do we want to raise taxes?” Answers provided: propel Fairhope to a top school system (statewide and nationally), get principals out of fundraising to allow them more time to focus on advancing student achievement.
3. Jon Gray reviewed a variety of points that we, as an EAC and city, would need to contemplate and address before putting forth a referendum.
  - a. The City Council must pledge support for the tax increase and not just in favor of the opportunity for a referendum. If approved, the BCBE would have to vote in favor of the referendum (within 60 days of receiving Council resolution). Then the County Commission would have 60 days to respond, followed by up to an additional 60 days to set a referendum date.
  - b. Does the tax money follow the students or the schools (i.e., in the event new schools/feeder pattern are established)?
  - c. Tax money cannot be directly used to fund full-time personnel due to sunset provisions.
  - d. When will tax expire (5-30 years)?
  - e. How would funds be managed? A group appointed by the City Council (i.e, EAC) along with the principals would make a “use of funds” recommendation to the Superintendent. If he agrees, the Superintendent would then make a recommendation to the BCBE and if they approve, it would go into the budget. Tax funds will not be spent unless all three parties are in agreement.
  - f. Tax funds raised and assets purchased with those funds must remain within the special tax district.
  - g. Jon would not recommend holding a special election. Perhaps the March 2020 ballot should be targeted; otherwise, November 2020.
  - h. Possible next steps: invite Superintendent Tyler to an EAC meeting to brainstorm about “use of funds.”
4. Meeting adjourned at 6PM.
5. Next meeting: TBD @ 4:30 p.m., Fairhope Public Library.