



Duval County Public Schools

July 30, 2013, Special Board Meeting

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch, Vice Chairman
Mr. Jason Fischer
Ms. Cheryl Grymes
Dr. Connie Hall
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez
Ms. Paula D. Wright
Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING with Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Schools, Ms.s Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Chairman of the Board and Board Members: Mr. Jason Fischer, Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Dr. Constance S. Hall and Ms. Paula D. Wright, present. Ms. Becki Couch, Vice Chair, participated telephonically; Board Member Ashley Smith Juarez was absent.

Call Meeting to Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER - SPECIAL MEETING](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Special Budget Meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

[BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION BY TELEPHONE](#)

Minutes:

Attorney General Opinion 2003-41 provides the following guidance to permit an absent Board member to telephonically participate in a Special and/or General meeting so long as:

- (1) The meeting is conducted in a public place;

(2) A quorum of the Board is physically present at the meeting;

(3) The absence of the member participating by telephone is due to extraordinary circumstances (a scheduling conflict can be deemed to satisfy this requirement).

This explanation is provided so the Board members who are present can "vote" to indicate their agreement that Board Member Couch and Board Member Smith Juarez' absence for this Special Board meeting is based on extraordinary circumstances, and once we agree, then the Board members can participate and vote.

VOTE: Approval for Board members Couch and Smith Juarez to participate in the Special Board meeting telephonically.

That the Duval County School Board approve Board members Couch and Smith Juarez' participation in today's Special Board meeting via telephone. Today's meeting is being conducted in a public place and there is a quorum of the Board present. The absence of Board members Couch and Smith Juarez is due to scheduling conflicts.

All in agreement, please say "Aye"; opposed say "Nay".

Ms. Couch and Ms. Smith Juarez, welcome to the meeting.

NOTE: Ms. Smith Juarez did not call into the meeting until after all voting took place; she is marked "Absent" from this meeting.

Motions:

That Board Members Becki Couch and Ashley Smith Juarez be allowed to participate by phone. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Jason Fischer

Second: Connie Hall

Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Not Present
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Abstain

INVOCATION

Minutes:

A "moment of silence" was held.

FOR THE RECORD

Minutes:

Mr. Fischer said I just wanted to say what a pleasure it's been to work with all of my colleagues on this budget process. It's been very difficult for all of us. We all came to the table with different ideas but I think the same vision. Well, it's not perfect but I'm proud of it. It's dramatically different than anything that our School Board has done in the past. We used a zero-based budgeting method to build it. I tell folks that we balanced the budget, we cut the taxes and we dramatically improved budget transparency. There's a line item process in this budget that hasn't been done in the past. So, yes, I'm proud of restoring magnet school transportation and I'm proud of expanding foreign languages in elementary school. I'm proud of many things and for us to all come together and doing this.

Ms. Wright said I would like to make an announcement regarding a community meeting at John E. Ford Elementary School this Thursday, August 1, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Thank you.

Ms. Grymes said I echo Mr. Fischer's comments and I applaud my colleagues for working as a team and to build a budget that we all are proud of but I also want to commend the staff. As with a new team, I know it was a lot of work for them with many hours and I think the end product is very good and I think with each year, it will get better. I'm excited looking toward the next school year.

Mr. Lee said I echo everything my fellow Board members have said. I want to say "thank you" to the staff. Believe it or not, we're three weeks away from school starting and it's now time to turn our attention directly to the students which is what this budget is about. Again, I'd like to remind our listening viewers and our audience that September will be our second vote on the budget. If you think of something, please reach out to the Superintendent or to Board members. That is why we put a few weeks between the first vote (proposed) and second vote (final). We are trying, to the best of our ability, to get most of the information out to the public, not only for transparency but so the communities know. We continue to listen to the feedback.

Ms. Couch wanted to thank the Board, Superintendent and staff for allowing her to participate in the meeting telephonically as she is out of town. I also want to thank Michelle Begley for her assistance and many long hours. I wish you all a great evening.

Ms. Juarez called into the meeting at the end and apologized that she was not able to join the meeting earlier. I wanted to take the opportunity to express my support for the budget and that my votes would have been in the affirmative, this evening. I also appreciate the opportunity to join when I was able. Thank you for allowing that option.

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

1. PUBLIC HEARING - 2013-2014 TENTATIVE PROPOSED MILLAGES AND TENTATIVE BUDGET

Attachment: [Resolution Adopting Tentative Budget 2013.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Resolution Adopting 2013 millage \(2\).pdf](#)

Minutes:

The Public Hearing is called to provide the taxpayers of Duval County an opportunity to provide input into adoption of the 2013-2014 Budget. Item 1A deals with adoption of tentative proposed millage levies for the Operating Budget, and Capital Outlay Budget, and related Resolution.

This hearing is the first of two Public Hearings required under Florida Statutes to provide the public an opportunity to give input into the proposed millage levy and the budget for this fiscal year.

This hearing was advertised in the Florida Times Union on Saturday, July 27, 2013. The second meeting will be held on Monday, September 16, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at the School Board Administration Building, 1701 Prudential Drive, Charles Cline Auditorium, and the notice of that meeting to the public will be through a direct mailing from the Property Appraiser's Office.

The proposed millage rate for the 2013-2014 school year is 7.3880 mills, a decrease of 0.212 mills (2.79%) from the 2012-2013 millage rate of 7.600 mills. The total millage rate to be levied is less than the rolled back rate by 4.04% which means that the average taxpayer in Duval County will pay 4.04% less in school taxes this year.

The Chairman declared the public hearing open on the following item:

2013-2014 Tentative Proposed Millages and Tentative Budget

The Chairman asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak to the Board regarding this item and the following people spoke:

Mr. Dan Carr said first, I want to commend the Board for holding the line on any increases and I have no complaints with the budget, whatsoever. One thing though, you all know what the 10th Amendment is, that is that the enumerated powers that the Constitution gives to the federal government are just that...enumerated and everything that is not enumerated, is left to the states. That includes education, by the way. I've been to Washington and I'm sure many of you have. The National Education Building

consumes one solid city block of nothing but bureaucrats that should have no influence, either through bribes or threats or shadow funding or anything like that, to implement this race to the bottom called "Common Core." This may not be the best forum to speak against Common Core, but I think the more it's spoken about, the better things will be and I urge you to please, through the Superintendent or through your actions, either, to not let this Common Core be implemented. That will usurp any power that the School Boards and Superintendents have and you will all be guided by a set curriculum, top down, full of errors and it's just something that must be avoided at all costs. I thank you for your attention.

Ms. Jewel Flornoy said I'm here, tonight, on behalf of One by One Community Convention as well as Best of All Parents. Thank you for this opportunity to speak. The Best of All Parents were also very glad to be a part of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund's "Cash to Classrooms" workshops and appreciated especially the openness of the Superintendent. One of my parents was concerned about bus stop safety and I was impressed about the way Dr. Vitti handled it and was very welcoming to her. I also want to thank JPEF for offering this opportunity for parents and community members to learn more about issues such as school budgeting and to prepare us to be able to ask the most important questions that we can. It's important that parents be in power to advocate, not only for their own students, but also to be able to make an impact on the school system, as a whole. I want to thank you for listening to parents and for taking the time to answer our questions. Thank you for your time and attention this evening and your good work in improving our education system.

Mr. Zachary Champagne said thanks for having us here, tonight. I'm here on behalf of the delegates of the One by One Community, as well,, and thank you for time to address you all, tonight. As many of you know, JPEF held a series of meetings this month called "Cash to Classrooms" to study the schools budgets and we appreciate very much the attendance of some of you Board members at those meetings, as well as the Superintendent. Our goal with those meetings was to better inform ourselves and our community about how school funding works and what is proposed in this upcoming school year's budget. Now, throughout this process, Dr. Vitti has been very transparent in the decisions he's made and open about sharing those decisions with our community. He's been honest about some of the things he had hoped to do but was unable to do with our current budget. Dr. Vitti made it clear that when planning a budget, whether it be your home or at work, there are tough decisions that have to be made and those decisions include some things that do not get budgeted. So, while it's unlikely that any of us would agree with every line item on the budget, tonight, I'm grateful for the candor and sincerity in which our Superintendent and our School Board has shared this information with the community and the One by One delegates. Thank you very much for your time and enjoy the evening.

Mr. Joe Roberts, Assistant Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IBEW, Local Union 177. We are currently the new representatives for the maintenance department of the School Board and are currently in negotiations. I just wanted to come up and tell you a little about our local union. We've been in Jacksonville since 1912 and we represent 1,665 workers in this area and we're picking up membership among the School Board maintenance workers, continuously. I

appreciate all the work that you have done on the budget and just wanted to let you know who I am and introduce myself.

The Chairman closed the public hearing and Ms. LaTrell Edwards, Chief Finance Officer read the following:

Resolution Adopting 2013-2014 Tentative Millage Rates
Resolution Number 13-01

WHEREAS, the School Board of Duval County, Florida did pursuant to Chapters 200 and 1011, Florida Statutes, approve tentative millage rates for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, at the public hearing and in full compliance with Chapter 200, Florida Statutes, the Duval County School Board adopted the tentative millage rates for fiscal year 2013-2014 in the amount of Tentative Millage Levy (in the first column) and the Proposed Amount to be Raised (in the second column):

Capital Outlay	1.5000	\$ 75,022,507
Discretionary Operating	0.7480	\$ 37,411,224
Discretionary Capital Improvement	0.0000	-0-
Critical Capital outlay	0.0000	-0-
Critical Operating	0.0000	-0-
Additional Voted Millage	0.0000	0-
Debt	0.0000	-0-_____
TOTALS:	7.3880	\$369,510,855

The total millage rate to be levied is less than the roll-back rate by 4.04 percent.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Duval County School Board, adopted each tentative millage rate for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, on July 30, 2013 by separate vote prior to adopting the tentative budget.

The second part of this public hearing deals with Item 1B, Adoption of the Tentative Budget for the 2013-2014 school year.

The Board is requested to adopt the 2013-2014 Tentative Budget and certify the adoption by Resolution.

The Tentative Budget is as follows:

- (1) General Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,055,945,489.
- (2) Special Revenue Budget in the amount of \$234,419,102.
- (3) Debt Services Budget in the amount of \$39,619,135.
- (4) Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$193,192,973
- (5) Internal Service Budget in the amount of \$193,002,597
- (6) Trust Fund Budget in the amount of \$211,512

TOTAL TENTATIVE BUDGET: \$1,716,390,808

The Chairman opened the public hearing on the Tentative Budget and asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak to the Board regarding this item; there being no response, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Ms. LaTrell Edwards, Chief Finance Officer, read the following:

Resolution Adopting 2013-2014 Tentative Budget
Resolution Number 13-02

A Resolution of the Duval County School Board adopting the tentative Budget for fiscal year 2013-2014

WHEREAS, the School Board of Duval County, Florida, under Chapters 200 and 1011, Florida Statutes, approved tentative millage rates and the tentative budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, the Duval County School Board set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the budget for fiscal year 2013-2014; and,

WHEREAS, at the public hearing and in full compliance with Chapter 200, Florida Statutes, the Duval County School Board adopted the tentative millage rates and the budget in the amount of \$1,716,390,808 for fiscal year 2013-2014.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the attached budget of Duval County School Board, including the millage rates, is adopted by the School Board of Duval County as a tentative budget for the categories indicated for the fiscal year of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Dated at Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, this 30th day of July, 2013.

The third part of the recommendation deals with Item C scheduling a public hearing on the final millage levies and final budget for the 2013-2014 school year.

That the Duval County School Board schedule a public hearing on the final 2013-2014 millage levies and final budget for the 2013-2014 school year for Monday,, September 16, 2013, at a Special Board meeting, which begins at 6:30 p.m., at the School Board Administration Building in the Charles Cline Auditorium.

The next part of the recommendation deals with Item 1D, the acceptance of the 2013 Certification of School Taxable Value for Duval County, Form DR420S, from the Duval County Property Appraiser and authorize the Superintendent to complete and execute the form.

Ms. LaTrell Edwards, Chief Financial Officer read:

That the Duval County School Board accept the 2013 Certification of School Taxable Value for Duval County, Form DR420S, and authorize the Superintendent to complete

and execute the form.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Motions:

Vote No. 1 - Vote on Required Local Effort
Millage Levy of 5.1400 mills, which includes
prior period funding adjustment millage, for the
Operating Fund. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Not Present
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Motions:

Vote No. 2 - Vote on Capital Outlay Millage Levy
of 1.5000 mills for the Capital Projects Fund. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Jason Fischer

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Not Present

Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Motions:

Vote No. 3 - Vote on Basic Discretionary
Operating Millage Levy of 0.7480 mills for the
Operating Fund. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Jason Fischer

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Not Present
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Motions:

Vote No. 4 - Vote on the 2013-2014 Tentative
Budget. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Jason Fischer

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Not Present
Fred Lee	- Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Motions:

Vote No. 5 - Vote on Final Public Hearing date and time for the 2013-2014 Final Millage Levies and 2013-2014 Final Budget. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Connie Hall

Second: Jason Fischer

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Not Present

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Motions:

Vote No. 6 - Vote on acceptance of the 2013 Certification of School Taxable Value for Duval County and Authorize the Superintendent to complete and execute the form. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Connie Hall

Second: Cheryl Grymes

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Not Present

Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Special meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman