

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

**August 2, 2011
Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, met in special session at 6:16 p.m., Tuesday, August 2, 2011, in the Board Room of the Kathleen C. Wright Administrative Center, 600 Southeast Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Present were: Chair Benjamin J. Williams; Vice Chair Ann Murray; Members, Robin Bartleman, Maureen S. Dinnen, Patricia Good, (Jennifer Leonard Gottlieb was absent), Laurie Rich Levinson, Nora Rupert, David Thomas; Interim Superintendent Donnie Carter, and J. Paul Carland, II., Esq.

Call to Order The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Close Agenda Upon motion by Mrs. Bartleman, seconded by Ms. Dinnen and carried, the Agenda was approved and declared closed. Mrs. Gottlieb was absent. (8-0 vote)

Purpose of Meeting Public Hearing for Proposed Millage Levy and Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

Introduction by Chair

Welcoming the audience to the first public hearing on the Broward County School District's tentative 2011-12 budget, Mr. Williams stated that the purpose of this hearing is to receive public input regarding the Interim Superintendent's tentative budget and proposed millage rate.

Mr. Williams stated that this is not the first meeting that the Board has had relative to this budget. Numerous workshops have been held to review background information, study the budget, ask questions, and receive responses.

Explaining the procedure to be followed for this hearing, Mr. Williams stated that the public will be given another opportunity to provide input to the School Board on September 15, 2011, 5:30 p.m., when the budget is presented to the School Board for adoption. Individuals wishing to speak about the tentative budget are required to sign in as a speaker. At the end of the presentation speakers will be called to the floor and will be given three minutes to address the Board. Speakers are asked to address the issue at hand and refrain from obscenity, vulgarity, or other breach of respect and refrain from words or statements, which from their usual construction and common acceptance are construed as insults and tend to incite violence or breach of the peace. We ask that you model the district's eight character traits: cooperation, responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self-control, and tolerance.

Mr. Williams thanked the audience for their support of Broward County Public Schools and for attending this meeting.

Statement by Interim Superintendent

Mr. Carter informed that the budget process in the district is a year-round procedure and involves parents as well as principals and district staff. The budget being presented today has taken their recommendations into consideration. Although there continues to be many unmet needs in the district, the Interim Superintendent said he feels the budget as presented makes effective use of the resources available to the school system.

Mr. Carter announced that the Broward School District has once again received the Distinguished Budget Presentation award from the Government Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officials International. It was noted that these awards are the highest form of recognition for governmental budgeting.

The Superintendent stated that Mrs. Rebecca McMahan, Interim Director, Budget, will present the highlights of the 2011-2012 district budget.

Presentation – 2011-2012 District Budget Highlights

Mrs. McMahan presented highlights of the proposed budget, through slide presentation, as shown in the Tentative District Budget:

Millage and Taxes:

- Comparison of Millage and Rolled Back Rate (Chart)
- Comparison of Millage Rates (Chart)
- Comparison of Gross Taxable Value (Chart)
- Comparison of Budget (All Funds) (Chart)
- Comparison of Homeowner's Property Taxes
- Comparison of Condominium Owner's Property Taxes
- Taxable Value

General Fund:

- 2011-2012 Projected Appropriations (Chart)
- 2011-2012 Projected Appropriation Per Unweighted FTE (Chart)
- 2011-2012 General Fund School Staff (Chart)
- 2011-2012 General Fund Department Staff (Chart)
- 2011-2012 Administrative Staff Compared to Total Staff (Chart)
- 2011-2012 Unfunded Mandates
- 2011-2012 Special Program Items
- 2011-2012 Lottery Allocations – Sales vs. Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (EETF) (Chart)
- 2011-2012 Lottery Revenue Trend - 5 Years (Chart)

Capital Outlay Budget:

2011-2012 Capital Budget Calendar
2011-2012 Estimated Revenue and Appropriations – New Sources (\$000) (Chart)
2011-2012 Estimated Revenue and Financing Sources (\$000)
2011-2012 Estimated Appropriations (\$000)

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Resolution Adopting Tentative Millage Rates (Approved)

Motion was made by Ms. Dinnen, seconded by Mrs. Good and carried, to adopt resolution number 12-06, approving tentative millage rates for fiscal year 2011-2012. Mrs. Gottlieb was absent for the vote. (8-0 vote)

It is recommended that the School Board adopt Resolution #12-06 approving the tentative millage rates for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Adoption of the millage rates will generate \$965,799,829.

	<u>Tentative Millage Levy</u>	<u>Proposed Amount To Be Raised</u>
Required Local Effort	5.1700	\$673,117,433
<u>Basic Discretionary</u>	<u>0.7480</u>	<u>97,387,203</u>
Subtotal	5.9180	\$770,504,636
Capital Improvement Tax	<u>1.5000</u>	<u>195,295,193</u>
Subtotal	7.4180	\$965,799,829
Interest and Sinking	0.0000	0
TOTAL	7.4180	\$965,799,829

The total millage rate to be levied is less than the roll-back rate by 4.73 percent.

Mrs. Rich Levinson requested an explanation of how the millage rates are set, for the benefit of the public.

Mrs. McMahan informed that the state requires public schools, if they wish to participate in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), to levy a certain millage, which is set by the state. By levying this millage the district receives some tax dollars and also revenue from the FEFP. Of the 7.4180 millage that is being considered for approval, 5.1700 is mandated by the state to participate in the FEFP. The balance, .74180 mills is discretionary millage and the 1.5000 is capital millage.

Mrs. Good stated that during the presentation staff was going to try to balance the budget by using some balances left over from the Jobs Fund and critical millage that was previously imposed. She requested further elaboration on this topic.

Mr. I. Benjamin Leong, Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, responded that last year between the Jobs Fund and the critical millage money that the Board levied, there was a savings of \$22 million to the district. This money was used to balance the budget this year. Knowing that this year all the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AARA) money would be gone and there is no critical millage this year.

Mrs. Good indicated that the dollars that were used by the Education Jobs Fund were specifically utilized to hire a number of teachers for a one-year span of time.

Concurring, Mr. Leong stated that approximately 1,400 teachers signed an understanding that they were hired for only one year, knowing that the critical millage and the Jobs Fund would expire this year.

Mrs. Good stated, for the record, that sometimes the media continually indicates that the district has laid off thousands of teachers when in fact the district chose to utilize the Jobs Fund to hire teachers at a time when other districts chose not to use those dollars to hire teachers.

Concurring that it was a one-year, one-time expenditure, Ms. Gracie Diaz, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, informed that there were 1,447 annual contract teachers that were non-renewed for the next school year. 734 of those teachers that were hired with the one-time funds understood and signed an agreement that they were being hired for one year and their position would be over at the end of the school year. Ms. Diaz stated that another 713 teachers were on annual contracts and the district, as in any other district in the state, may choose not to renew their contracts in order to determine what the budget is going to be for the next school year, what the enrollment will be and hopefully to be able to rehire some of those teachers.

Ms. Diaz further stated that the district has been able to rehire 238 of the annual contract teachers that initially were in the 1,447 that were not renewed for the next school year. The actual layoff numbers of teachers is 90; it began at 117 teachers on layoff and the district was able to place, or teachers have chosen to resign (27). The district placed on layoff 594 non-instructional employees, which was down from last year. Last year 763 had been placed on layoff. Currently, 519 non-instructional remain to be placed. Many of these individuals may be placed as more resignations, retirees and leaves of absences are submitted.

Mrs. Good thanked staff for providing accurate numbers, as the district needs to deal with facts and the media and the public need to understand the accuracy of the facts. Mrs. Good asked the public to call the district to get accurate facts and urged the media to please ensure that what is written is an accurate statement. She stated that the district is doing the best it can with the minimum amount of money available.

Mr. Leong noted that the school districts that saved the Jobs Fund one-time money last year used it this year to hire teachers, but next year they will be facing the same problems that Broward School District is facing.

Ms. Dinnen explained that the Jobs bill was specifically put in by the federal government with the spirit of the law. The federal government required that the money be given to the state with that particular purpose but the federal government did not require that the state mandate to the district that it be spent for that purpose. Ms. Dinnen stated that the appropriations leadership with the state told districts that they ought to "squirrel" the money away, which the district did not think was the spirit at the time and felt that the jobs that could be given to people were important at that time. Ms. Dinnen further stated that the Board made a very conscious decision to do the most compassionate thing, given the period of time.

Ms. Dinnen stated that the Board also had an agonizing decision regarding the .25 mills because the onus of the responsibility was with the Board because it was not easy to tell constituents. Ms. Dinnen stated the Board wanted to be sure to fulfill that priority, to retain as many jobs as possible. Ms. Dinnen discussed the stabilization money which went into ESE, Title I and a discretionary amount for the state to allocate to the district. The state then withdrew its money that would have been given to the district and put the federal money into this "hole." She stated the stabilization money is also no longer available, the Jobs bill money is no longer available, and the state decreed that the district couldn't use the .25 mills.

The following individual addressed this item:

Lisa Maxwell, Broward Principals & Assistants Association
Deborah Hosey

2. Resolution Adopting Tentative Budget (Approved)

Motion was made by Ms. Dinnen, seconded by Mrs. Good and carried, to adopt resolution number 12-07, approving the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Mrs. Gottlieb was absent. Mrs. Rich Levinson and Mrs. Rupert voted "no." (7-2 vote)

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

The recapitulation of this budget is scheduled below:

General Fund	\$1,894,585,774
Special Revenue - Food Service	117,761,677
Special Revenue - Other	174,043,051
Special Revenue - Stabilization	0
Special Revenue - Stimulus	0
Special Revenue - Miscellaneous	3,552,833
Debt Service	182,769,688
Capital Projects	679,465,350
Internal Services	<u>119,853,204</u>
Subtotal	3,172,031,577
Less Transfers:	<u>(242,403,210)</u>
TOTAL	\$2,929,628,367

The total annual budget for all funds, including transfers out of \$242,403,210 is \$2,929,628,367.

Mrs. Rupert requested that the Budget Task Force Committee be added to the Regular School Board Meeting agenda under Committee Reports. Board Member inquired how many of the ideas that were brought forth by the Budget Task Force Committee were implemented and how much money was saved.

Mr. Carter responded that a discussion will be held regarding the frequency with which they will update the Board. Mr. Carter concurred that they should provide regular reports to the Board but he did not think the frequency will be at the board meetings.

Mrs. Rupert stated she would agree that they appear once every two months and provide an update.

Mr. Carter stated that written updates would be provided regarding any primary discussions.

Mrs. Rupert wants to ensure that the deductible for employees' health care is not being increased.

Ms. Diaz informed that the deductibles were not increased because negotiation was made with Coventry insurance and they came in at a lower rate than what was anticipated. The benefits will remain the same.

Mrs. Good stated it is unknown how the furloughs will be handled and how it will affect various employees. Mrs. Good inquired whether staff is looking at a range and what is the potential impact on the budget if a certain "mark" is not reached.

Mr. Leong responded that when the budget was balanced in June there was \$19 million that was attributed to furloughs, and at that time there was also a surplus of approximately \$5.9 million. The Interim Superintendent directed his staff to review different methods to a financial plan that lowers the number of furlough days. Mr. Leong stated, at this point the \$5.9 million will be used to lower the number of furlough days.

Ms. Diaz stated that since the furloughs is a subject of negotiations, staff will discuss this with the Board during a Closed Door Session.

Mrs. Good stated that furlough days is a topic that the public is aware of and employees are interested to hear. Mrs. Good stated that from a budget perspective she wanted to understand the range for employees and how this was being considered regarding the tentative budget.

Mr. Leong informed that the \$5.9 million are reserve funds that were held for future contingencies. He stated that other financing methods will be reviewed to see whether the furlough days can be lowered. Mr. Leong clarified that reserves will not be touched or used.

Remarking that 56 percent of students are in poverty and are on Free and Reduced Lunch, Mrs. Bartleman stated that the Children's Services Council funds after-care scholarships and summer school programs that directly benefit their students. Those dollars can never be spent, by state law, on School Board services. After-care and summer camp cannot be supported by Children's Services Council if all after-care programs were converted to school-based after-care programs. Mrs. Bartleman further stated that schools in Weston are not representative as the rest of the district because some of them make a lot of money. Right now there is a choice for principals if they want to take over their program. Mrs. Bartleman stated, when kids are put in a position not to receive services it is a dangerous position, especially when they are going home to an empty house or they do not have summer camps, et cetera. She said there are schools that are profitable but the high poverty schools will not make that same margin and they will not have the enrollment because the parents cannot afford it.

As vice chair of the Children's Services Council, Mrs. Bartleman further stated that she believes in the programs. She said it is a good idea for schools who can do it and schools who can make money. Mrs. Bartleman said she has a concern if kids are taken out of the program just to supplement everything else in the school.

Referring to page 22, Mr. Thomas inquired whether Coventry came in at a lower cost.

Responding affirmatively, Ms. Diaz stated that the district anticipated a \$10 million increase and the cost came in at \$6.2 million.

Mr. Thomas said he supports the Interim Superintendent in his direction to staff to reduce the \$5.9 million for furloughs as close to zero as possible so that a surplus is not being funded on the backs of employees. Mr. Thomas stated that employees are taking a "hit" as it is.

Referring to transportation issues of the budget, Mrs. Rich Levinson stated she will review a few issues that she mentioned at the workshops and wants to know how they were resolved. Remarking that there is a \$54 million deficit in the Transportation department, Mrs. Rich Levinson stated there was a lot more opportunity to review a reduction of that deficit.

Mrs. Rich Levinson stated there was an estimation of losing 2,300 students next year but today the projection is different. Mrs. Rich Levinson asked whether there is an accurate projection because there are a number of buses based on the enrollment and how that would impact the Transportation budget.

Mr. Vince Harrell, Shift Supervisor, Transportation Services, responded that there is a potential of losing that many students depending on the enrollment. As far as transporting children, the number of students has increased for this year and this depends on whether parents will take their children out of public schools. Mr. Harrell stated that the district has increased transportation of enrolled students by 1,000 students even though there have been children who have left from being transported. Overall there has been an increase.

Mrs. Rich Levinson inquired whether a review has been made of restructuring the Community Based Instruction (CBI) and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) transportation.

Mr. Harrell responded that ESE has been very cooperative when receiving staff's suggestion to restructure, where they can, the CBI component. Mr. Harrell stated that CBI was averaging about three to four hours and it's mandated in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and the district must provide transportation. The ESE community liaisons have, where they can, reduced the travel time. Mr. Harrell further stated that instruction is not impacted and will remain the same, but alternate locations are being reviewed where the same instruction can be replicated but at a closer location to the student. This will reduce the amount of overtime that is incurred for that program. Mr. Harrell informed that the total impact of CBI is just under \$500,000.

Mrs. Rich Levinson stated that at the workshop there was a cost given of \$728,444.

Mr. Harrell responded that this figure is for magnet activity transportation.

Mrs. Rich Levinson requested that the figure be double-checked. Referring to a past workshop presentation, Mrs. Rich Levinson stated that the amount the district pays in salaries is substantially above what Miami-Dade and Palm Beach are spending. She inquired whether this issue has been reviewed through negotiations.

Mr. Harrell responded that it comes down to contract negotiations, looking at the average rate of pay for bus drivers all the way up to Technical Support Professional (TSP) administrative employees. Mr. Harrell indicated that the average pay for bus drivers, who account for 8 percent of the budget, is commensurate with other counties and the top pay is one of the highest in the state. Mr. Harrell further stated that Broward County Schools has one of the lowest in the state regarding entry-level pay for bus drivers, \$11.58 and the average for the state is closer to \$13 dollars. He noted that higher rate employees actually boosts the rate of pay when compared to other counties. Mr. Harrell stated that another variable is the district's benefits package, which is about 40 percent when compared to other counties.

Mrs. Rich Levinson stated that at some point cost decisions need to be made with the \$54 million deficit in Transportation. She stated this must be acted upon by staff through negotiations. Mrs. Rich Levinson said there has not been any movement to have a cut in Transportation. \$3.9 million out of \$86 million is less than 5 percent.

Mr. Harrell informed that Broward Schools transports the most students in the state of Florida, \$80,000. When comparisons were made with Miami-Dade, their budget was the same as Broward, \$87 million but they transported 56,000 students. Mr. Harrell stated that Broward's fleet has been reduced by over 150 buses in the last two years; the district's staff levels have been the lowest level in 15 years, down to 985 drivers. The routes taken to transport children is 1,038, the lowest in 15 years. Mr. Harrell further stated that cuts have been made wherever possible and services have not been reduced. He stated that staff is trying to maintain those services with vastly fewer resources. Remarking that staff will continue to maintain those services with fewer resources, Mr. Harrell stated there is an inherent cost to that, most of which is salaries.

Continuing, Mr. Harrell stated that fuel costs are higher than the 2007-2008, which is 12.2 percent of the budget, with next year's projections at 12.8 to 13.5 percent. In addition, overtime will be cut, and other areas that traditionally have not been cut will be reviewed.

Mrs. Rich Levinson inquired when the district will be acting on some of these reviews by staff.

Mr. Carter stated that even though the district has lost student enrollment, it does not reduce the number of students that are transported, and over time this number has increased substantially. Mr. Carter further stated the key point is that resources have been reduced while the number of students that are transported has increased. Since the district is tied to salary, benefits, fuel to support those students, it is virtually impossible to reduce the very expenses that it takes to actually transport the students. Mr. Carter said it is the district's major dilemma. He noted that all of the services that were presented as potential reductions were student-services related; a service had to be eliminated in order to make a cut.

Mr. Carter informed that there is some “push back” from schools that may end up getting an impact, which may need to be reconsidered. High schools may substantially be impacted by taking those buses out. Mr. Carter stated that buses are not only used for sporting events, they are used all day long.

Mr. Carter further stated that another impact is the extra-curricular services that are provided for magnet school students. For certain schools, those magnet schools can be negatively impacted by reducing transportation. Mr. Carter stated he was considering putting both of these back so that there is not a district impact but there still may be a Transportation budget impact. He informed the Board that he will provide a ten-year history of how the department has grown in the required services while the district has lost enrollment, and how the resources have been reduced to accommodate those services to show how efficiently the Transportation is being managed. Mr. Carter further stated that the 10-year data will show how the district has been impacted and what is being done to mitigate the negative impact of those services that are now being provided. Mr. Carter said that Transportation is a very, very difficult area to cut.

Mr. Carter informed that the \$32 million to \$33 million the district receives from the state, the district is under-funded for what the district needs to do. Another issue facing the district is the Opportunity Scholarship for Choice; a potential of 12,000 students that would be impacted that are needed to be transported, which the district will receive zero funding. Mr. Carter opined that the only way to reduce the cost of Transportation is to reduce staff which would allow for the reduction of salaries and benefits, or to not provide service.

Mrs. Rich Levinson discussed the summer closures, stating that many schools are open during the summer with a few cars in the parking lot. Mrs. Rich Levinson requested that a review be made for next summer by putting principals into selected schools or at K.C. Wright, and have custodial crews going en masse and knock out a school so that operating costs can be cut drastically over the summer.

Mrs. Rich Levinson stated that she had requested an advertising workshop to discuss an avenue where a lot of revenue can be created. Mrs. Rich Levinson requested that a revenue workshop be held rather than just discussing advertising, discussing all the ways revenue can be brought into the district.

Concurring, Mrs. Rupert stated that the Budget Task Force was discussing the immediate ways to bring in revenue.

Mrs. Rupert inquired how many years has the Transportation department been working at a deficit.

Mr. Carter responded that the district has always worked at a deficit because only a certain portion of the total cost is funded. He stated there are no limits to the cost based on the required services.

Mrs. Rupert discussed her concerns with overtime, saying that this is at a high rate. She inquired whether overtime can be taxed at a higher rate because it seems that employees at the higher levels are getting overtime.

Mr. Harrell responded that when bus drivers pick their routes it is done by seniority, which is contractual. Initially, they are able to pick their larger routes but when mitigating overtime, the district has total control. Mr. Harrell stated that staff looks for low-paid drivers who pick the lower routes, and when something comes up, such as a CBI, it will be assigned to a driver with a lower route time.

Mr. Harrell informed the Board that this year a procedure was implemented whereby he personally runs a report during every other pay period of all terminals by person and by payroll period. This report is sent to all managers who must explain why a person is on overtime.

Responding to Mr. Thomas' inquiry, Mr. Harrell stated that Miami-Dade's enrolled students is much higher than Broward, but students that are actually physically transported are being claimed in their FTE and are actually lower than Broward's enrollment.

Mr. Thomas inquired whether Miami-Dade is providing transportation to magnet schools or other services that Broward provides.

Mr. Harrell responded that staff met with Miami-Dade to ascertain how they managed their transportation issues and staff will try some of their items that are not contractual in order to mitigate some of the overtime. Mr. Harrell stated that one of the items included having their union assign the extra-curricular trips to locate employees. The Broward's contract states that it must be assigned on a list. Mr. Harrell further stated that there is some inherent benefits to being able to dictate how that is assigned. If it can be assigned to persons who have a lower route time or lower pay, costs can be lowered.

Mr. Harrell informed that Miami-Dade also has implemented in their magnet activities, if they are not able to provide transportation they are requiring parents to handle some of the transportation. Miami-Dade staff indicated that with all of the cuts their customer service has "tanked." They have an exceeding amount of late arrivals to their schools, and they are trying to transport their students through governing of routes. There are late arrivals at the schools and students being on the bus for an exorbitant amount of time. Mr. Harrell noted that Miami-Dade had a significant savings with a new management system that paid for itself within a year, costing \$500,000, a system that monitors their fuel, providing accurate reports and how they were able to reduce their fuel costs, including reducing their staff by 19 employees. Mr. Harrell stated that Broward Schools had looked at the same fuel management system and it was a part of the capital budget to be able to purchase, but this system was a casualty of the budget cuts.

Mrs. Bartleman stated that a lot of the suggestions are good but a lot of them comes down to bargaining. She stated the Board needs to sit down with Ms. Diaz and say what needs to be changed and move forward. Mrs. Bartleman stated that something will give eventually and employees will no longer have jobs. She stated that the Board needs to heighten awareness that this is a real problem.

Mrs. Bartleman further stated that discussion was held regarding offering a sliding scale transportation based on the students, such as students on Free and Reduced Lunch would not have to pay. Mrs. Bartleman inquired what research has been done on this issue. She stated that district staff needs to review Miami-Dade's plan to see what they are doing and determine whether this can be copied. Mrs. Bartleman stated that how much will be paid needs to be known, after the school year starts for Choice, because what happens with Opportunity, if there is the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) choice, that is paid for out of the 20 percent from federal dollars that have to be set aside. She said that is a huge unfunded mandate with the price of gas.

Mrs. Bartleman stated that the federal government is working on modifying that provision in NCLB; they are taking it out and the state is putting it in. She said this is something the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) can take up collectively and the Board needs to make sure this is brought up in its legislative platform, bring up what is being spent on the state mandated choice and what is the state spending, because this is directly coming from our budget.

Mrs. Bartleman concurred with the advertising and the revenue generating workshop. She stated that you cannot forecast how much will be brought in so you will not be able to balance the budget on it, but it can be used as bonus money for the schools. Mrs. Bartleman said she is hopeful the budget process will begin a little earlier next year, as these decisions are tough and the community needs to be involved. She stated that the Board worked hard on this budget and it was balanced using the \$19 million for furloughs. Mrs. Bartleman urged the audience member to attend the community budget meetings and offer her ideas.

Mrs. Good praised the recommendations from the audience, offering suggestions during these difficult times. Mrs. Good inquired about the total amount of unfunded mandates that the district has to face this coming year, for the benefit of the public.

Mr. Leong responded that the unfunded mandates are approximately \$150 million.

Mrs. Rich Levinson stated it is almost \$30 million, without the \$65 million for Class Size and the \$54 from Transportation, and adding the \$119 million totals \$150 million.

Mrs. Good stated this is a significant amount of money that the district has to generate, that is not funded and it takes away from other resources.

Discussing the issue of buses, Mrs. Good inquired whether extra-curricular buses were impacted. She stated that e-mails were received from parents indicating that the district was no longer providing certain services through transportation.

Mr. Harrell responded that as part of some of the budget cuts staff was initially looking to reduce expenditures by cutting the magnet activity buses and by taking the after-school activities (buses) that are used for athletics, out of schools and back out of service.

Mr. Harrell stated there has been a backlash from the schools because they need those services and it may dictate that some of those services be returned.

Mr. Carter stated that as we look at returning the zone buses back to the high schools, one of the caveats he has on the table with the Area Superintendents is to have the drivers provide the service at a regular rate as opposed to an overtime rate, which would be beneficial.

Mrs. Good stated that there was a discussion regarding the issue of depots, that it worked in certain scenarios. She inquired whether it worked in any scenario this year.

Mr. Harrell responded that the biggest concern with the depots is being able to have a fueling facility at the alternative school site. For it to be effective, a school site needs to be selected where that school is on the driver's run, particularly the first school of the day, and the driver will dispatch from that school instead of from the terminal. At some point during the day they will have to return back to the lot to re-fuel but once they do that, it totally eliminates the savings that is trying to be accomplished.

Mrs. Good inquired whether opening the new facility will ensure additional benefits can be achieved.

Mr. Harrell responded that is where the focus is, opening that Southwest terminal because having "micro" sites stresses resources that the district does not have. The roadblock is not being able to fuel those buses at that alternative site, encountering some Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines.

Mrs. Good stated that in some districts their magnet programs have been located near Tri-Rail systems and some of the students are given student passes to ride the Tri-Rail and encourage them to use mass transit, especially for high school magnets. Mrs. Good stated this is something that the district can look at as far as incentives in the future when looking at potential programs at some schools, their location and proximities. Also, they have utilized certain stops under or near expressways or malls where they can have a group of students in a location and have the buses pick up these students and bring them to their magnet programs. Mrs. Good acknowledged that staff is looking at creative ways, working out an arrangement with the county on mass transit for high school students. She stated that every bit of creative revenue ideas, as suggested by the audience, is an asset to the district.

Ms. Murray informed that Transportation operates 15 hours out of the day, beginning at 4:00 a.m. and work to 7:00 p.m., which provides a lot of service. She stated that she has discussed with Mr. Carter the activity buses and zone buses, what the impact is and whether it would save money. Ms. Murray stated, what impact would it have when most of those buses are servicing Title I schools, the most vulnerable students. Acknowledging that it is a cost item, Ms. Murray stated that the district's success is based on the success of the classroom and the support services that can be provided to children for after-school activities.

Ms. Murray stated that the service is used for more than athletic programs; it is used for transporting middle and high school students to the universities and colleges in Broward County. In addition, the district reaches out to industries, such as Motorola, a lot of innovative programs that the public does not see. Ms. Murray further stated that the district's success and its "bragging rights" comes from the way students are serviced. Remarking that she pushed hard for the opening of the new Southwest Terminal, Ms. Murray stated that a lot of money was spent on "dead head" time for buses in Davie to go west. Once this is opened it will eliminate an average of half an hour a day for every driver on the road and there will be savings in salaries and fuel costs.

Ms. Murray stated that she has met with ESE staff who have indicated that students will be evaluated and mainstream them on regular buses so that specialized service can be reduced, so that ridership will increase to certain schools. She stated there are elementary magnet schools that ride together, merging services so that utilization of buses can be attained. Ms. Murray opined that when the new terminal is opened there will probably be a \$1 million savings.

Concurring that these issues need to be put into the district's legislative platform, Ms. Dinnen stated that the district needs to market more for people to put pressure on decisions affecting school districts. Ms. Dinnen opined that the majority of the leadership at the state level no longer considers public schools important, and their lack of funding is a manner to promote the privatization of public schools. Ms. Dinnen further stated that district staff is doing its best to overcome these difficult economic times.

The following individuals addressed this item:

Charlotte Greenbarg
Deborah Hosey

Adjournment: Upon motion by Mrs. Rich Levinson and seconded by Mrs. Rupert, this meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

RT