

## TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING

GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MAX D. WALKER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
35 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.  
QUINCY, FLORIDA 32351

July 31, 2018

6:00 P.M.

This tentative budget hearing was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Steve Scott, Chairman; Mr. Tyrone D. Smith; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The tentative budget hearing was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott, at 6:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – Tentative Budget and Millage Rate

- a. Approval of Resolution Number 18-01 for the Tentative Millage Rates for the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year

Fund Source: General Fund and Capital Project

Amount: Refer to millage rates and amounts stated in the Resolution

Mrs. Wood stated that the 0.0670 millage decrease computes to a 1% decrease in taxes for a taxpayer. She stated that the tax on property valued at \$125,000 with \$25,000 homestead exemption would have a total tax decrease of \$6.68 from the prior year.

Mr. LaClarence Mays, Budget Director, stated that the 2018 tax roll increased by \$4,384,140,159, from the estimate of \$2,029,410,611,154 to \$2,033,794,751,313. He stated that the increase in the tax roll caused the statewide average millage rate to decrease from 4.091 to 4.075. He stated that the total Required Local Effort increased by \$866,876 from \$7,712,537,754 to \$7,713,404,630. He stated that the FEFP Base Funding increased by \$816,695 from \$13,036,844,519 to \$13,037,661,214. He stated that the Declining Supplement decreased by \$434,954 from \$3,118,431 to \$2,683,477. He stated that this year's proposed tax levy was \$10,218,632.

Following Mr. Scott's reading of Resolution Number 18-01, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to adopt the Required Local Effort including Prior Period Funding Adjustment tentative millage levy of 4.2220, and the proposed amount to be raised of \$6,401.444. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to adopt the Capital Outlay tentative millage levy of 1.5000, and the proposed amount to be raised of \$2,274,317. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to adopt the Discretionary Operating Funds tentative millage levy of 0.7480, and the proposed amount to be raised of \$1,134,126. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to adopt the Discretionary Capital Improvement Funds tentative millage levy of 0.0000, and the proposed amount to be raised of \$0.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to adopt the Additional Voted Millage tentative millage levy of 0.0000, and the proposed amount to be raised of \$0.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

Mr. Tyrone D. Smith made a motion to adopt the Debt Funds tentative millage levy of 0.0000, and the proposed amount to be raised of \$0.00. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Approval of Resolution Number 18-02 for the 2018 -2019 Tentative Budget for fiscal year 2018 – 2019

Fund Source: All Funds Budget

Amount: Refer to tentative budget

Following Mr. Mays reading of Resolution Number 18-02, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to adopt the tentative budget for the fiscal year 2018 – 2019 in the amount of \$52,231,797.61. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** The Superintendent recommended approval.

### 3. DISCUSSION OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Mr. Scott stated that there are very little changes to the Code of Student Conduct Handbook. He stated that he was concerned about the implementation of the Code of Student Conduct. He stated that there need to be consistency with the code.

Mr. Simmons stated that he wanted the Board to have conversation on student discipline.

Mrs. Lewis requested to have Principals along with the Area Directors look at each student's situation on an individual basis. She stated that she was concerned about attendance being a priority for students.

Mr. Smith stated that there was a common issue with accountability among the staff, and parents. He stated that he believes that accountability should be shared in disciplinary actions. He stated that a cultural of positiveness needed to be created in the classrooms.

Mrs. Mandela, GCCTA Vice President, addressed the Board to share her concerns. She stated that students know where to fight if they want to fight. She stated that character education need to be put back in the classroom. She stated that teachers need to understand where students come from.

Mr. Frost stated that fighting could not be based on accountability.

Mrs. Lewis stated that attendance and classroom management was a priority. She stated that the Board has to start somewhere with making changes to the Code of Student Conduct.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Code of Student Conduct was a good place to start with student discipline. He stated that the district does not have preventative measures in place for students. He stated that the Behavior Specialists could be placed in secure areas to help minimize fights. He stated that Principals need to maximize the people on their campus to help reduce fights.

Mr. Scott invited everyone to the Restorative Practices Workshop on Tuesday, July 31st. He stated that establishing relationships with students could be positive. He stated that changes must be made such as taking attendance, teachers standing at the door, and knowing what is going on in the classroom – building a relationship with students to help minimize problems in the classroom.

Mr. Antonio Bradwell, Interventionist Specialist, addressed the Board to share information on communication. He stated that communication helps with students. He stated that taking attendance was very important.

Mr. Lewis stated that Crossroad Academy had some positive things in their Mental Health Plan.

Mr. Scott stated that there must be consistency with classroom management.

4. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

5. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

On behalf of the Superintendent and Board, Mrs. Lewis presented gifts to Mrs. Wood for her husband (Charles) to share with their new grand-daughter.

Mr. Frost requested student data information to show the number of fights on school campus.

Mr. Simmons stated that it was good for the Board to have conversation regarding student discipline. He stated that something has to be put in writing to address discipline issues. He stated that professional development was needed as it relates to classroom management. He stated that the Board need to be proactive with student discipline.

Mr. Milton stated that he, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman attended the PreK Parent meetings. He stated that discussions regarding student and parent issues are held with principals and his executive management team.

In response to Mr. Scott's request to change the Regular School Board Meeting in August to the 21<sup>st</sup>, the Board agreed to change the August Regular School Board Meeting to the 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.; and the Workshop at 4:30 p.m. He stated that August 28<sup>th</sup> was Election Day.

Mr. Simmons wished Mr. Scott and Mr. Frost good luck with the upcoming election.

6. The tentative budget hearing adjourned at 7:38 p.m.