

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

July 31, 2018
Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
(First Budget Public Hearing)

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, met in special session at 5:25 p.m. in the Board Room of the Kathleen C. Wright Administrative Center, 600 Southeast Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Present were: School Board Members Nora Rupert, Chair; Heather Brinkworth, Vice Chair; Robin Bartleman; Abby M. Freedman; Patricia Good; Donna P. Korn; Laurie Rich Levinson; Ann Murray; Dr. Rosalind Osgood; Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools; and Barbara J. Myrick, Esq.

Call to Order The Chair called the meeting to order and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Close Agenda Upon motion by Ms. Korn, seconded by Mrs. Good and carried, the Agenda was approved and declared closed. Mrs. Bartleman, Mrs. Brinkworth, and Mrs. Rich Levinson were absent for the vote. (6-0 vote)

Purpose of Meeting Public Hearing for Proposed Millage Levy and Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Introduction by Chair

Welcoming the audience to the first public hearing on the Broward County School District's tentative 2018-2019 budget, the Chair indicated that the purpose of this hearing was to keep the public and the School Board fully informed as to whether the District was using sound policies and practices that met the needs of students and warranted public confidence in the District's operations. The law requires the public to be given the opportunity to provide input pertaining to the millage rates and budget. The Chair stated this was the first of two public hearings for the millage rates and budget.

Explaining the procedure to be followed for this hearing, the Chair stated that at the end of the presentation speakers would be called to the floor and would be given three minutes to address the Board.

The Chair thanked the audience for their support of Broward County Public Schools and for attending this hearing.

Statement by Superintendent

The Superintendent stated he was pleased to submit the 2018-2019 District budget for the School Board's consideration and tentative adoption.

He commented the State of Florida continued to experience significant economic growth and low inflation. Despite this trend, the state legislature increased the District's funding by only .47 cents per student in the base student allocation for fiscal year 2018-2019. He said after the District cost differential was taken into account, the "positive" funding of .47 cents decreased to a negative funding of \$16.75 per student, which resulted in the negative discretionary revenue of \$4.6 million. He added in addition to the revenue decrease, there were several unavoidable cost increases, such as health insurance and the Florida Retirement System (FRS). In order to comply with the requirements for a balanced budget, the Board gave direction to find reductions to fill the budget gap of nearly \$18 million and to find further reductions in costs to fund raises for teachers and school support staff.

The Superintendent indicated the appropriations from the state included two (2) categorical funding amounts. The first was an increase in the Safe Schools allocation to hire a School Resource Officer (SRO) for each school in the District and the second was the mental health category to increase support services to the students who needed these services. While both of those allocations are appreciated, the amounts are insufficient to meet the needs of our community. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School Safety Act (Senate Bill 7026) provided an additional \$7 million for school safety and \$5.1 million for mental health services for the innovative Broward schools. Recognizing this was a good start, he stated more was needed to be done and that the Board had taken the steps to do so by asking the voters of Broward County to supply more funding for safety, mental health, and to provide funding the state failed to provide in order to pay teachers and school support staff the compensation they deserve.

In closing, the Superintendent said this was the first of two budget hearings and, as the fiscal year was closed out, the District would continue to look for opportunities to set aside dollars to fund these important responsibilities. He concluded by asking staff to provide a brief presentation of additional budget details and answer any questions from the Board.

Judith Marte, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview through a PowerPoint slide presentation of the 2018-2019 District budget.

Superintendent's Recommendations

1. Resolution Adopting Tentative Millage Rates (Adopted)

Motion was made by Ms. Korn, seconded by Mrs. Good and carried, to adopt Resolution #19-01, approving tentative millage rates for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. (9-0 vote)

It was recommended that the School Board adopt Resolution #19-01, approving the Tentative Millage rates for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Adoption of the millage rates would generate \$1,261,980,237.

Agenda Items 1 and 2 were moved and discussed concurrently.

Mrs. Rich Levinson commented that she was happy to see all the operational areas on page 89 reduced from 2017-2018. She referred to page 94, under Academics, in regards to the totals and requested that the Financial staff review each department, benchmark the number of employees, and make a comparison with Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties. In addition, under Public Information, she wanted to see BECON broken down further as to the expenditures and number of employees. She questioned the Fringe on page 96 and said according to a memorandum that staff sent out, the same number of employees from last year would not be insured again this year, yet the amount went up \$6 million for health insurance.

Craig Nichols, Chief Human Resources & Equity Officer, replied that was correct but the number was just reduced and not yet forecasted in the budget yet, which looked at the number of claims incurred as opposed to the number of lives.

Mr. Runcie added that the number was included in the total but it would have been twice as much if it were not for factoring in the changes that were made.

Mrs. Rich Levinson stated that staff needed to verify dependents on a regular basis.

Mr. Nichols responded a good benchmark practice for verifying was 3-5 years.

Mrs. Rich Levinson wanted to know how to get enough money to provide raises. She asked staff to look at the departments further and determine how more cuts could be made. She did not believe the cuts made were enough. She reiterated that she wanted the hiring freeze to continue and to close any open jobs. She suggested any position that had been open more than six (6) months be placed on hold. She said there were certain areas that she did not feel were critical positions. She believed staff needed to look at support staff, and commented that in the corporate world law firms had several attorneys that shared a secretary and suggested that staff consider that as an option.

Mr. Runcie replied that the hiring freeze would continue throughout this school year. He said there were approximately 30 open positions that would have a hold put on them.

In closing, Mrs. Rich Levinson referred to the software and asked what the status was in regards to the choices of programs and technology and if the choices had been narrowed in order to avoid repetition.

Lori Canning, Executive Director, Early Learning/Language Acquisition, responded that had been a process they were working on for the past couple years and had asked schools to identify what the best technology resources were for them. In addition, the approval process required the Learning Division to approve purchases to ensure schools were using the funds for the best resources. She said she could provide a compiled list of programs and their impact.

Ms. Korn referred to page 11 and stated it was not an apples-to-apples comparison with other counties and the District was working with less. She highlighted that the District had \$15 million in savings outside of school locations with 35 central office positions being reduced. She said even with the deduction, there was additional funding that was going into security staffing and mental health, which was more support for teachers and would make a big difference to them. She looked forward to expand programs that were bringing in more dollars for teachers and agreed with her colleague that resources needed to be found in other places. She inquired when the Board would receive information from the Community Care model regarding benefits.

Mr. Runcie replied staff was waiting for information from the county to provide some modeling for any potential savings and would share it with the Board as soon as possible for consideration.

Mr. Nichols added that they had received a proposal and would share it with the Board soon. He indicated the numbers were not impressive and would need a discussion as to whether they should move forward. He said the Aetna contract was a sole-source contract and had two (2) more years before the District could entertain bringing another network.

Dr. Osgood requested that information on the revenue for BECON be specified as well when staff provides the other information requested by her colleague. She spoke briefly on the Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders (MTL) program and was interested in funding it adequately because there were additional requests from schools for that program. She stated this program was critical to the work being done in the District. She added that it was the only peer-mentoring program in the state and could be integrated by grade level into grade level. She wanted the program to continue at its full capacity and would be expecting to see additional funding in place for MTL where other programs were being cut, and to make it a priority in the budget as well.

Mr. Runcie agreed and said there may be additional funding through the mental health dollars but he would meet with staff and come back to the Board with a follow-up. He also believed it was a program that would benefit students.

Mrs. Rich Levinson fully supported increasing the funding and agreed there was nothing more powerful than peer-mentoring.

Mrs. Good agreed and stated the same thing should be considered for Latinos in Action as well. She believed they were two (2) unique programs that had peer-to-peer mentoring.

Mrs. Bartleman thanked her colleague for mentioning raises for employees. She inquired how many support facilitators were added at the middle school level.

Antoine Hickman, Executive Director, ESE & Support Services, replied there were 10 added at the elementary, middle, and high school levels for a total of 30 support facilitators.

Mrs. Bartleman indicated that information was a very big deal for everyone, especially the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) parents. She said it was important to have so she could share where the money was being spent.

Mr. Runcie stated a memorandum would be sent to the Board to identify where they were added above prior years.

Mrs. Bartleman asked staff to speak to the cuts for arts and science.

Judith Marte, Chief Financial Officer, responded the Board would not see it specifically, but the budget for SASP was included in the Portfolio Services budget, which had been reduced. She said had previously approved the addition of a gifted program, an entrepreneurial high school, and an internal welcome center, and when all of them were netted together she cut \$470,000.

Leslie Brown, Chief Portfolio Services Officer, replied the arts and science program was established several years ago for field trips and paid for entrance fees and transportation, in which schools received \$2,462; however, there were a number of schools that did not participate in the program and \$60,000-\$90,000 was not used from those dollars. The program was only for elementary and middle school, as well as Centers.

Mrs. Bartleman was concerned that the funding was going from \$400,000 to zero dollars (\$0) without any access to field trips. She said it would mean a lot to someone at a Title I school to have the ability to go free and enjoy those experiences, that they normally would not be able to do. She asked that staff re-examine if money could be taken from other items that were budgeted in order to keep this program funded, even if it was at a lesser amount. She asked staff to name the organizations participating in the program.

Mrs. Brown named the following organizations as participants: African American Center, Art & Cultural Center, The Bonnet House, The Coral Springs Museum of Art, Deerfield Island Park, Flamingo Gardens, Miramar Cultural Center, Museum of Art, Museum of Discovery & Science, Old Davie School Historical, Old Fort Lauderdale Village, Stranahan House, and Young at Art.

Ms. Murray thanked her colleague for bringing up the issue. She stated she was disappointed there were Title 1 schools that had the field trips available to them but they were not taking advantage of them. She suggested that someone research why schools have not taken advantage of using the funds because the most vulnerable students were being deprived the opportunity to learn. She understood cuts had to be made but she did not want them taken from the most needy.

Mrs. Good commented that the focus had been on safety, security, and the referendum, and the District had made cuts to meet critical needs in the schools. She stated the referendum was partly for programs of learning opportunities and she suggested providing support to programs like MTL. She said the District continues to ask for more dollars from the state but instead receives less and sooner or later it would affect outcomes.

Mrs. Bartleman asked if the parent center could be scaled back.

Ms. Marte replied she would go back and review it.

Mrs. Brinkworth concurred in regards to salary increases, as well as continuing the funding for the arts and science programs at some level. She stated she was interested in support for the MTL and Latinos in Action programs, which had proven to be successful. She questioned if the utilities cost was going to be lower.

Ms. Marte responded yes and that the utilities had previously been over-budgeted. She shared there were a couple of reductions in cost that the District would not have to pay for, such as the Hurricane Matthew assessment or the sewer charge.

Mrs. Freedman appreciated the savings in the Workers Compensation area and thanked the Chief of Staff. She conveyed she also wanted to have a breakdown on page 96 under Academics and would like to receive further detail under the Facilities department when this comes back to the Board.

Mrs. Rupert referred to page 29 and asked staff to break it down between the traditional public schools versus the Charter schools because the traditional schools' literacy scores were much higher than what was reflected. On page 72, she asked that more information be provided on the Community Services.

Ms. Marte commented on the Community Services and said it was for the Before and After School Care program, which was only funded at 75%, but did not have a decrease. She said the amount would go up again after the first budget amendment after the start of the school year.

The Chair received audience input on these items.

Ms. Marte read Resolution #19-01 for the record.

Motion to Separate (Carried)

Motion was made by Ms. Korn, seconded by Mrs. Good and carried, to separate the two items in order to vote on them separately. (9-0 vote)

A vote was taken on the Motion to Separate.

A vote was taken on Item 1.

A vote was taken on Item 2.

2. Resolution Adopting Tentative Budget (Adopted)

Motion was made by Ms. Korn, seconded by Mrs. Good and carried, to adopt Resolution #19-02, approving the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. (9-0 vote)

Chapters 200 and 1011 of the Florida Statutes require that school districts hold a public hearing to adopt a tentative budget and proposed millage rates not less than 2 days nor more than 5 days after advertising a summary of the tentative budget and the proposed millage rates in the newspaper.

Below is the recapitulation of the 2018-2019 Budget Resolution #19-02:

<u>Fund Title</u>	
General Fund	\$2,418,052,343
Special Revenue - Food Service	167,496,913
Special Revenue - Other	210,311,660
Special Revenue - Miscellaneous	6,799,955
Debt Service	204,823,074
Capital Projects	1,275,786,932
Internal Services	1,237,049
Sub-Total	\$4,284,507,926
Less Transfers Out	(282,113,969)
Total All Funds	<u>\$4,002,393,957</u>

The total annual budget for all funds was \$4,002,393,957, excluding Transfers Out.

Agenda Items 1 and 2 were moved and discussed concurrently.

The Chair received input from the audience on these items.

Motion to Separate (Carried)

Motion was made by Ms. Korn, seconded by Mrs. Good and carried, to separate the two items in order to vote on them separately. (9-0 vote)

A vote was taken on the Motion to Separate.

A vote was taken on Item 1.

The Chair received audience input on the remaining Item 2.

A vote was taken on Item 2.

Adjournment This meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

/dvn