

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
July 29, 1999

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: Bill Cake, chairman; Barbara Sharpe, vice-chairman; Judy Brashear, and Chester Leathers, members; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board. Bev Carroll, member was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cake.

A public hearing was scheduled to consider and take action on the adoption of the Tentative Millage and the Tentative Budget for the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

PUBLIC HEARING TO
CONSIDER AND TAKE
ACTION ON THE
ADOPTION OF THE
TENTATIVE MILLAGE
AND THE TENTATIVE
BUDGET FOR THE 1999-
2000 FISCAL YEAR

The public hearing was opened to take input on the Adoption of the Tentative Millage. Dr. Mary Chambers, assistant superintendent, Business Services, noted that information on the required resolutions for the millage and budget is available for those in the audience.

There was no input from the public on the Adoption of the Tentative Millage.

Dr. Chambers clarified that the administration is requesting approval of the tentative budget as stated on schedule II and consensus from the Board to fill positions critical to the opening of school. The final adoption of the budget is not until September, and the district has the authority under statute 200.065 to continue with ordinary expenditures until the budget is approved.

Mrs. Barbara Gallant, Pro Kids Consult, does not feel the budget reflects the needs of students and teachers. In reviewing the expansion budget, she noted 25 new positions outside the classroom and is very concerned about this. She reviewed other concerns throughout the budget information provided and received input from staff. She requests the Board seriously reconsider the proposed 25 new non-classroom positions and replace them with additional teachers.

Mrs. Brashear noted that the Board has not had discussion on what changes it wants in the budget based on the school improvement plan. She is thinking of this as a tentative budget and wants to talk about what can be done differently especially with the "D" schools and the "A" schools. She noted that she is always concerned about the time cycle of when things have to happen and what it means in terms of impact. She views the budget as tentative after it has been adopted; it can be amended. She also noted that when the Board gets around to discussing school improvement plans, there will be discussion of some of the things talked about whether it will have an impact this year or the next. This year is one set of criteria for the grades and the next year another set and the next a very different set.

With regard to the concern of more attention to new personnel jobs away from the classroom, she noted that one of the ways kids in lower achieving schools can be helped is by the use of data, and people that help manage data are going to impact programs in curriculum.

Mrs. Brashear requested how the non-classroom positions will impact students and teachers in classes and asked if there is less support in the budget than in previous year.

Mrs. Childs noted that it is not less support but more. Referring to the expansion budget sheet, she noted the left hand column is the wish list throughout the district. The right hand column where there are blanks are areas not brought forward because it was felt considering the budget, the class sizes and the number of students and challenges teachers are having, it was not a good time. Some positions referred to are not being recommended at this time. Curriculum support is particularly focused on the elementary school. We have a limited number of positions with which we are flexible. We have four positions in the current budget that we are reassigning to elementary schools—a model clustering schools according to need. The director of elementary curriculum has been reassigned to director of charter schools and school compliance issues. We need a director of elementary curriculum and cluster schools to coordinate with the schools what their needs and concerns are specifically in math. Our math supervisor is spread among 46 school sites. We are requesting a secondary supervisor to free up more resources for the elementary schools.

Dr. Leathers asked for an explanation on Duval receiving a “D” grade. Mrs. Childs noted that at Duval the focus was on areas that had been identified in the past as weaknesses and they worked hard in developing writing skills and that was the gain they made. At the same time, they worked very hard in math and reading, the gain was there as well but did not meet the states cutoff scores. Fortunately, their writing scores did meet the states cutoff scores. They were recognized for the growth they achieved.

Mr. Hess suggested that when listing the certificates of participation, add the amount for which the certificate will sell. Make the annual statement of the school budget that goes in the newspaper a little more reader friendly. Also, the tax statement still shows a total millage of 11.824, and he feels the School Board’s records are difficult to reconcile with these numbers.

It was noted that the ad was presented in the newspaper as required by law.

Mrs. Sharpe noted that the Board did discuss in the Budget workshop some things and the staff made excellent presentations but there was not time to discuss anything in excess. In future workshops, allocate more time for Board members to have the time to discuss issues in detail following presentations. She has concerns about class size reduction. If there is money in super categoricals, it would be beneficial for the public to have a document providing the best guess of what the class size reduction will be, how much money is thought to be in the rollover for the super categorical. This would provide the information needed to eliminate skepticism on the part of the community.

With regard to the “D” schools, we still need to make a special effort to help these schools for whatever reason—absenteeism, suspension, expulsion.

Responding to Mrs. Sharpe, Dr. Chambers noted that the final approval of the Budget will be in September. Generally, we don’t hire for the new positions

until after approval in September unless the Board gives consensus to go ahead and fill positions critical to the opening of school.

Chairman Cake agreed with Mrs. Sharpe that just having a workshop and not time to think about or discuss issues in detail, there needs to be a way the Board members can express their concerns or agreement with these positions. Would rather hire for the critical areas and have an explanation of the ones that are critical for whatever reason.

Referring to page 5 of the budget, Chairman Cake noted that he would like to see a pie chart showing all positions requested in the expansion budget to see if district administration would go up, etc., to give him an idea as to what it would do to us compared to last year or the year before.

Dr. Chambers agreed this could be provided with the local numbers.

Mrs. Sharpe noted that when the positions came to the Board, there were no dollar amounts provided, and she would need time to absorb information and come back and discuss differences.

Chairman Cake indicated that he would rather have more dialogue on the expansion budget items.

MILLAGE RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Birkett 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 1999-2000 FISCAL YEAR:

	ROLLED BACK RATE MILLS	PROPOSED 1998-99 MILLS	INCREASE DECREASE(-) MILLS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (2.000 MILLS)	1.882	2.000	0.118
DISCRETIONARY	0.480	0.510	0.030
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY	0.235	0.250	0.015
REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT	6.124	5.946	-0.178
TOTAL	8.721	8.706	-0.015

THE TOTAL MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED IS LESS THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE COMPUTED PERSUANT TO SECTION 200.065(1), F.S., BY -0.17 PERCENT.

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

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

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Mr. Birkett read Millage Resolution #2 as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY FOR THE 1999-2000 FISCAL YEAR:

	ROLLED BACK RATE MILLS	PROPOSED 1999-2000 MILLS	INCREASE -DECREASE MILLS
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY	0.235	0.250	0.015

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

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

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Mr. Birkett 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 1999-2000 FISCAL YEAR:

	1998-1999 ACTUAL MILLAGE	PROPOSED 1999-2000 MILLS	INCREASE -DECREASE MILLS	PERCENT CHANGE
DEBT SERVICE	2.555	2.250	-0.305	-11.94%

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Dr. Leathers

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

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. Birkett 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, 1999, WHICH CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING FUNDS AND APROPRIATIONS FOR THE 1999-2000 FISCAL YEAR:

FUND	APPROPRIATION
GENERAL	\$157,906,621.00
SPECIAL REVENUE	17,670,384.00
DEBT SERVICE	14,974,911.00
CAPTIAL PROJECTS	63,825,075.00
INTERNAL SERVICE	2,410,168.00

TRUST AND AGENCY	<u>4,144,883.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$260,932,042.00</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, 237.111.

Dr. Chambers clarified that F.S. 200.065 uses the language customary and ordinary, which means the district can continue to operate. It does not give authority to hire for positions not currently in the budget.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to adopt the Budget Resolution as read.

Mrs. Sharpe noted she was voting on condition.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Dr. Chambers reviewed the expansion items for a recap of what she felt there was Board consensus as follows:

- III. – Opening of Chiles Elementary School—staff, operations
- #2. – Director of Elementary Curriculum and Cluster Schools
- #6. – 1 Elementary supervisor
- #14 – Mebane – 2 teacher unites
- #16 – Discipline comm.--Modify allocations to allocate 1 dean per 600 students
- #17 – Two additional teacher units for Juvenile Detention Center
- #18 – Resource Officers (Sheriff’s Office and GPD)

During discussion Board members also agreed to consensus on the following:

- #7 – 1 Secondary supervisor
- #28 – Additional .20 teaching unit for Driver Education position
- #12 – Nurses — It was agreed to add enough funds to provide a nurse for every school and look at increasing the hours that were cut.
- #15 – Drug Free Schools Teacher specialist, & clerical support
- #19 – New ESE staffing specialist positions

It was clarified that Board concerns were with personnel items and not operations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.