

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATESMonday, April 30, 1973BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

Present: Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles, President
 Commissioner J. S. Guy, Jr.
 Commissioner George R. Aud
 John Little, C.P.A., David Gruber & Co.
 Stanley Donaldson, Financial Consultant
 Harris Sterling, Finance Director

Dr. Robert E. King, Superintendent of Schools)
 E. H. Ocker, President) St. Mary's
 Henry Kanowicz, Director of Business Admin.) County
 James Ogden, Director of Instruction) Board of
 Catherine W. Barnes, Vice President) Education

Charles Purcell)
 John Cross)
 Walt Frazier) Education Assoc. of St. Mary's County
 Alvis Mealy)

Commissioner Bowles stated May 1 is the deadline for the budget and the Commissioners wanted to give the Board of Education an opportunity to agree or disagree before the deadline. Commissioner Bowles said the adjustment in the Board of Education budget from their request is \$368,150. Equipment that was in the Board of Education budget will be provided through the County budget in the amount of \$265,804. It will be provided through our budget instead of the Board of Education budget so we can use Revenue Sharing Funds. Commissioner Bowles said in the Board of Education budget are Federal programs which are awaiting Federal funding amounting to \$403,000 (Title I and Neighborhood Youth Corps). This will be removed from the Board of Education budget, but should the Board of Education receive said funds, every consideration would be given to the use of said funds. Based on information available, the P.L. 874 funds will amount of about \$782,000, which is about \$275,000 more than what was estimated by the Board of Education. Total adjustments to the Board of Education budget are \$1,036,000, which represents a reduction of only \$368,150. The local request is \$5,272,138 less separate appropriations for the 1971-72 deficit of \$239,975, which we will be providing by separate appropriation; less equipment to be provided for by County \$265,804; other adjustments \$368,150; less increase P.L. 874 funds \$275,000. These figures total \$1,148,929, which will make the local cash approved in the Board of Education budget \$4,123,209. Commissioner Bowles stated there was no reduction in educational salaries.

Mr. Little discussed the terms of the Revenue Sharing Funds and the Capital Outlay provision of Revenue Sharing. He stated the money has to be specifically allocated. The equipment, which would be in the County budget, must last beyond a one-year duration.

Mr. Little discussed the \$275,000 adjustment in the P.L. 874 funds. He stated this was approached on the basis of what they have seen and heard and what was in the newspaper yesterday about the possibility of it being increased. Mr. Little said it was his feeling that the \$275,000 is roughly 54% of total funding taking in the "A" and "B" students. This approach is better than reducing the Board of Education budget an additional \$275,000 on the theory that if the money does not come through somewhere between July 1, 1973 and June 30, 1974 the Board of Education will be able to make necessary adjustments in their own budget to prevent having a deficit.

Mr. Kanowicz asked Mr. Little if any consideration had been given in the area of equipment identified throughout the budget, outside of Capital Outlay and utilized in calculating the average cost per pupil. Mr. Little said we should work towards having it included, provided it can be.

Mr. Kanowicz asked Mr. Little if he used average daily attendance for the 54% figure. Mr. Little said he used the \$275,000 added to the \$507,000.

Mr. Little stated that if the \$275,000 adjustment had to be made it would give the Board of Education a year to do it. Mr. Little said they would have to practice financial management so that in the event the \$275,000 of the additional revenue that has been estimated from P.L. 874 is not received they will be in a position of reducing their expenditures, so that there will not be a deficit in the Board of Education June 30, 1974.

Dr. King said the \$368,000 figure could be doubled by this method.

Mr. Little read the detail of adjustments to the Board of Education Budget.

Mr. Little stated the Commissioners did not want to pick up the portion of transportation the State has stopped concerning pick-up of children within one mile (pupil transportation). Mr. Little said he did not know whether this was in their budget. Dr. King stated it was not in their budget.

Mr. Little said the custodians would receive step increases but not receive contract percentage increases. Mr. Ocker said this would be inviting them to join the union. Mr. Kanowicz stated he did not know how this would affect part-time help. Part-time is in there in terms of not fully funding full time people and actually it is an economy move rather than by putting part-time people additionally.

Mrs. Barnes asked if that list is where the cuts are to be made in the budget. Commissioner Bowles said these were areas the Commissioners considered to be cut.

Mr. Ocker said he thought it was unwise to cut the pay increase of the custodians because they are extremely underpaid.

Commissioner Bowles said this does not cut out their step increase, only their percentage increase.

Mr. Kanowicz asked if any consideration had been given to the elimination of the additional speech therapist whereby they get additional state aid up to \$50 per pupil or \$4,000 in addition to their inclusion of the state aid formula, which would guarantee around \$8,000 of state aid for a speech therapist. Mr. Little said there are additional adjustments in the state aid funding. He said he did not take this into consideration.

Mr. Kanowicz stated they are using part-time custodians to eliminate a full-time person. Mr. Purcell said there will probably be some repercussions because there has been an attempt by the union to get into this County.

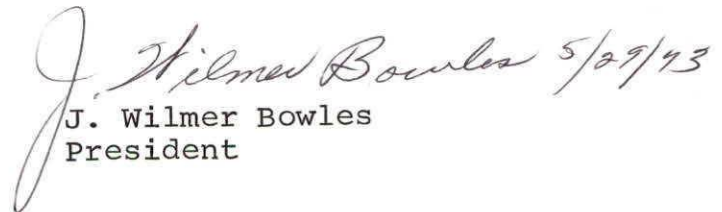
Commissioner Aud stated we are raising taxes this year while other counties are decreasing.

Mrs. Barnes said they would like an opportunity to take this information and look over the whole budget, particularly with respect for their concern for the custodian and maintenance people, and determine which are the least critical areas.

Commissioner Guy stated they may wish to alter or change some of the categories, which the Commissioners would have to agree to; however, we are still talking about a total of \$4,123,209.

A meeting was set for 9:00 a.m. Tuesday. This will give the Board of Education time to discuss the changes in the budget.

Commissioner Guy stated there is work to be done for Federal and State funding for next year. The effort of the last few months should be continued now instead of when the crises is upon us.

 5/29/73
J. Wilmer Bowles
President