

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF **BUDGET** WORKSHOP
December 16, 2008

The Board met in workshop session duly called at 3 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Tina Pinkoson, Chairman; F. Wesley Eubank, Vice-Chairman; Ginger Childs, Eileen F. Roy, and Barbara Sharpe, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Pinkoson.

INTRODUCTION/
COMMENTS

Superintendent Dan Boyd gave a brief introduction and stated that serious challenges will have to be addressed this year. The latest report is that there will be a 10-12% cut in state funding.

Dr. Boyd then turned the meeting over to Mr. Keith Birkett, Assistant Superintendent, Planning and Budget, and Mr. Scott Ward, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Birkett noted that there is no agenda for this meeting, since it is intended to be an opportunity to informally discuss the budget issues facing the District.

Mr. Ed Gable, Executive Director, Facilities, summarized information from the recent Capital Outlay Workshop. Potential school sites include two in High Springs, both of which would be donated by landowners; four in the Jonesville area, one would be donated by landowner/developer and three are for sale; and one in Newberry, which would be donated by a developer. Mr. Gable proposed that staff and consultants provide specific information to the Board after the first of the year. He also suggested that data be extracted on the zoning impact of each of the sites.

Brief discussion was held, including a previous suggestion on use of the Newberry property being used for a high school, rather than having two elementary schools so close together. Mrs. Childs felt the financial feasibility must be carefully considered and requested specific information.

ONE MILL
BUDGET

Mr. Birkett referred to the importance of establishing the budget for the one-mill monies. To that end, a proposed spending plan was presented.

Mr. Eubank making suggestions of how the budget information might be presented, for ease in understanding.

Mrs. Sharpe emphasized the importance of developing the budget strictly in accordance with referendum language and cautioned against assuming that Medicaid funds will be forthcoming, until actual receipt.

Mrs. Childs believes that the one-mill may not initially bring in as much money as anticipated and felt that funds must be allocated with that in mind. Funding may have to be prioritized. She does not want any monies to be spent that are not school-based.

ANALYSIS OF
2008-09 July 16,
2008 CERTIFICA-
TION OF RLE
COMPARED
TO 2005-2006
CERTIFICATION
OF RLE

Mr. Ward reviewed the Analysis of 2008-2009 July 16, 2008, Certification of RLE compared to 2005-2006 July 15, 2005, Certification of RLE, noting the November 10, 2008, Holdback of \$3.7 million , a November 23, Estimating Conference (Est. Amount) of \$4.3 million, and an Estimated 2009-2010 Reduction of \$12 million.

2009-2010
BUDGET
WORKSHEET

Mr. Ward reviewed the 2009-2010 Budget Worksheet. Mrs. Childs asked Mr. Birkett if staff was prepared to expand on the Worksheet. He indicated this was a very preliminary work document and was not prepared at this time to elaborate.

Mrs. Pinkoson inquired about ballot language regarding art and music. Mr. Birkett indicated that the language was specific to elementary schools only.

Mr. Ward spoke briefly on direct billing to grants and Head Start. It is costing the district approximately \$750,000 with the in-kind services. Direct billing would be included in grant.

Mrs. Childs requested that staff ensure Transportation and Maintenance costs were included for reimbursement. She reiterated that K-12 education must be our top priority during these difficult times as we address cuts.

TRIM CALENDAR
AND ANALYSIS
OF GENERAL
FUND STAFFING

Mr. Ward reviewed the 2009-2010 Tentative TRIM Calendar, noting changes in dates for this year per statute guidelines. He also reviewed the Analysis of General Fund Staffing for 2008-2009.

Mr. Eubank questioned if there were consolidations planned.

Dr. Boyd indicated we have under enrolled schools. We will have an elementary principal retiring and expect some restructuring; however, there is no specific recommendation at this time.

Mr. Eubank would like to look at the small elementary schools, and suggested that these are good places for first-time principals to start their careers.

Mrs. Sharpe emphasized that prior to any decisions being made on school consolidations, conversations will include residents and the community of the particular area being considered, as well as input from staff.

BOARD
DISCUSSION

With regards to departmental positions, Mrs. Childs inquired as to how and when we begin discussion regarding potential changes. For example, with the adoption and implementation of the new Infinite Campus software at the schools, computer responsibilities should be shifting from district. Mr. Birkett assured the Board those discussions were already occurring.

Mrs. Roy shared with the Board some suggestions given at a Tampa conference where school boards may look to reduce budgets. She suggested that monies be budgeted and allocated for each school based on their previous year's energy consumption.

Mr. Birkett indicated we do budget schools at the previous year's energy consumption plus additional anticipated costs.

Mr. Eubank suggested that perhaps the mainframe cost can be returned to the general fund if we were able to transfer staff, using the 1 mill technology money.

Mrs. Pinkoson stated she would like to proceed with our budget workgroups as last year; however, rather than having each department present, she suggested that Dr. Boyd and staff provide the Board with recommendations. She reiterated that there are hard decisions that must be made. In addition, she expressed a desire for the Board to meet earlier than later to discuss consolidation of students.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.