

School Board Approves Final Budget, Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2019

The School Board voted Thursday to approve the Martin County School District's Fiscal Year 2019 final budget and millage rate for the 2018-2019 school year. The budget and millage rate were passed unanimously by the Board Members in attendance - Christia Li Roberts, Marsha Powers and Tina McSoley. Board Members Rebecca Negron and Michael DiTerlizzi did not attend the meeting.

The District's 2019 budget totals approximately \$305 million, an amount that is divided into five fund groups – General/Operational, Debt Services, Capital, Special Revenue – Grants and Special Revenue – Food Service. The funds that make up the largest portion of the District's budget are the General/Operational and Capital funds.

This year, approximately \$198 million is allocated to the General/Operational fund to pay for items such as employee salaries, utilities, student transportation and classroom materials. This fund is also used to pay for contracted services, including the costs associated with placing a school resource officer on every campus.

Approximately \$80 million is assigned to the Capital fund to pay for construction and maintenance projects, technology, campus security upgrades and school buses. The proposed half-cent sales tax increase that will appear on Martin County voters' ballots on November 6 is not yet included in the budget for the Capital fund. If approved by voters, this initiative would raise approximately \$16 million annually for seven years. Funds would be used to completely replace Jensen Beach and Palm City elementary schools, provide needed security upgrades and enhancements at all schools and address the \$98 million backlog of district-wide maintenance and repair projects.

The approved millage rate of 6.862 for Fiscal Year 2019 includes the additional millage (one-half mill) that was approved by Martin County voters in August 2018.

To learn more about the final Fiscal Year 2019 budget, or to view documents that were presented to the School Board during Thursday's meeting, please click [here](#).