

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
July 31, 2003

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in special session duly called at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Jeannine Cawthon, chairman; Barbara Sharpe, vice-chairman; Virginia S. Childs, F. Wesley Eubank, and Tina Turner, members; Jim Robinson, staff attorney, and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board. Superintendent Mary Chambers was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cawthon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Mrs. Turner Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adopt the agenda for the special meeting of July 31, 2003, as presented.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The special Board meeting was recessed and a public hearing convened.

PUBLIC HEARING TO
CONSIDER AND TAKE
ACTION ON THE
ADOPTION OF THE
TENTATIVE MILLAGE
AND THE TENTATIVE
BUDGET FOR THE 2003-
2004 FISCAL YEAR

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, Planning, Budgeting and Systems Accountability, stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to approve the 2003-04 Tentative Millage and \$271.7 million dollar Budget. He noted that the required ads appeared in *The Gainesville Sun* on Sunday, July 27, 2003.

He explained that a Rolled Back Millage is a millage that when applied to the new tax roll generates the same amount of money as it did in the previous year. The district is required to advertise proposed millages compared to the Roll Back Rate to show the increase.

He provided a comparison of the 2002-2003 Actual Millage of 10.466 to the 2003-2004 Proposed Total Millage of 9.839, or a 5.99% reduction in actual millages. For taxpayers, the proposed millage rate is 9.84 mills, or \$9.839 for every \$1,000 of taxable property value, which is slightly less than last year.

Mr. Eubank informed the public that the two-mile courtesy busing issue will be revisited at the August 5, 2003, Board meeting.

Several citizens addressed the Board and made the following requests:

- Urged the Board to reconsider the two-mile courtesy busing issue.
- ACEA urged the board to make salaries for teachers and employees their number one priority; to look closely at the food service budget to insure they pay their fair share, review exorbitant requests such as electricity and administrative salaries, begin to

give credit for career service experience and bring the salary range up to date with the cost of living each year in order to attract new employees and retain current employees.

- A representative from the City of Alachua presented a letter to the Board and urged them to reconsider the two-mile busing issue and take into consideration the impact of the traffic issue.
- Representatives from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, addressed the Board regarding the elimination of the two-mile courtesy busing and urged the Board to work together to ensure the safety of students associated with the necessity of hiring additional crossing guards.
- Urged the Board to improve and increase teacher salaries.
- Representatives from the Gainesville Police Department addressed the Board regarding the Cops in School grant, which was entered into with the City of Gainesville and Department of Juvenile Justice in 1999. The grant expired July 31, 2003, and during budget deliberations the Board agreed to fund two positions, but one position was not funded, which is the investigator position, which is very critical and follows-up on crimes that occur at the school as well as in the community in order to prevent violence in schools. Urged the Board to reconsider the investigator position and include it in the budget.

ADOPTION OF THE
TENTATIVE MILLAGE
FOR THE 2003-2004
FISCAL YEAR

Mr. Terry Tougaw read Millage Resolution #1 as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY FOR THE 2003-2004 FISCAL YEAR:

	ROLLED BACK RATE MILLS	PROPOSED 2003-2004 MILLS	INCREASE -DECREASE MILLS	PERCENT CHANGE
REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT	5.583	5.796	0.213	3.82%
DISCRETIONARY	0.480	0.510	0.030	
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY	0.196	0.188	-0.008	
CAPITAL IMPROVE- MENT (2.000 MILLS)	1.883	2.000	0.117	
TOTAL	8.235	8.646	0.411	

THE TOTAL MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED IS MORE THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO

SECTION 200.065(1), F.S., BY 4.32 PERCENT.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the adoption of Millage Resolution #1 as amended and read.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Tougaw read Millage Resolution #2 as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY FOR THE 2003-2004 FISCAL YEAR:

	ROLLED BACK RATE MILLS	PROPOSED 2003-2004 MILLS	INCREASE -DECREASE MILLS
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY	0.196	0.188	-0.008

Motion by Mrs. Turner Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the adoption of Millage Resolution #2 as read.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Tougaw read Millage Resolution #3 as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY FOR THE 2003-2004 FISCAL YEAR:

	2002-2003 ACTUAL MILLAGE	PROPOSED 2003-2004 MILLS	INCREASE -DECREASE MILLS	PERCENT CHANGE
DEBT SERVICE	1.820	1.345	-0.475	-26.10%

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to approve the adoption of Millage Resolution #3 as read.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF THE
TENTATIVE MILLAGE
FOR THE 2003-2004
FISCAL YEAR

Staff noted there was an error in Millage Resolution #1 as read.

On motion by Mr. Eubank and seconded by Mrs. Sharpe, Millage Resolution #1 was reconsidered and on motion by Mrs. Sharpe and

seconded by Mr. Eubank, Millage Resolution #1 was amended to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY FOR THE 2003-2004 FISCAL YEAR:

	ROLLED BACK RATE MILLS	PROPOSED 2003-2004 MILLS	INCREASE -DECREASE MILLS	PERCENT CHANGE
REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT	5.583	5.796	0.213	3.82%
DISCRETIONARY	0.480	0.510	0.030	
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY	0.196	0.188	-0.008	
CAPITAL IMPROVE- MENT (2.000 MILLS)	1.883	2.000	0.117	
TOTAL	8.142	8.494	0.352	

THE TOTAL MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED IS MORE THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065(1), F.S., BY 4.32 PERCENT.

The question was called upon Millage Resolution #1 as read.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOTION OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE 2003-2004 FISCAL YEAR

Mr. Tougaw read the Budget Resolution as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, HEREBY ADOPTS THE TENTATIVE PROPOSED BUDGET DATED JULY 22, 2003, WHICH CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2003-2004 FISCAL YEAR:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>
GENERAL	\$178,183,478.00
SPECIAL REVENUE	25,655,751.00
DEBT SERVICE	12,938,823.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS	<u>54,948,443.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$271,726,495.00</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, MAY EXPEND MONIES BASED ON ITS TENTATIVE BUDGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH F.S. 200.065 AND 1011.08.

Motion by Mrs. Turner

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the adoption of Budget Resolution as read.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The public hearing was adjourned and the special board meeting reconvened.

Mrs. Childs felt compelled to correct some insinuations, which were brought up during the public hearing regarding the School Board being reluctant or refusing to pay teachers and staff good salaries. She believes the entire Board would like to give substantial raises to every employee, as well as fund the many important projects to improve the school system. Unfortunately, the Board is charged with the responsibility of prioritizing how best to spend the district's money and no one will ever agree with the how the Board prioritizes. She pointed out that sometimes the Board is forced to cut programs and projects, i.e., block scheduling because money is needed to be able to continue to do the things that are good for kids, i.e., materials and supplies for teachers and staff. As long as the Board does not have more money coming in, the Board will continue to prioritize. There is not one Board member who would deliberately not pay employees better salaries. She pointed out that the Board reviewed the budget several times in public in order to find places where cuts could be made. Close to one million dollars was cut from administrative personnel at Kirby-Smith, in spite of the fact that the state did not fully fund the class-size reduction initiative in order to meet the obligations the Board promised last year. and the Board will fulfill those promises. There is not enough money to do everything that everyone wants, but the Board is charged with coming up with the very best compromise. She feels there is an advantage to the three new board members having worked for the school system. The Board appreciates teachers and staff and will always look for ways to fund higher salaries and will continue to do the very best possible job for the students, staff, and the people of the community.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.