

The following is the chat from the Zoom debate, Pros and Cons of the extension of the 1 Mil School on 9/13/2021 [Pros and Cons School 1 Mil Tax Referendum Renewal - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p27puM-ZJEA)  
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with Superintendent of schools Cynthia Sauders and Co-Chair of ForwardManatee, Dr Denise Davis-Cotton. Speaking against the referendum is Christopher Carman, Board member of Manatee Patriots and political consultant and Amanda Ballard, attorney and child advocate.

12:07:12 From WILLIAM CLAPPER : How much additional instruction time per student per year. Not every student goes K-12 in Manatee

12:08:15 From Alice Newlon : For background on the speakers, email [info@lwvmantee.org](mailto:info@lwvmantee.org)

12:11:00 From Robin Sathan : What is the turnover rate for teachers: 2018 vs 2021?

12:12:47 From Robin Sathan : Please provide the name of the current speaker. Thank you.

12:13:03 From Christopher Carman : dr. Davis Cotton

12:13:13 From Alice Newlon : Superintendent of schools Cynthia Sauders and Co-Chair of ForwardManatee, Dr Denise Davis-Cotton. Speaking against the referendum is Christopher Carman, Board member of Manatee Patriots and political consultant and Amanda Ballard, attorney and child advocate.

12:17:34 From Judy Kreiling : Does Ms Ballard have statistics on the number of ESE and ELL students at the private schools - % of total enrollment?

12:18:11 From Susan Harrigan : Private schools are much more than \$7,000.

12:20:32 From Barbara Brownell : Please ask Ms Ballard to explain the "low hanging fruit" concept. I don't understand how MsBallard used that term in referring to waste in the budget...

12:21:22 From Susie Copeland : What happens to teachers pay if and when milage sunsets? In 2018, special election cost \$300,000+ and \$400,000, why wasn't increase included in 2018?

12:22:23 From Phyllis Myers : How can you compare the cost per child between private and public schools. Private schools can take the 'cream of the crop' and get rid of students that are problems.

12:23:40 From Barbara Brownell : They also get contributions from their usually more wealthy parents

12:24:51 From Charlie Kennedy : Susie, the first mill was approved in March 2018 and went into effect for the 18-19 school year. Thus it expires on June 30, 2022. By renewing this November, we'll be able to continue from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

12:25:15 From Susie Copeland : In 2018 teachers received increase but also their work hours extended

12:25:40 From Charlie Kennedy : yes, teachers received an extra half hour per day of pay + the additional stipend pay.

12:28:08 From Barbara Brownell : Can Ms Saunders address some of the points Mr. Carman and Ms Ballard have made?

12:32:10 From Jeffrey Carman : And Ms Saunders was on the Committee that Approved that Failed Expenditure.

12:33:44 From Charlie Kennedy : ERP is a distraction that was paid for with capital funds, not operating. The millage is OPERATIONAL expenses.

12:35:47 From Charlie Kennedy : That's completely false.

12:39:04 From Judy Kreiling : Will Ms Saunders please explain where the money for the election comes from

12:39:16 From Gary H. : Charlie, it shows huge mismanagement by this District. Your comment is trying to distract people from the mismanagement.

12:40:37 From Richard Tatem : Question for Ms. Saunders - what % of the county 3rd graders are ESL students?

12:42:22 From Elaine Graham : Thanks you Dr. Cotton for addressing that parents care.

12:42:36 From Danny Burns : ACT scores range from 1-36. How could they increase by 100 points by taking 4 art classes?

12:43:09 From Jeffrey Carman : Parents Do Care, Thats why they show up to school board meetings and Rev ZGolden and others try to shut down their speech at the public hearings and 3 min time frame.

12:43:23 From Bruce Stamm : The June 15th cover letter from the Citizens Financial Oversight Committee to the School Board states in part "No definitive conclusions can be drawn at this time regarding the success of the Resolution in accomplishing its goals." This Cover Letter accompanies the entire 2020 CFOC Report.

12:43:39 From Ernie Withers : Sarasota County first passed their referendum for their schools in 2002 and has renewed and approved it 5 times. Pinellas county passed their referendum for their schools in 2004 and has approved and renewed it 4 times. IT'S WORKING in Pinellas county, IT'S WORKING in Sarasota and IT'S WORKING in MANATEE County.

12:43:47 From Barbara Brownell : What proof do you have for the "huge mismanagement" statement? I would be very interested in seeing that information.

12:44:47 From Barbara Brownell : Thank you Mr. Withers for that perspective. We must be competitive with our neighbors in order to attract workers.....

12:44:51 From Jeffrey Carman : I did not mention Mismanagement but will say that if ERP was changed to the alternative most school systems use, an instant \$1Million Savings would be seen on a yearly basis.

12:45:58 From Jeffrey Carman : what is ELL?

12:46:20 From Charlie Kennedy : English Language Learners (students whose first language is not English)

12:46:29 From Jeffrey Carman : Thanks

12:46:44 From Barbara Brownell : Can Ms Saunders address that comment by Mr. Carman? (about switching to another system and if that has been considered)

12:48:20 From Ernie Withers : For Cynthia Saunders....How many teachers was the district short prior to the referendum being passed compared to this school year ?

12:49:32 From Lisa Usher : What about the discrepancy between the assertion the the county spends \$12,000/student and the proponents' claim that we spend around \$7,000/student. Who can fact check that?

12:49:53 From Susie Copeland : If referendum doesn't pass, what happens to teachers pay increased in 2018?

12:50:32 From Charlie Kennedy : contingency plan = going back to pre-millage 2018 pay structures. (and extras paid for with millage go away STEM, Career and Tech Ed, etc)

12:51:03 From Jeffrey Carman : Teachers are Political Pawns for the School board and the Board and Superintendent suggest their pay will be cut even though they can afford to pay from the Core Tax rates.

12:51:04 From Charlie Kennedy : a no vote means pay cuts to teachers, paras, AFSCME and other hourly employees who serve kids.

12:51:31 From Richard Tatem : To Ms. Saunders. True or false. Failure to renew the millage will cost thousands of dollars of loss in annual salary for teachers, bus drivers, principals, and paraprofessionals - and there are not enough funds readily available, in other pots of money, to cover that shortfall, which amounts to about \$30 million dollars in salary and benefits for the salary groups mentioned above.

12:52:02 From Charlie Kennedy : Mr. Carman, we've been hearing that four years, but not one person (including two previous school board members) have identified a single dollar from the general budget to replace millage funds.

12:53:10 From Jeffrey Carman : Time to look hard... 10% of \$1B in the Budget can easily be determined as low hanging fruit or even as WASTE.

12:53:10 From Susan Harrigan : How many people will lose money if this doesn't pass?

12:53:18 From Susie Copeland : So there would be a decrease in pay

12:53:26 From Becky Canesse : ERP definition As an acronym that stands for enterprise resource planning, you can define ERP as a system that helps automate and manage business processes across finance, manufacturing, retail, supply chain, human resources, and operations.

12:53:40 From Charlie Kennedy : yes Susie, decrease in pay and loss of the extra half hour of instruction for kids.

12:54:09 From Gary H. : Charlie, you want to scare people with taking away their pay

12:54:42 From Charlie Kennedy : Mr. Carman, if you can identify any waste or "low hanging fruit", we're all ears. Gary H. we're trying to compete with other districts in a very competitive environment for teachers and employees.

12:54:52 From Susie Copeland : This is why teacher pay should be tied to general but and not a referendum.

12:55:02 From Jeffrey Carman : 333.5 million set aside for Salary, yet only 301 Million spent by end of year.

12:55:06 From Carol Whitmore : if anything is not spent in any budget they roll. Over to the next year.

12:55:28 From Jeffrey Carman : true carol

12:55:42 From Carol Whitmore : By law must have a balanced budget so rolls over, thanks Jeff!!

12:56:01 From Richard Tatem : To Mr. Kennedy. I have heard the term used that failure to renew the millage will result in "defunding teachers." Opponents of the millage say that phrase is "propaganda for the tax proponents." Will teachers be defunded if the millage fails, or is that just "tax proponent propaganda?"

12:56:10 From Charlie Kennedy : Susie, in a perfect world in which Florida wasn't 46th out of 50 states in per student funding, it would be in our general budget. It's not, therefore we have to go to our voters. Just like 22 other Florida counties have done.