

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 30, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Meeting/Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building, 215 West Garden Street, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chair: Mrs. Patricia Hightower Vice Chair: Mr. Gerald Boone

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
Mrs. Linda Moultrie
Mr. Bill Slayton

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on July 6, 2009 – Legal No. 1411306

I. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. On motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Boone, adoption of agenda (*as amended*), was approved unanimously.

II. FINANCE

1. Presentation of 2009-2010 Tentative Millage Rates and Tentative Budget

[NOTE: *Handouts outlining the 2009-2010 Budget were provided to the Board prior to the Special Meeting (Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit “A”).*] Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, recapped the budget materials that were previously approved for advertising at the July 23, 2009 Special Meeting and briefly discussed the “rolled-back rate” and other information required by the Truth-in-Millage (TRIM) Act.

2009-2010 Tentative Millage Rates

Required Local Effort, 5.612 mills (*determined by the State*)

Discretionary – Operating, 0.748 mills

Discretionary – Critical Operating Needs, 0.250 mills

Discretionary – Local Capital Improvement, 1.250 mills

Total Millage, 7.860 mills

2009-2010 Tentative Budget

General Fund, \$297,750,724.00

Special Revenue – Food Service, \$25,084,333.00

Special Revenue – Other, \$36,661,901.34

Special Revenue – State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, \$13,201,437.00

Special Revenue - Targeted ARRA Stimulus Funds, \$20,400,053.00

Special Revenue - Other ARRA Stimulus Grants, \$100,000.00

Debt Service Funds, \$11,354,370.85

Capital Project Funds, \$130,405,459.74

Internal Service Funds, \$60,819,859.37

Total Budget, \$595,778,138.30

III. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING FOR INPUT ON 2009-2010 BUDGET

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding various issues with the 2009-2010 tentative millage and/or tentative budget: Jerome Smiley, Bill Vincent, Cathy Boehme, Michael Johnson, and Edward Hayes.

IV. ADOPTION OF 2009-2010 TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES

Mr. Bergosh reiterated comments he made during the July 23, 2009 Special Meeting regarding his opposition to increasing the total millage rate for 2009-2010 over that which was levied in 2008-2009. He believed that keeping the millage rate stable at the 2008-2009 level was the “fiscally-prudent thing to do for struggling local taxpayers” during the current economic recession.

Mr. Bergosh provided a handout outlining his proposal for keeping the total millage rate for 2009-2010 at the same rate that was levied in 2008-2009 by:

- *Cutting 0.390 mill from Discretionary – Local Capital Improvement, levying 1.11 mills*
- *Levying the Discretionary – Critical Operating Needs 0.250 mill, resulting in an anticipated State compression adjustment (additional funding) of roughly \$2 million dollars*
- *Levying the State-mandated Required Local Effort 5.6120 mills*
- *Levying the Discretionary - Operating 0.748 mills*
Total millage = 7.72 (same rate that was levied in 2008-2009)

The monetary difference between levying 7.786 (District’s proposal) and 7.72 (Mr. Bergosh’s proposal and the same rate that was levied in 2008-2009) was approximately \$2.2 million, which Mr. Bergosh believed the District could make-up for by utilizing one of the following three options:

Option 1: Use the \$2 million in State compression funding (not yet budgeted) received from the 0.250 mills levied for Discretionary – Critical Operating Needs and \$200,000 from Molino School sale proceeds, to get to \$2.2 million; or

Option 2: Do an expedited reallocation of the 2003-2007 Half-Cent Sales Tax Fund carryover (projected to be more than \$23 million), to identify qualifying projects that will alleviate a minimum of \$2.2 million from the Capital Budget; or

Option 3: Pull \$2.2 million from the approximate \$4.6 million in proceeds from the sale of three excess school properties: Wedgewood Middle, Brownsville Middle, and the Molino School.

It was noted that the Board would have until September 15, 2009 to finalize the budget and millage rates for 2009-2010. In the meantime, Mr. Bergosh asked his fellow Board Members to carefully consider the options he presented and any other viable alternative to raising the millage rates for 2009-2010.

1. Required Local Effort

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Boone, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Required Local Effort millage rate at 5.612 mills, carried unanimously.

2. Discretionary – Operating

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Discretionary–Operating millage rate at 0.748, carried unanimously.

3. Discretionary – Critical Operating Needs

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mrs. Moultrie, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Discretionary–Critical Operating Needs millage rate at 0.250, carried unanimously.

4. Discretionary – Local Capital Improvement

Motion was made by Mr. Slayton and seconded by Mrs. Moultrie, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Discretionary–Local Capital Improvement millage rate at 1.250. A motion was then made by Mr. Bergosh to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Discretionary-Local Capital Improvement millage rate at 1.11; however, that motion died for lack of second. Original motion was approved 4 to 1, with Mr. Bergosh voting “No.”

5. Total Millage

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Boone, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative total millage rate at 7.860, carried 4 to 1, with Mr. Bergosh voting “No.”

AMENDED V. ADOPTION OF 2009-2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET

1. General Fund

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mrs. Moultrie, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative General Fund budget in the amount of \$297,750,724.00, carried unanimously.

2. Special Revenue – Food Service

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Boone, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Special Revenue–Food Service budget in the amount of \$25,084,333.00, carried unanimously.

3. Special Revenue – Other

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Boone, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Special Revenue–Other budget in the amount of \$36,661,901.34, carried unanimously.

4. Special Revenue – ~~ARRA~~ State Fiscal Stabilization Funds

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mrs. Moultrie, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Special Revenue-State Fiscal Stabilization Funds budget in the amount of \$13,201,437.00, carried 4 to 1, with Mr. Bergosh voting “No.”

5. ~~Debt Service Funds~~ Special Revenue - Targeted ARRA Stimulus Funds

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mrs. Moultrie, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Special Revenue-Targeted ARRA Stimulus Funds budget in the amount of \$20,400,053.00, carried 4 to 1, with Mr. Bergosh voting “No.”

6. ~~Capital Project Funds~~ Special Revenue - Other ARRA Stimulus Grants

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mrs. Moultrie, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Special Revenue-Other ARRA Stimulus Grants budget in the amount of \$100,000.00, carried 4 to 1, with Mr. Bergosh voting “No.”

7. ~~Internal Service Funds~~ Debt Service Funds

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Boone, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Debt Service Funds budget in the amount of \$11,354,370.85, carried unanimously.

8. ~~Total Budget~~ Capital Project Funds

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Boone, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Capital Project Funds budget in the amount of \$130,405,459.74, carried 4 to 1, with Mr. Bergosh voting "No."

9. Internal Service Funds

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Boone, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative Internal Service Funds budget in the amount of \$60,819,859.37, carried unanimously.

10. Total Budget

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mrs. Moultrie, to adopt the 2009-2010 tentative total budget in the amount of \$595,778,138.30, carried 4 to 1, with Mr. Bergosh voting "No."

VI. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 10-01 – A RESOLUTION OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

On motion by Mr. Boone, seconded by Mr. Slayton, adoption of Resolution Number 10-01, carried 4 to 1, with Mr. Bergosh voting "No."

VII. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 10-02 – A RESOLUTION OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

On motion by Mrs. Moultrie, seconded by Mr. Slayton, adoption of Resolution Number 10-02, carried 4 to 1, with Mr. Bergosh voting "No."

VIII. SET DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF FINAL BUDGET HEARING

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to set the final Budget Hearing for Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, was approved unanimously.

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Hightower called for public forum; however, there were no speakers.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair