



VISION  
*To be a world-class school system*

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY**  
**Special School Board Meeting – M I N U T E S (Approved 10/24/06)**  
**Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 Final Budget**  
**Tuesday—September 12, 2006 / 5:05 p.m.**

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

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**I. CALL TO ORDER** – The School Board of Lee County, Florida, met on Tuesday, September 12, 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 2006-07 Final Budget; Mr. Teuber presided. *Motion by Dr. Scricca, with second by Dr. Kuckel, carried 5-0 to accept the agenda as the Order of Business.*

**II. PRESENTATION** – Dr. Browder noted this is the second of two public hearings required under Florida Statutes. Ami Desamours, Budget Director, proceeded with a presentation (copy on file); she noted basically that the roll back rate is the millage which—when applied to the current year’s tax roll, is the net of new adjustments for new growth—and would produce the same dollars as received in the previous year. The actual calculated roll back rate would be 5.900 mills; we are levying 7.012 mills which excludes debt service millage. The proposed millage rate for 2006-07 is 7.012 mills—a decrease of .870 mills; this is fourth year in a row that the overall millage decreased. The new millage, although lower than last year, will generate more dollars than the previous—resulting in a tax decrease to the Lee County taxpayer for school taxes.

	<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 home--\$77.20; \$200,000 home--\$143.16). Total budget is \$1,576,356,995 and comprised of: \$710,074,276—General Fund; \$54,453,095—Debt Service; \$706,376,442—Capital

Projects; \$40,917,001—Special Revenue; \$27,768,813—Internal Service; and \$36,767,368—Food Services.

For FEFP revenue comparison: revenues for FY07 are \$569 million—includes \$31.1 million increase categoricals; tax roll certified (with new construction). General fund is budgeted at \$710.1 million (includes school budgets of \$442.2 million); 79,900 students are estimated (4,700 teachers; 246 more than last year). Operating revenues come from 73.56% local; 26.15% state (FEFP); and .30% federal. Monies go to: 71% instruction and direct school expenses, 12% operations/maintenance; 6% to student transportation; 3% to support services; 2% to other/administrative; and 5% contingency. Food Services, with \$36.7 million annually, have no dollars from operating as they're self-supporting (serve 61,300 meals daily; no lunch price changes incorporated in last 15 years).

Federal grants equal \$40.9 million (expected to grow to \$60 million during school year); over 200 proposals written. Re debt service, the District's outstanding debt is \$618,415,000. For capital projects, they're at \$706 million (includes \$22 million due to increased tax roll); expected within the budget year: 3 elementaries, 1 middle, 2 high schools, Transportation Center, and Administration Building (26 in five year plan). Re the internal service, it's budgeted at \$27.7 million—a decrease of about \$3 million from tentative (there's two separate funds within—self-insured health \$9.6 million and property/casualty and worker's compensation \$18.1 million).

Dr. Browder noted Lee is 9<sup>th</sup> in Florida (and in top 50 in the nation) size-wise. There are the strains of NCLB, strategic plan goals, etc. The successes are seen in reading—'A' schools increased, A++ accountability (we're 2 points shy of an 'A' District).

**III. PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed Millage Rates and Final Budget for 2006-07** – Mr.

Teuber recessed the meeting at 5:22 p.m. and opened the public hearing, to consider the adoption of the Proposed Millage Rates and Final Budget for 2006-07. The public's invited to speak on this. Les Cochran from San Carlos Park noted having tax exemption but not Save Our Homes; he's a 38-year educator. He asked a basic question that the Commissioners couldn't answer—budget is 12.5% higher, which is 4-5 times higher than cost of living; what proportion/planning perimeters are given to units and not more staff—what is the operations number. Mr. Martin noted Board Members (cannot respond now) can ask during discussion, before the vote, the same question. David Hall (Finance Advisory Committee Chair) noted his committee's meetings over the past 6+ months with Mrs. Desamours, Mrs. Letcher, Mr. Legutko (and Mr. Buckley) with questions answered; all went through the process the beginning of the year to end up with the numbers. Finance Advisory Committee asked numerous questions, with all answered satisfactory and they endorse this budget. Mr. Teuber closed the public hearing at 5:37.

**IV. ADOPTION: Supplemental Discretionary Millage; Millage Resolution; and FY06-07 Final Budget** – *Motion was made by Dr. Scricca, with Dr. Kuckel seconding, to adopt the Superintendent's recommendation of .094 mills for the Supplemental Discretionary*

*Tentative Millage Levy.* Mr. Chilmonik asked, per public comment question, if there’s a bottom line number. Mrs. Desamours noted, when looking at general fund in entirety—comparing to last year—it’s a 17% increase (number of personnel being pulled, property and casualty increases built in, electricity increases built in) and it’s 7-8% operations when looking at department operations; certain things affect percentages likes these. Dr. Browder noted 8.12% of increase according to the state/price level increase the District had this year (overall, state governments try to be around 8%). *Motion carried 5-0.*

*Motion by Dr. Kuckel, and second by Dr. Scricca, carried 5-0 to adopt the Superintendent’s recommendation of the final millage rates and revenues to be raised by resolution pursuant to Chapters 200 and 1011 of Florida Statute:*

	<u>Millage Levy</u>	<u>Proposed \$ to be Raised</u>
<i>Operating required local effort</i>	4.408	\$374,799,479
<i>Discretionary</i>	0.510	\$ 43,363,824
<i>Supplemental discretionary</i>	<u>0.094</u>	<u>\$ 7,992,548</u>
<i>Total operating</i>	5.012	\$426,155,851
<i>Capital Projects</i>	<u>2.000</u>	<u>\$170,054,210</u>
<i>Total Mills</i>	7.012	\$596,210,061

*Motion was made by Mr. Chilmonik, and seconded by Dr. Scricca, for the recommendation that the Board approve the final budget for fiscal year 2006-07 and resolution pursuant to Chapters 2100 and 1011 of Florida Statute:*

<i>General Operating</i>	\$ 710,074,275.69
<i>Special Revenue – Food Service</i>	\$ 36,767,367.80
<i>Special Revenue – Federal Grants</i>	\$ 40,917,000.97
<i>Debt Service</i>	\$ 54,453,094.86
<i>Capital Projects</i>	\$ 706,376,441.97
<i>Internal Services</i>	<u>\$ 27,768,813.27</u>
<i>Total Budget</i>	\$1,576,356,994.56

Mr. Chilmonik commended the nice budget book and the info for the public this afternoon; he’s supporting today though he didn’t on the Tentative, but feels a need to look for more money for teachers. Dr. Kuckel noted the work on the budget at almost five different budget meetings; the details have all been gone through (it’s not just this afternoon) and it’s a rigorous process. Mrs. Dozier noted the process and that every department goes through, justifying monies asked for. Mr. Hall mentioned earlier today about sales tax; as we continue to grow and look for dollars, Mrs. Dozier questions if there’s a more equitable way for funding (burden now is on property owners). There need to be discussions at a Briefing to bring relief to some of the different groups to be fair/equitable. Dr. Browder and staff have done an outstanding job; Mrs. Dozier further commented the document is user-friendly, and she’ll be supporting. In addressing Mr. Cochran’s concerns, Mr. Teuber noted stepping back through his book and dollars are shown (where it comes in and goes out/all questions). *Motion carried 5-0.*

V. **BOARD MEMBERS, BOARD ATTORNEY, AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS** -- Thanks were extended to the Budget Department. Dr. Scricca echoed congratulations to staff for budget preparation and the document is user-friendly; she asked if this could be put on the web; pieces will be able to (very large document). Mr. Chilmonik noted putting it on as a PDF file. Dr. Kuckel requested Mr. Cochran speak to Mr. Legutko and the Budget Department. Mr. Teuber also thanked the Budget Department, Finance Committee (noting the new year will be starting for the process).

VI. **ADJOURNMENT** – Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

/dwm

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*MINUTES BOOK NO. 41 - FY07*

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**Steven K. Teuber, J.D.,** Chairman

ATTEST:

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

<p><i>An audio/visual tape of this meeting has been produced to provide a verbatim record of the proceedings. Members of the public may obtain a copy of the tape of any meeting by making a request for such through the Communications Department and paying the actual cost of copying the tape. Members of the public may view any Board meeting tape at the Communications Department at no cost. Anyone wishing to view a Board meeting tape should contact the Communications Department at 337-8327 to make such a request.</i></p>
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