

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2000**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a joint meeting with the Board of Education on Wednesday, November 15, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Inn Banquet Room, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

- Charles P. Gaskins, Chairman
- David Hammond, Vice Chairman
- Glenn Bowen, Commissioner
- Ann Huggins, Commissioner
- Eugene James, Commissioner
- Tom Johnson, Sr., Commissioners
- Mark W. Owens, Jr., Commissioner
- M. Theresa Shank, Commissioner
- Beth B. Ward, Commissioner

Board of Education members present:

- Jill Camnitz
- Don Carson
- Jack Collins
- Michael Dixon
- Jim Hopf
- Ralph Love
- Barbara Owens
- Sidney Scott
- Ephraigm Smith
- Richard Tolmie

Board of Education members absent:

- Walter Gaskins
- Mike Barnette

Others present were:

- Thomas B. Robinson, County Manager
- John K. Bulow, Assistant County Manager
- JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
- Susan J. Banks, Clerk to the Board
- Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services
- Arlen Holt, Public Information Officer
- Dr. Michael Priddy, Superintendent
- Dr. John McKnight, Associate Superintendent
- Shirley Carraway, Associate Superintendent
- Brenda Jones, Associate Superintendent
- Stephanie Edmondson, School Board Attorney
- Barry Gaskins, Schools Public Relations
- Aaron Beaulieu, Schools Finance Officer
- Brenda Strickland, Schools Clerk
- Randy Royal, Commissioner-elect
- Tom Coulson, Commissioner-elect
- John Charles Thompson, Chairman, Pitt County Development Commission
- Chip Cherry, Executive Director, Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce
- John Chaffee, Executive Director, Pitt County Development Commission

Call to Order for Board of Commissioners – Chairman Gaskins

Call to order for Board of Education – Sidney Scott

Commissioner James offered the blessing and the meal was served.

Mr. Jim Hopf began the meeting by discussing the Education Compact. He reviewed the successes for the past year for the students. He stated that the School Board has set the standard for every grade. Mr. Hopf stated that this is a community investment with long term dividends. He stated it shows the community's commitment to a better education for the children.

Dr. Priddy spoke about bringing people together for a common purpose. He stated that quality education for the children is also important to the recruitment of new industries to this community and the overall development of Pitt County. He said the Education Compact shows the investment of the Board of Commissioners to education. He stated that the performance standards they have set for the schools is one of two best accountability models in the United States. He said the ABC's model is being monitored on the State and Federal levels. He spoke of the return on investment of students who have accepted scholarships. Dr. Priddy reviewed each area of concentration, their goals and their successes. He addressed areas in need of attention. He stated that they would be bringing a resolution to the Board of Commissioners about health care services being focused on in the schools. He addressed the SAT scores and drop-out rate in Pitt County.

Mr. Don Carson informed the Board that they had each been provided a summary of capital projects in the notebooks that were provided at this meeting. He praised John McKnight on the excellent job he has done in overseeing each of the construction projects. He said that it is obvious that Pitt County needs a new middle school because overcrowding is still a problem and that it is a continual challenge to try to meet the schools building needs. He addressed that they are attempting to have equity in athletic programs and facilities in the high schools. Commissioner James asked why the existing high schools are not being brought up to par before starting construction on a new high school. Mr. Carson stated that they are using what money is available for renovations but they need help from the County, not just from the State.

Mr. Michael Dixon thanked the Chamber of Commerce and the Development Commission for the reception that was held prior to the start of the joint meeting. He thanked the Board of Education, Board of Commissioners and all staff for the work on this meeting. He spoke of a desire to make equal efforts by both Boards. He addressed the equity in the schools and the spirit of cooperation that is needed between these two boards.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board