



LAFAYETTE
PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

Lafayette Parish
School System
P.O. Drawer 2158
Lafayette, LA 70502


April 26, 2017

An Open Letter to the Citizens of Lafayette:

RE: Sales Tax Proceeds Clearly Dedicated for Listed Facility Improvements

Based upon guidance and assurances from our bond counsel, Jerry Osborne of Foley and Judell, LLP, the Lafayette Parish School Board has clearly dedicated the use of the proceeds of this proposed sales tax by referencing Resolution No. 01-17-1896 (which lists the projects that are to be funded by the sales tax collections) within the related sales tax proposition. The proceeds of this tax are dedicated for listed facility improvements within Lafayette Parish schools. Court rulings within our state have long established that when a special tax is voted by the electorate and the revenues therefrom are declared to be used for a specific purpose, then neither the School Board nor any other state or municipal agency may use those funds for any other purpose.

Regarding voter direction for the selection of projects to be funded by the half-cent sales tax, the School Board's first preference was to list all of the capital projects in the actual ballot proposition. However, Louisiana law prohibits such inclusion by limiting ballot propositions to not exceeding 200 words. To include the project list in the ballot proposition would have exceeded this maximum by many times and would be prohibited by state law. Accordingly, the School Board adopted the project list by formal resolution and incorporated it by reference into the ballot proposition, thereby binding and committing this and future school boards to carry out the will of the electorate by adhering to the limitations of Resolution No. 01-17-1896. This is the same process used by numerous school boards across the state to address the 200 word statutory limit and still provide assurance to the voters with respect to school projects to be funded.

Respectfully,

Donald W. Aguilard, Ph.D.
Superintendent