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THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY
Special School Board Meeting – Minutes
Public Hearing on the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Tentative Budget
(School Board Meeting Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, FL)
Thursday, July 29, 2010

Attending

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

I. Call to Order

The School Board of Lee County, Florida, met on Thursday, July 29, 2010, in the School Board Meeting Room for a Special School Board Meeting to conduct the Public Hearing on the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Tentative Budget. Chairman Steven Teuber presided and called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M.

Motion by Mrs. Dozier, seconded by Dr. Scricca and carried 4-0 to accept the agenda as the Order of Business.

II. Presentation

Dr. Browder told the Board that he was very pleased to submit this budget to them. He stated that this is the first year in three years that it has not been necessary to make deep cuts, and that every attempt has been made to affect employees, schools, and the community as little as possible. He thanked the Budget Department and all those who contributed to bringing the budget together for their hard work and hours of planning.

Dr. Ami Desamours noted that this is the first 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 2011 Fiscal Year budget, as well as strategies to meet class size requirements. She added that the Superintendent submitted his proposed tentative budget packet to the Board on July 24th.

Dr. Desamours explained that notice of this evening's Public Hearing was advertised in the July 27th edition of *The Fort Myers News-Press*; and that the notice for the second and final budget Public Hearing, which, if approved by the Board, will be scheduled for September 14th, will be through a direct mailing to the public from the Property Appraiser's office. She added that the manner in which these hearings are advertised is prescribed by law.

Dr. Desamours continued with a PowerPoint presentation. (*A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file with the official minutes.*) She noted that the calculated roll back rate is 8.787 mills; however, only 8.015 mills is actually being levied, which represents an 8.79% decrease from the

roll back rate. Dr. Desamours explained that the proposed millage rate for the 2010-2011 school year is 8.015 mills, which is an increase of .507 mills from the 2009-2010 millage rate of 7.508 mills. She added that this is the second time in eight years that the overall millage rate has increased; and that this is totally due to an increase in required local effort, as dictated by the state, and is caused by the sharp decline in the tax roll. Dr. Desamours explained that the new millage rate will generate less dollars (\$34.9 million less) than the previous year because of the decrease in the tax roll.

Dr. Desamours outlined the proposed millage levy as follows:

	<u>Tentative Millage Levy</u>	<u>Proposed \$ to be Raised</u>
Required Local Effort (RLE)	5.767	\$326,535,777
Basic Discretionary	0.748	\$ 42,352,829
Critical Operating	0.250	\$ 14,155,358
Capital Outlay	<u>1.250</u>	<u>\$ 70,776,786</u>
Total Millages	<u>8.015</u>	<u>\$453,820,750</u>

Dr. Desamours stated that the total proposed 2010-2011 budget for all funds is \$1,395,672,389. She explained that the operating fund at \$733,778,867 million represents approximately 52.6% of the budget; the debt service fund at \$48,903,428 million approximately 3.5%; the capital projects fund at \$377,169,583 million represents approximately 27%; the special revenue fund at \$125,142,028 million represents approximately 9%; and the internal service fund at \$110,678,483 million represents approximately 7.9%.

Mrs. Desamours explained that budget funds are apportioned as follows: instruction and direct school expenses, 66%; operations/maintenance, 12%; contingency reserve, 11%; student transportation, 7%; support services, 3%; and other, 1%.

Dr. Desamours stated that class size strategies must also be discussed as part of this evening's Public Hearing, particularly what strategies the District is developing in order to meet class size requirements during the coming school year. She outlined both Phase I and Phase II, noting that Phase II will only be implemented if the vote does not pass in November.

Dr. Browder informed the Board that he is pleased to endorse this budget, which supports 114 schools, approximately 81,000 students, and the initiatives of the state and the District's Strategic Plan. He added that the Lee County School District is one of only nine districts that has improved every year for the past six years; that the District has more "A" schools (60) than ever before; that the graduation rate is the highest ever and that the dropout rate is the lowest ever; and that the District remains focused on continuous improvement. Dr. Browder concluded by acknowledging that despite all of these accomplishments and the fact that the Lee County School District is an "A" school district, there is still much more work to do to reach every child.

III. Public Hearing

Mr. Teuber recessed the Special Board Meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 5:25 P.M. to consider the adoption of the tentative proposed Millage Rates, the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Tentative Budget, and class size strategies. He asked Dr. Browder to present his recommendations for this evening's Public Hearing items.

- (1.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the 2010-2011 tentative proposed required local effort millage of 5.767 mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$326,535,777. The RLE millage includes basic RLE of 5.731, and a prior period adjustment millage of .036.
- (2.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the 2010-2011 tentative proposed basic discretionary millage of .748 mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$42,352,829.
- (3.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the 2010-2011 tentative proposed critical operating millage of .250 mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$14,155,358.
- (4.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the 2010-2011 tentative proposed capital outlay millage of 1.250 with a proposed amount to be raised of \$70,776,786. The total millage will equal 8.015 mills with a total amount to be raised of \$453,820,750. The total millage rate to be levied does not exceed the roll back rate. It is a decrease in the roll back rate of 8.79%.
- (5.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the Resolution Determining Revenues and Millages Levied and the Resolution Adopting the Tentative Millage Rates for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011.
- (6.) That the Lee County School Board adopt the tentative budget and related resolution adopting the tentative budget for the 2010-2011 school year as follows: General Operating in the amount of \$733,778,867; Special Revenue Budget in the amount of \$125,142,028; Debt Service Budget in the amount of \$48,903,428; Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$377,169,583; and Internal Service Budget in the amount of \$110,678,483, for a total Tentative Budget of \$1,395,672,389.
- (7.) That the Lee County School Board accept the 2010 Certification of Taxable Value for Lee County, Form 420S, and authorize the Superintendent to complete and execute the form.
- (8.) That the Lee County School Board schedule a Public Hearing on the final 2010-2011 millage levies, final budget, and class size strategies for the 2010-2011 school year for Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at a specially scheduled Board Meeting, to begin at 5:05 p.m. in the Lee County Public Education Center Board Room.

Mr. Teuber asked if anyone would like to address the Board regarding the aforementioned issues on the agenda for Public Hearing, as well as strategies to meet class size requirements.

David Hall (Chairman of the Finance Advisory Committee) stated that they [members of the Committee] have witnessed throughout the year the budget development process and that he is very pleased to see that everything is coming together.

There being no additional requests, Mr. Teuber closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Board Meeting at 5:32 P.M.

IV. Adoption

(1.) Required Local Effort Millage:

Motion by Mrs. Dozier, **seconded** by Dr. Kuckel, and **carried 4-0** to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board adopt the 2010-2011 tentative proposed required local effort millage of 5.767 mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$326,535,777. The RLE millage includes basic RLE of 5.731, and a prior period adjustment millage of .036.

(2.) Basic Discretionary Millage:

Motion by Dr. Kuckel, **seconded** by Dr. Scricca and **carried 4-0** to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board adopt the 2010-2011 tentative proposed basic discretionary millage of .748 mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$42,352,829.

(3.) Critical Needs Millage:

Motion by Dr. Scricca, **seconded** by Dr. Kuckel and **carried 4-0** to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board adopt the 2010-2011 tentative proposed critical operating millage of .250 mills with a proposed amount to be raised of \$14,155,358.

(4.) Capital Outlay Millage:

Motion by Mrs. Dozier, **seconded** by Dr. Kuckel, and **carried 4-0** to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board adopt the 2010-2011 tentative proposed capital outlay millage of 1.250 with a proposed amount to be raised of \$70,776,786. The total millage will equal 8.015 mills with a total amount to be raised of \$453,820,750. The total millage rate to be levied does not exceed the roll back rate. It is a decrease in the roll back rate of 8.79%.

(5.) Resolution:

Motion by Dr. Scricca, **seconded** by Mrs. Dozier, and **carried 4-0** to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board adopt the Resolution Determining Revenues and Millages Levied and the Resolution Adopting the Tentative Millage Rates for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

(6.) FY11 Tentative Budget and Related Resolution:

Motion by Mrs. Dozier, **seconded** by Dr. Scricca, and **carried 4-0** to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board adopt the tentative budget and related resolution adopting the tentative budget for the 2010-2011 school year as follows: General Operating in the amount of \$733,778,867; Special Revenue Budget in the amount of \$125,142,028; Debt Service Budget in the amount of \$48,903,428; Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$377,169,583; and Internal Service Budget in the amount of \$110,678,483, for a total Tentative Budget of \$1,395,672,389.

(7.) Acceptance of the 2010 Certification of Taxable Value:

Motion by Dr. Kuckel, **seconded** by Dr. Scricca and **carried 4-0** to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board accept the 2010 Certification of Taxable Value for Lee County, Form 420S, and authorize the Superintendent to complete and execute the form.

(8.) Scheduling of Final Budget Public Hearing

Motion by Dr. Scricca, **seconded** by Mrs. Dozier, and **carried 4-0** to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to schedule a Public Hearing on the final 2010-2011 millage levies, final budget, and class size strategies for the 2010-2011 school year for Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at a specially scheduled Board Meeting, to begin at 5:05 p.m. in the Lee County Public Education Center Board Room.

V. Comments

Mrs. Dozier, Dr. Scricca, and Dr. Kuckel thanked everyone for their hard work and the community for its support

Mr. Teuber: stated that the proposal to hire retired teachers as one of the class size strategies was discussed at the last Public Schools Foundation meeting and that it is a wise decision

Dr. Browder: no comments

Mr. Martin: no comments

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Dr. Scricca, **seconded** by Mrs. Dozier, and **carried 4-0** to adjourn the July 29, 2010, Special School Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 P.M.

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

ATTEST:

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

An audio-visual recording of this meeting has been produced to provide a verbatim record of the proceedings and may be viewed on the School District's Website at www.lee schools.net/stream Members of the public wishing to obtain a copy of the recording of this or any meeting of the School Board must make a request through the District's Communications Department at (239) 337-8327.