



to increasing fuel costs and increases in health and property casualty insurance costs. She noted that in order to increase resources in the classroom and comply with the *Dollars to the Classroom Act*, \$1.4 million in resources have been redirected to the classroom. In addition to the redirect, several reductions in existing budgets were necessary, which include such items as administrative position cuts; administrative position abeyance; departmental operational cuts of 10%; directed unit reallocation; systematic program review; and overtime evaluation.

STRATEGIC  
PLANNING PROCESS  
UPDATE

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, Planning/Budget/Systems Accountability, provided a brief update on the strategic planning process and pointed out that the Board identified safety and security issues as a top priority.

2001-02 STRATEGIC  
PLANNING PRIORITIES

Ms. Robin Snyder, coordinator, Communications, reviewed the 2001-02 strategic planning priorities resulting from the June 26, 2001, workshop:

- Ensure a safe and orderly environment for all students.
- Establish and maintain an allocation ratio of 25 students per teacher in all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes (except where greater numbers are desirable or agreed upon by teachers/administrators.)
- Offer a districtwide, coordinated, clearly articulated, reading program in kindergarten through fifth grade, which will include increased services for students with reading and writing deficiencies.
- Expand present collaborative procedures and articulation agreements with postsecondary institutions regarding internship and practicum programs.
- Create competitive salary schedules and benefit packages for all staff.
- Provide staff with the tools essential for effective performance of their assigned responsibilities.
- Upgrade facilities throughout the district to assure that all schools have comparable working conditions for students and staff.
- Implement strategies that enable students to assume responsibility for their learning.
- Alachua County schools will implement an **ABC (Alachua schools Build Character) Program**. Schools will provide adequate time based on each school's needs to instruct students in the **ABC Program**. The **ABC** character traits will be integrated throughout each school's curriculum.
- District goals and objectives will be in alignment as an integrated system (state, school board, central office, schools, classrooms, and learners).

Chairman Leathers expressed disappointment that the Board felt the need to identify the character education program as a priority, but stated that he has high expectations for the program.

Mr. Terry Tougaw, executive director, Maintenance/Facilities, reviewed the 2001-02 strategic planning priorities for capital projects. He informed the Board that it was discovered at the June 26, 2001, workshop that an additional transfer of \$196,000 was made into the debt service for COPs and projects were readjusted for the year by that amount. He briefly reviewed the adjusted projects due to the \$196,000 transfer.

Mr. Dave Hotary, Executive Director, Safety/Risk Management, briefly reviewed the adjusted amount that is available in the capital outlay budget for security/safety for the following items: Phone system changes, Intercoms, Radios, Signs, Access Control, Security Alarm system enhancements and associated equipment, Office/building modifications, Fencing, Video and Lighting.

He informed the Board that the budget incorporates items recommended by the safety consultants and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. A comprehensive report from the consultants will be provided to the Board in the near future.

Responding to Mrs. Carroll's concern related to the decrease in the adjusted amount for intercoms, Mr. Hotary explained that what was addressed in the allocation for intercoms was only the portion that would keep staff and students safe and would tie into the Crisis Plan. The district's maintenance department would continue to be responsible for the upkeep of the current intercom system.

Responding to Mrs. Sharpe's concern regarding Hawthorne Jr./Sr. High School having a caller ID system, Mr. Hotary indicated that older equipment may not be able to handle caller ID.

Mrs. Sharpe thanked Superintendent Chambers for continuing to work with Hawthorne Jr./Sr. High School on their phone system.

Mr. Hotary stated that based on the consultants' comprehensive plan, the district will be able to focus on what needs to be done.

## STUDENT PROJECTIONS

Dr. Mel Lucas, director, Research and Evaluation, provided the Board with historical data on FTEs and school-by-school FTE projections for 2001-02. He pointed out that there will be a slight increase in FTE, but next year's enrollment is the beginning of a districtwide decline in student population.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Ms. Cheri Trainor, Senior Accountant, briefly reviewed the 2001-02 Budget for various district funds and provided the Board with an overview of the funds, functions and object codes used by the district.

Superintendent Chambers stated that the challenge in this budget is paying for recurring expenditures from previous years. She pointed out that the new revenue that the district is scheduled to receive is being appropriated primarily for increases in health insurance, property/casualty and fuel.

She stated that the budget was also impacted by a decrease of \$300,000 in lottery funding and a decision was made to find other funding sources from which to continue to provide teachers. She pointed out that the district would also address programs that are being provided to make certain that they are essential for students.

Chairman Leathers stated that due to an inadequate reserve balance, the district must be careful not to dip further into the reserve.

Superintendent Chambers agreed that the district does not have reserves in this budget other than the Board contingency, and budget cuts must be made to balance the budget.

Mr. Birkett presented a budget overview and noted the challenges the district has had to face due to the loss of revenue from charter schools, AP dollars, lottery, and the dual enrollment program.

Mrs. Sharpe felt it necessary to make the public aware of the fact that the district is in serious financial difficulty. When they read or hear that there is a large sum of money flowing from the state to the school district, they need to read into that very carefully because there has been a severe reduction in the financial budget for K-12 education. Also, what they are not aware of is that only about a quarter of the money that they have allocated is actually coming from the state and the remainder is coming from required local effort and the Florida Retirement System. Would like to make everyone aware of the fact that the \$850 recruitment/retention bonus for teachers is a one-time allotment and is not negotiable by the union.

She pointed out that Alachua County has been dipping into non-recurring funds for over the past two years and that is the reason for the district's current financial situation and the district is working hard to make up for it.

Chairman Leathers expressed the concern with the high costs of insurance and fuel costs.

Superintendent Chambers explained that Alachua County is still at the bottom for funding in the state.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that the districts that are giving substantial salary increases are districts that have larger class sizes. She pointed out that one of the Board's top priorities is to reduce class size and the Board is headed in that direction.

ADVERTISEMENT OF  
THE 2001-2002  
PROPOSED TENTATIVE  
BUDGET AND  
MILLAGE

Mr. Birkett presented the Board with the Tentative Millage and Appropriations for advertisement. The advertisement is scheduled to appear in *The Gainesville Sun* on Sunday, July 29, 2001.

He pointed out that once again, the Board will be faced with the dilemma of having a millage decrease. If taxpayers' assessments do not change, their taxes for education will decrease, but the School Board has to advertise a tax increase because the Board has to show those millages against the Roll Back rate.

Mr. Keith Birkett reviewed the following ten schedules showing proposed millage rates, millage comparisons, and budget hearing notices as required by law.

Schedule I – Notice of Proposed Tax Increase

Schedule II – Percent Change Over Rolled Back Rate

Schedule III – Comparison of Proposed 2001-02 to the 2000-01 Actual Millage Rates

Schedule IV – Budget Summary Notice

Schedule V – Budget Ad Percent Decrease Over Prior Year Expenditures

Schedule VI – Historical Summary of Financial and Demographic Data

Schedule VII – Dollars to Classroom Advertisement Requirements

Schedule VIII – Dollars to Classroom Calculation

Schedule IX – Notice of Tax for School Capital Outlay

Schedule X – Budget Appropriations Approved for Advertisement

He noted that the above-recommended schedules include an overall decrease in millage over the 2000-2001 budget.

Mr. Birkett read Schedule X, Budget Appropriations Approved for Advertisement.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, HEREBY ADOPTS THE TENTATIVE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ADVERTISEMENT DATED JULY 29, 2001, WHICH CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS, FOR THE 2001-2002 FISCAL YEAR:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>
GENERAL	\$ 166,550,163.00
SPECIAL REVENUE	20,527,426.00
DEBT SERVICE	13,956,944.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS	75,551,385.00
INTERNAL SERVICE	0.00
TRUST AND AGENCY	<u>4,182,481.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 280,768,399.00

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the 2001-2002 proposed Tentative Budget and Millage for advertising.

Chairman Leathers announced that a public hearing has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Thursday, August 2, 2001, for adoption of the 2001-2002 proposed Tentative Budget and Millage.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.