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THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY
Special School Board Meeting – M I N U T E S
Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Tentative Budget (Approved 9/7/06)
Monday—July 31, 2006 / 5:05 p.m.

Attendees: Mr. Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Chairman
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Vice Chair
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Member
Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary & District Superintendent
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, Vice Chair
Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Board Member
Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney
Mrs. Denise Mangus, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER – The School Board of Lee County, Florida, met Monday, July 31, 2006 at 5:05 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room for a Special School Board Meeting to hold the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2007 Tentative Budget; Mr. Teuber presided. *Motion by Dr. Scricca, and second by Mrs. Dozier, carried 5-0 to accept the agenda as the Order of Business.* Dr. Browder thanked staff for their involvement/work as well as the Board for their many hours at budget Briefings, with latter providing ample time for information and questions.

II. PRESENTATION – Mr. Lee Legutko noted this first of two public hearings enables input in the proposed millage levy and the 2007 fiscal year budget; the total tentative budget is \$1.549 billion. Mrs. Ami Desamours proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation. She noted the actual calculated roll-back rate would be 5.90 mills (7.012 mills is actually being levied, which includes debt service millage). The 7.012 mills is .870 mills less than last year though it will generate more dollars than the previous year. This results in a school taxes’ decrease to a County taxpayer. The total proposed millage levy is as follows:

	<u>Tentative Millage Levy</u>	<u>Proposed \$ to be Raised</u>
RLE (required local effort) mills	4.408	\$374,799,479
Basic Discretionary mills	0.510	\$ 43,363,824
Capital Outlay mills	2.000	\$170,054,210
Supplemental Discretionary Mills	<u>0.094</u>	<u>\$ 7,992,548</u>
Total Mills	7.012	\$596,210,061

Homeowners who have a 3% increase in assessment and continue to qualify for \$25,000 homestead exemption will have a savings in taxes (\$100,000 home -- \$44.21; \$150,000 -- \$77.20; \$200 -- \$143.16). As presented at the July 10th workshop, the total proposed budget for all funds is \$1.549 million. The tentative budget explains each of our required funds such as the operating fund which is approximately 45% of the budget at \$696 million; debt service fund is approximately 3.5% at \$54 million; capital projects fund is at 45% or \$697 million; the special revenue (Food Service and Federal projects) is approximately 4.5% or \$70 million; and our internal service fund is at 2% or about \$31 million. Some key funded budgetary impactors included in the operating budget are: student growth, class size reduction, health insurance, property insurance, and salary increases.

III. PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed Millage Rates and Tentative Budget for 2006-07 – Mr. Teuber recessed the meeting at 5:33 p.m. and opened the public hearing, which is to consider the adoption of the Proposed Millage Rates and Tentative Budget for 2006-07. The public was invited to speak on this matter. Mr. John Traube noted the fine presentation and the impact/needs re

teachers; he stated that there was no mention of substitute teachers in the budget—again the forgotten group and feels there’s monumental steps backwards. Mr. Marvin Goetz noted problems in finding substitute teachers, monies in reserves and contingencies and inquired as to the District’s hold of the latter; he feels there may be considerable dollars (e.g., for sub teacher raises). Mr. Teuber closed the public hearing at 5:37 p.m.

IV. ADOPTION: Supplemental Discretionary Millage; Millage Resolution; and FY06-07 Tentative Budget – Motion made by Dr. Scricca, with Dr. Kuckel seconding, carried 5-0 to adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation of .094 mills for the Supplemental Discretionary Tentative Millage Levy.

Motion by Mrs. Dozier, with Dr. Kuckel seconding, carried 5-0 to adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation of .0510 Mills for the Basic Discretionary Tentative Millage Levy.

Motion by Dr. Scricca, with Dr. Kuckel seconding, carried 5-0 to adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation of 4.408 Mills for the Required Local Effort Tentative Millage Levy. Mr. Teuber noted this is required by state funding; the required local effort (millages set by the State) comes down from the State re school funds.

Motion by Dr. Kuckel, with Dr. Scricca seconding, carried 5-0 to adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation of 2.000 Mills for the Capital Outlay Tentative Millage Levy.

Motion was made by Mrs. Dozier, with Mr. Chilmonik seconding, to adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation of the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2006-07 in the total amount of \$1,549,876,636. Mr. Chilmonik noted concerns re the budget and can’t support it as presented; he feels there’s more money for teachers—we’re at a disadvantage competitively, he wants to workshop to look at the areas/cost savings, and he wants to talk more about the final budget. In response to Dr. Kuckel’s inquiry, the budget has been worked through/discussed at meetings at least six times. Motion carried 4-1, with Mr. Chilmonik dissenting.

V. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON FINAL MILLAGE LEVIES AND FINAL BUDGET FOR 2006-07 – Motion by Mrs. Dozier, with Dr. Scricca seconding, carried 5-0 for a Special Board Meeting on September 12, 2006 at 5:05 p.m. for a public hearing and adoption of the Final Millage Levies and Final Budget for 2006-07.

VI. ACCEPTANCE OF 2006-07 CERTIFICATE OF SCHOOL TAXABLE VALUE FOR LEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (Form DR420S) – Motion by Dr. Scricca, with Dr. Kuckel seconding, carried 5-0 for acceptance of the 2006-07 Certificate of School District/Form DR420S from the Lee County Property Appraiser and authorizes the Superintendent to complete and execute the form.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING: Amendment for Use of 2004-05 Millage Funds for Capital Outlay Projects – Chairman Teuber opened the public hearing at 5:45 p.m. and asked for the public to speak on this matter. Mr. Traube noted the role of Board Members and capital projects; he stated several receive contributions from builders, questioned what’s expected in return, and is there a conflict of interest—he wants to know if the Board is clean or should they abstain from voting. Mr. Teuber closed the public hearing and re-convened the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Motion was made

by Mrs. Dozier and seconded by Dr. Kuckel for the amendment for use of 2004-05 Millage Funds for Capital Outlay Projects. Mrs. Dozier responded it takes a lot of money to run campaigns but feels all sitting at table are honest and people with integrity; she noted we promote good government and to even insinuate Board Members taking contributions is less than credible of the person asking. What people receive is a good Board Member—one out in the community, one of integrity/honesty and one that promotes good government. Mrs. Dozier will be supporting the motion. Mr. Chilmonik noted that he did take contractor contributions in the last campaign but not this one; he noted openness and transparency and that one can go to the Elections website and see who’s contributing. Dr. Scricca asked Dr. Browder to comment re the implication of the Board having direct influences on contract recipients. Dr. Browder explained there’s a process, with all on the list brought in for interviews. We negotiate fairly tough contracts and the amounts. Dr. Browder makes the recommendation to the Board without Board involvement. The committee structure and evaluations for those contractors is done well to help assure the District’s receiving a quality product. Dr. Browder responded to Dr. Kuckel that this process was revised after he became Superintendent and it was confirmed scoring rubrics are used re the bids and are not discussed within the committee but are individually tabulated, with the numbers making the determination. In some counties, it’s a common practice for Board Members to be very active in the selection but not Lee. *Motion carried 5-0.*

VIII. BOARD MEMBERS, BOARD ATTORNEY, AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS --

Dr. Browder reiterated his pleasure with the whole comprehensive budget process; he appreciates the input of staff, the Board, Finance Committee, etc. (No one else had comments.)

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

/dwm

MINUTES BOOK NO. 41 - FY07

Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Chairman

ATTEST:

James W. Browder, Ed.D., Secretary and District Superintendent

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