

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 29, 2014

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Meeting/Public Hearing at 5:01 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chair: Mrs. Linda Moultrie

Board Members: Mr. Gerald W. Boone
Mr. Bill Slayton
Mr. Jeff Bergosh

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

(NOTE: *Vice Chair Patricia Hightower was not present for this session.*)

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on June 26, 2014 - Legal No. 1626131

NOTE: The minutes from this session have been prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*. The video from this session is available at <http://escambiacountysdf1.swagit.com/play/07292014-664>

I. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mrs. Moultrie called the Special Meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. On motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Bergosh, adoption of the agenda carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

II. FINANCE

1. Presentation of 2014-2015 Tentative Millage Rates and Tentative Budget

[NOTE: *Documents outlining the 2014-2015 tentative millage rates and tentative budget were provided to School Board Members prior to the Special Meeting (Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "A").*] Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, recapped the budget materials that were previously approved for advertising at the July 22, 2014 Special Meeting. He briefly discussed the "roll-back rate" and other information required by the Truth-in-Millage (TRIM) Act. Mr. St. Cyr said the proposed budget for 2014-2015 had been structured in such a way that a notice of tax increase was not required; in particular, the capital outlay portion of the millage had been reduced from last year's rate of 1.500 mills to 1.337 mills so as not to exceed the roll-back rate. (NOTE: *A roll-back rate is the rate at which the current tax base would produce the same taxes levied as the previous year.*)

Mr. St. Cyr noted that the total proposed millage rate of 7.322 mills for the 2014-2015 fiscal year was the lowest it had been since 1986-1987.

2014-2015 Tentative Millage Rates

Required Local Effort, 5.237 mills (*determined by the State*)

Discretionary – Operating, 0.748 mills

Capital Outlay, 1.337 mills

Total Millage, 7.322 mills

2014-2015 Tentative Budget

General Fund, \$352,485,637.39

Special Revenue – Food Service, \$25,340,092.00

Special Revenue – Other, \$39,766,384.42

Special – Race to the Top, \$96,795.65

Debt Service Funds, \$10,679,846.46

Capital Project Funds, \$137,004,557.90

Internal Service Funds, \$51,558,306.00

Total Budget, \$616,931,619.82

Mr. Bergosh suggested leaving the capital outlay millage at the prior year's rate of 1.500 mills rather than reducing it to 1.337 mills. He noted that doing so would generate approximately \$2.5 million that could help address the School District's capital outlay needs. It was his opinion that tax increases or decreases were a function of the rate at which such taxes were levied. As such, he did not view a change in the proposed capital outlay millage from 1.337 mills to 1.500 mills as a tax increase for Escambia County property owners since the overall total millage rate for 2014-2015 (7.485 mills) would still be lower than it had been in the prior year (7.557 mills). Mr. Bergosh's suggestion was considered, but the Superintendent did not make a recommendation to change the proposed rate of the capital outlay millage, nor did any of the other School Board Members who were present.

III. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING FOR INPUT ON 2014-2015 TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES & TENTATIVE BUDGET

Mrs. Moultrie called for public hearing on the 2014-2015 tentative millage rates and tentative budget; however, there were no speakers.

IV. ADOPTION OF 2014-2015 TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES

1. Required Local Effort

Motion was made by Mr. Slayton and seconded by Mr. Boone, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative Required Local Effort millage rate at 5.237 mills. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

2. Discretionary – Operating

Motion was made by Mr. Slayton and seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative Discretionary–Operating millage rate at 0.748. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

3. Capital Outlay

Motion was made by Mr. Slayton and seconded by Mr. Boone, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative Capital Outlay millage rate at 1.337. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

4. Total Millage

Motion was made by Mr. Slayton and seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative total millage rate at 7.322. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

V. ADOPTION OF 2014-2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET

1. General Fund

Motion was made by Mr. Boone and seconded by Mr. Slayton, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative General Fund budget in the amount of \$352,485,637.39. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

2. Special Revenue – Food Service

Motion was made by Mr. Boone and seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative Special Revenue–Food Service budget in the amount of \$25,340,092.00. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

3. Special Revenue – Other

Motion was made by Mr. Boone and seconded by Mr. Slayton, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative Special Revenue–Other budget in the amount of \$39,766,384.42. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

4. Special Revenue – Race To The Top

Motion was made by Mr. Boone and seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative Special Revenue–Race To The Top budget in the amount of \$96,795.65. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

5. Debt Service Funds

Motion was made by Mr. Boone and seconded by Mr. Slayton, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative Debt Service Funds budget in the amount of \$10,679,846.46. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

6. Capital Project Funds

Motion was made by Mr. Boone and seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative Capital Project Funds budget in the amount of \$137,004,557.90, carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

7. Internal Service Funds

Motion was made by Mr. Boone and seconded by Mr. Slayton, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative Internal Service Funds budget in the amount of \$51,558,306.00, carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

8. Total Budget

Motion was made by Mr. Boone, seconded by Mr. Berosh, to adopt the 2014-2015 tentative total budget in the amount of \$616,931,619.82, carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

VI. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015-01 – A RESOLUTION OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

On motion by Mr. Slayton and second by Mr. Boone, adoption of Resolution Number 2015-01, carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

VII. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015-02 – A RESOLUTION OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

On motion by Mr. Boone and second by Mr. Bergosh, adoption of Resolution Number 2015-02, carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Slayton and seconded by Mr. Bergosh to set the final Budget Hearing for September 16, 2014, at 5:01 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mrs. Hightower absent for vote.

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Moultrie called for public forum; however, there was no one who wished to speak.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair