

The District School Board of Indian River County met on July 20, 2017, at 5:01 p.m. The meeting was held in the Teacher Education Center located in the School District Office at the J.A. Thompson Administrative Center located at 6500 – 57th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32967. District School Board Members attending were: Chairman Charles G. Searcy, Vice Chairman Shawn R. Frost, and Board Members: Dale Simchick, Laura Zorc, and Tiffany M. Justice. Dr. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present.

Special School Board Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Searcy.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Mrs. Zorc
- III. ADOPTION OF THE ORDERS OF THE DAY
Chairman Searcy called for a motion. Mrs. Simchick moved approval of the Orders of the Day and Mr. Frost seconded the motion. Board Member requested to move Consent A#6 Instructional Employment. Mrs. Simchick withdrew her motion for the Orders of the Day and Mr. Frost withdrew his second to the motion. Mrs. Simchick moved approval of the Orders of the Day moving Consent A #6 Instructional Employment and Mr. Frost seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion with a 5-0 vote.
- IV. CITIZEN INPUT
Chairman Searcy announced that there were no requests to speak.
- V. CONSENT AGENDA
Chairman Searcy called for a motion. Mrs. Justice moved approval of the Consent Agenda, moving Consent A #6 and Mr. Frost seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion, with a 5-0 vote.
 - A. Approval of Personnel Recommendations – Mr. Green**
Item A #6 Instructional Employment was moved from Consent. Attached was a list of personnel recommendations that included personnel additions, terminations, and/or changes. Superintendent recommended approval.
 - B. Approval of Contract with Healthcare Bluebook – Mr. Morrison**
Approval of the contract with Healthcare Blue health provider transparency services. Superintendent recommended approval.

Item Moved from Consent:

A. Approval of Personnel Recommendations – Mr. Green

Item A #6 Instructional Employment was moved from Consent. Board Members discussed a Board Member concern regarding an employment decision. Dr. Rendell said that the employee applied for the position and met all the qualifications. Mrs. Simchick moved approval of personnel recommendations Item A #6 Instructional Employment and Mr. Frost seconded the motion. The Board voted in favor of the motion, with a 4-1 vote. Mrs. Justice, Mrs. Simchick, Mr. Frost, and Chairman Searcy moved approval of the motion. Mrs. Zorc voted against the motion.

VI. ACTION AGENDA

A. Approval of 2017-2018 Proposed Tentative Budget and Millage Rates for the express Purpose of Advertising the Budget in Accordance with the Truth-in-Millage Requirements – Mr. Morrison

The purpose of this item was to authorize the Superintendent to take the necessary steps, including making final adjustments to proposed revenues, expenditure projections, fund balances, and millage rates based on action to be taken by the Indian River County Property Appraiser and Florida Department of Education. On July 1, 2017, the Indian River County Property Appraiser certified to the Florida Department of Revenue the Taxable Assessed Valuation for school purposes. In addition, pursuant to Florida Statutes 1011.62 (4)(a)1.a., on July 17, 2017, the Commissioner of Education would certify to each District School Board the millage rates that when applied to 96 percent of the estimated state total taxable value for school purposes, would generate the prescribed aggregate required local effort for that year for all Districts. This statutory action by these bodies would have the effect of changing the School District's budgetary estimates. This request for authorization was necessary in order to advertise the 2017-2018 Proposed Tentative Budget and Millage Rates, along with the Proposed Capital Projects to be funded from the Capital Outlay and Debt Service millage proceeds in preparation for the Public Hearing to be held on July 25, 2017, at 5:01 p.m. in the Teacher Education Center (TEC). A brief overview and description of the Proposed Tentative Budget and Millage Rates would be presented by staff. Superintendent recommends approval.

Mr. Morrison talked about the calculation of millage rates. He stated that the 2017-2018 proposed millage was 1.11% higher than the roll-back rate. Mr. Morrison reviewed scenarios of the average tax on residential homes depicting a tax decrease in both examples, with a homestead exemption. He, then, reviewed the Proposed Millage Rates and the Tentative Budget. Mr. Morrison noted that there was a proposed change in the budget to include funds requested for new uniforms for the Vero Beach High School Marching Band.

He noted that changes to the 2017-2018 proposed tentative budget and millage rates could be made at the July 25, 2017, Public Hearing and at the September 7, 2017, Public Hearing/Final Adoption date. Attachment pages 1-3 would be advertised in the newspaper. All concerned citizens were invited to attend the Public Hearing on July 25, 2017, at 5:01 p.m. Mr. Morrison said that a decision on the proposed Capital Outlay Taxes would be made at the Public Hearing. Mr. Morrison reviewed highlights contained within the Budget Book that included the Projected Fund Balances, Revenues and other Financing Sources, 1.50 Mill Planned Projects Budget for FY 2017-2018, Capital Projects Fund Budget, transfer to Charter Schools, Food Services Budget, Health and Life Insurance Budget, and the Enterprise Fund Budget (afterschool program).

Chairman Searcy called for a motion. Mr. Frost moved approval of the 2017-2018 Proposed Tentative Budget and Millage Rates for the express purpose of advertising the Budget in Accordance with the Truth-in-Millage requirements. Mrs. Zorc seconded the motion.

A Board Member asked when was the appropriate time for Board Members to bring forward suggestions for budget reductions. Board Members discussed possible ways to reduce legal services costs that included exploring the costs of an in-house attorney and good practice of going out periodically for an RFP for legal services. Chairman Searcy said that the process used to explore any issue would be for a Board Member to bring up the subject under discussion to see if there would be a consensus to move forward. The second recommendation from the Board Member was to consider the elimination of an open Secretarial position in Transportation. Dr. Rendell noted that the Director of Transportation was currently working on redirecting the work duties. He said that the changes would be coming forward very soon. A Board Member noted that the funds for the Secretarial position could provide two Teacher Assistants for classrooms. The third subject was in regard to funds set aside for portable classrooms, if needed; plus, an addition reserve of \$200,000. Mr. Morrison addressed the questions. A Board Member noted that it was good practice to reserve funding for natural disasters and last minute closure of a charter school. A Board Member said that it would be good practice to have each Department make a presentation to the Board on their proposed budget. Chairman Searcy said that this would be helpful to put into practice for next year's budget process. Dr. Rendell said that they could change the process for the future. Board Member brought up other budgeted items that could be reduced; such as, reimbursements for internal meals, supply budget for Transportation, and a reduction of employee travel expenses that could go toward classroom needs for students. It was also noted by a Board Member that fuel costs should not be included in Discretionary Funds. It was also noted that information requested and given to one Board Member should be shared with all Board Members and that it should not be difficult to obtain the requested information. The concerns were discussed.

Board Member asked Mr. Morrison to explain for the public what the penalty would be if the School Board did not adopt the Required Local Effort tax. It was also noted that approximately 67% of the total budget was for salaries and employee benefits. With no further discussion, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion with a 5-0 vote.

VII. CLOSING COMMENTS
No closing comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

III. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Searcy
Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:24 p.m.