



**VISION:**  
*To be a world-class school system.*

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY**  
**Special School Board Meeting – Minutes**  
**Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2009 Final Budget**  
**(School Board Meeting Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, FL)**  
**Tuesday, September 9, 2008 – 5:05 P.M.**

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**Attending**

Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Chairman	Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary and District Superintendent
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Vice Chairman	Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Member	
Mr. Steven K. Teuber, J.D. Member	Mrs. Donna Lesansky, Recording Secretary
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, Member	

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**I. Call to Order**

The School Board of Lee County, Florida, met Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 5:05 P.M. in the School Board Meeting Room for a Special School Board Meeting to conduct the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2009 Final Budget. Chairman Jeanne Dozier presided.

*Motion by Mr. Teuber, seconded by Dr. Scricca and carried 5-0 to accept the agenda as the Order of Business.*

**II. Presentation**

Mr. Lee Legutko noted that this is the second of two public hearings required under Florida Statutes to allow the public an opportunity to provide input with regard to the proposed millage levy and the 2009 Fiscal Year budget. He added that the total proposed final budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 is \$1.551 billion.

Mr. Legutko referred to a package of material that the Board previously received. He explained that this evening's public hearing was noticed through a direct mailing to the public from the Property Appraiser's office.

Mr. Legutko continued with a PowerPoint presentation. *(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be filed with the official minutes.)* He noted that the actual calculated roll back rate is 7.9856 mills; however, only 6.868 mills is actually being levied, which represents a 14% decrease from the roll back rate. Mr. Legutko explained that this is the second year in a row that there is a decrease in the roll back rate and that this is occurring as a result of last year's tax roll increase (8%), combined with this year's decrease (8%).

Mr. Legutko further stated that the proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 is 6.868 mills, which represents a decrease of .092 mills from last year's millage rate of 6.960 mills. He explained that this is the sixth year in a row that the overall millage rate has decreased.

Mr. Legutko outlined the proposed millage levy as follows:

	<u>Tentative Millage Levy</u>	<u>Proposed \$ to be Raised</u>
RLE (required local effort)	4.523	\$380,697,137
Basic Discretionary	0.498	\$ 41,916,245
Capital Outlay	1.750	\$147,296,040
Supplemental Discretionary	<u>0.097</u>	<u>\$ 8,164,409</u>
Total Mills	6.868	\$578,073,831

Mr. Legutko stated that the total 2008-2009 budget for all funds is \$1,551,292,507. He explained that the operating fund at \$770 million represents approximately 50% of the budget; the debt service fund at \$53 million approximately 3.4%; the capital projects fund at \$512 million represents approximately 33%; the special revenue fund at \$93 million represents approximately 6%; and the internal service fund at \$122 million represents approximately 7.8%. Mr. Legutko noted that the majority of the budget, 70%, is dedicated to instruction and direct school expenses.

Mr. Legutko reviewed additional information contained in the PowerPoint presentation related to the following: FEFP revenue, budget facts, general fund, source of operating revenues and how the funds are apportioned, debt service, capital budget, food services, special revenue, and internal service fund.

With the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Browder presented his recommendations for this evening's Public Hearing items.

- (1.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the 2008-09 Final Proposed Supplemental Discretionary Millage of .097 mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$8,164,409.
- (2.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the 2008-2009 Final Proposed Required Local Effort Millage of 4.523 mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$380,697,137.
- (3.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the 2008-2009 Final Proposed Basic Discretionary Millage of .498 mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$41,916,245.
- (4.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the 2008-2009 Final Proposed Capital Outlay Millage of 1.750 with a proposed amount to be raised of \$147,296,040. The total Millage will equal 6.868 Mills with a total amount to be raised of \$578,073,831. The total Millage rate to be levied does not exceed the roll back rate. It is a decrease in the roll back rate of 14%.
- (5.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the Resolution determining revenues and millages levied and the Resolution adopting the final Millage rates for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
- (6.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the Final Budget and related Resolution adopting the Final Budget for the 2008-2009 school year as follows: General Operating in the amount of \$770,400,478; Special Revenue Budget in the amount of \$92,772,109; Debt Service Budget in the amount of \$53,377,190; Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$512,479,761; Internal Service Budget in the amount of \$122,262,969, for a total Tentative Budget of \$1,551,292,507.

### III. Public Hearing

Mrs. Dozier recessed the Special Board Meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 5:25 P.M. to consider the adoption of the Final Millage Levies and the Final Budget for 2008-09. She asked if anyone would like to address the Board regarding the six issues on the agenda for Public Hearing, as outlined by the Superintendent.

*Dorothy Smith* asked the Board to support the Superintendent's recommendations for the budget.

*Sue Jacobse* stated the importance of communicating to legislators that they are not adequately funding public education.

There being no further requests, Mrs. Dozier closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.

### IV. Adoption

#### (1.) Supplemental Discretionary Millage:

**Motion** by Mr. Chilmonik and **seconded** by Mr. Teuber to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the 2008-09 Final Proposed Supplemental Discretionary Millage of .097 Mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$8,164,409.

Mr. Chilmonik stated that he would be unable to support any of the Superintendent's recommendations this evening for the following reasons: he feels that there has not been adequate discussion regarding long- and short-term reductions and savings in the District; he feels that flexibility in the capital side of the budget for the Superintendent still needs to be discussed; and he feels that the current budget will not provide adequate support for the classroom.

**Motion carried 4-1**, with Mr. Chilmonik casting the vote in opposition to the Motion.

#### (2.) Required Local Effort Millage:

**Motion** by Dr. Scricca, **seconded** by Mr. Teuber, and **carried 4-1**, with Mr. Chilmonik casting the vote in opposition to the Motion, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the 2008-2009 Final Proposed Required Local Effort Millage of 4.523 Mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$380,697,137.

#### (3.) Basic Discretionary Millage:

**Motion** by Mr. Teuber, **seconded** by Dr. Kuckel, and **carried 4-1**, with Mr. Chilmonik casting the vote in opposition to the Motion, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the 2008-2009 Final Proposed Basic Discretionary Millage of .498 Mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$41,916,245.

#### (4.) Capital Outlay Millage:

**Motion** by Dr. Kuckel, **seconded** by Dr. Scricca, and **carried 4-1**, with Mr. Chilmonik casting the vote in opposition to the Motion, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the 2008-2009 Final Proposed Capital Outlay Millage of 1.750 with a proposed amount to be raised of \$147,296,040. The total millage will equal 6.868 Mills with a total amount to be

raised of \$578,073,831. The total millage rate to be levied does not exceed the roll back rate. It is a decrease in the roll back rate of 14 %.

(5.) Resolution:

**Motion** by Dr. Kuckel, **seconded** by Mr. Teuber, and **carried 4-1**, with Mr. Chilmonik casting the vote in opposition to the Motion, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the Resolution determining revenues and millages levied and the Resolution adopting the final Millage rates for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

(6.) FY08 Tentative Budget and Related Resolution:

**Motion** by Dr. Scricca, **seconded** by Mr. Teuber, and **carried 4-1**, with Mr. Chilmonik casting the vote in opposition to the Motion, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the Final Budget and related Resolution adopting the Final Budget for the 2008-2009 School Year as follows: General Operating in the amount of \$770,400,478; Special Revenue Budget in the amount of \$92,772,109; Debt Service Budget in the amount of \$53,377,190; Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$512,479,761; Internal Service Budget in the amount of \$122,262,969 for a total Tentative Budget of \$1,551,292,507.

**V. Comments: Board Members, Board Attorney, Superintendent (None)**

**VI. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Dr. Scricca, **seconded** by Mr. Teuber, and **carried 5-0** to adjourn the September 9, 2008, Special School Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

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**Jeanne S. Dozier.,** Chairman

ATTEST:

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

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.