

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 12, 2003 MINUTES

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, May 12, 2003, at 6:00 PM in the Media Center of North Pitt High School, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

Beth Ward, Chairman
Eugene James, Vice Chairman
John Minges, Commissioner
Jimmy Garris, Commissioner
Mark Owens, Jr., Commissioner
Glenn Bowen, Commissioner
Tom Coulson, Commissioner
David Hammond, Commissioner

Member Absent:

Randy Royal, Commissioner

Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
Susan Banks, Clerk to the Board
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
Melonie Bryan, Deputy County Manager/Financial Services
Phil Dickerson, Deputy County Manager/Public Services

Board of Education Members present:

Jill Camnitz, Board of Education Chairman
Mary Grace Bright, Board Member
Don Carson III, Board Member
Walter Gaskins, Board Member
Betsy Leech, Board Member
Ralph Love, Board Member
Barbara Owens, Board Member
Sidney Scott, Board Member
Richard Tolmie, Board Member
Delano Wilson, Board Member
Michael Dixon, Vice-Chair

Members Absent:

Mike Barnette

School Staff present:

Michael Priddy, Superintendent
Brenda Jones, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
Shirley Carraway, Associate Superintendent, Educational Programs and Services
Aaron Beaulieu, Finance Officer

The invocation was offered by Barbara Owens and then the boards and staff recessed for dinner.

Call to Order

Chairman Ward welcomed everyone present. She thanked Robin Daily, Principle of North Pitt High School for their hospitality of hosting this meeting. School Board Chairman Jill Camnitz welcomed both boards and spoke about the importance of them working together. She thanked the Schools staff for the dinner.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman James.

Chairman Camnitz said the first order of business is the 2003-04 Schools Budget.

Richard Tolmie spoke about the pages in the “Blue Book” that explained the accomplishments and the accomplishments that relate to the Education Compact. He spoke about fine well qualified employees and support from the commissioners supplying the resources to achieve these accomplishments.

Uncontrollable Increases

Mr. Tolmie said the figures provided are all estimates or recommendations from agencies such as Greenville Utilities Commission. He said the State is coming forward with 2% pay increase for teachers which the County will have to address with County paid employees. He said they are projecting an increase of 402 students for the next year. If salaries are increased, it will increase the cost of supplements by \$42,142. He said Retirement will increase from 3.03% to 5.03%. South Central will add the 11th grade. Pactolus will be a K-8 school. With these two changes, additional support positions are required.

Proposed Recurring Revenue Sources		
Educational Compact Funding - 4th Year	\$1,800,000.00	
School System Internal Redirections & Efficiencies	\$948,334.00	
Total Possible Recurring Revenue Sources		\$2,748,334.00

Proposed New Money Request		
Uncontrollable Increases		
Salary Increases Local Empl.-proposed 2%	\$187,000.00	
Increased Hospitalization (341 employees 20% rate increase-premium \$3,533)	\$201,000.00	
Insurance Premiums (Property, Worker's Comp., Liability, etc.)	\$46,700.00	
Allotments-ADM Growth (342 X \$39.35)	\$13,500.00	
Public Utilities (3% increase)	\$101,000.00	
Supplement		
Certified Supplements (increase with 2% sal. Increase)	\$42,142.00	
Extra-curricular Supplements (5% step increase)	\$25,500.00	
Retirement Increase (3.03% to 5.03%)	\$183,000.00	
Classified Salary Increase	\$250,000.00	
Personnel		
South Central H.S. - increase one grade 11th	\$184,212.00	
Pactolus - increase one grade 8th	\$115,426.00	
Total Uncontrollable Increases		\$1,349,480.00

Expenditures New Student Assignment Plan

Small HS Program Support	\$53,173.00
Block Scheduling	\$20,000.00
Total New Student Assignment Plan	\$73,173.00

*** Expenditures for Program Improvements**

Educational Programs and Services	\$578,036.00
Human Resources	\$653,859.00
Auxiliary Services	\$93,786.00
Total Department Request	\$1,325,681.00

Total Proposed Budget Request New Money**\$2,748,334.00****Proposed Revenue less Proposed New Money Request****\$0.00**

- Expenditures for Program Improvements (including the .25% increase in teacher supplement) are being recommended pending final state legislation

Educational Programs and Services**Grade 9**

Freshman Academy/Transition Program 3 teaching positions	\$112,164.00
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Freshman Transition Budget for Each High School

NPHS, AGHS, FCHS @ \$3,000 each JHR, DHC and SC @ \$5,000 each	\$24,000.00
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Transition Program for Exceptional Children

Teaching positions - 3 additional Instructional Supplies	\$112,164.00 \$5,000.00
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NATEF Upgrade

Ayden Grifton High School	\$20,000.00
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Educational Program Support

Teacher on Loan - English Teacher on Loan - Science	\$37,388.00 \$37,388.00
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Student Services

Liaison 504 (1/2 time position) Social Workers - 2 additional positions	\$18,694.00 \$100,000.00
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Athletics

Coaching Supplement - extend steps 20-30	\$27,500.00
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Educational Programs & Services Program Request

\$83,738.00

Total Educational Program & Services**\$578,036.00****Human Resources****Local Target Assistance-Instructional Specialist**

NPHS, AGHS, FCHS, Wellcome, Ayden Middle	\$234,000.00
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Teacher Supplement - .25% increase from 4.75% to 5% \$221,859.00

Additional Custodial Positions \$170,000.00

Substitute Bus Drivers Salary Increase from \$7.32 to \$8 \$28,000.00

Total Human Resources**\$653,859.00**

Auxiliary Services		
Maintenance Department - operational increases	\$61,786.00	
Community Schools	\$32,000.00	
Total Auxiliary Services		\$93,786.00
Total New Money Request		\$1,325,681.00

Mr. Tolmie said they were scheduled to get \$1.8 million from the Education Compact and they had tried to meet the Uncontrollable Increases by redirecting school system. They have redirected money within the school system but still fall \$400,000 short.

He reviewed examples of the new programs being proposed such as No Child Left Behind, State ABC's, etc. which cause the Schools to incur additional costs. He said the Small High School Program Support (Abbot program) would improve performance by the students, advancement for individual coordination and would introduce in three new small high schools.

Mr. Tolmie commented on the following:

- Block Scheduling – Need funds to do additional staff training
- Hope to reduce dropout rate by “Transition Program for Exceptional Children”
- South Central’s freshman class will be larger than Farmville or Ayden-Grifton.

Commissioner James asked if the 21,000 students included private school students. Mr. Tolmie said that the 21,000 students figure did not include private school or home schooled children.

Commissioner Hammond asked if there are funds from Washington, DC for the No Child Left Behind program. Mr. Tolmie said no federal money is coming to accompany this program. Commissioner Owens asked how the schools use the education compact funds and if the \$1.8 million being requested was the purpose No Child Left Behind program. Commissioner Hammond motioned to fund the educational compact. Chairman Ward said this is an informational meeting and they need to wait for the whole budget presentation and information before taking any action. Mr. Tolmie said the capital outlay budget is on Page 75 of the Blue Book and asked that the Commissioners study the capital outlay budget for the schools.

Mr. John Sinnett reviewed the Long Range Educational Plan Priorities that were adopted by the Board of Education on May 8, 2003. This included three new schools.

Mr. Sinnett said that the requests were categorized. They discussed the funds from the half cent sales tax. He stated that Farmville Central High School has major roof leaking problems. They hope to receive \$680,000 from corporate tax. They may get these funds from Raleigh and will be used to payoff indebtedness. He noted in the Blue Book, Page 73 one major project is explained.

Walter Gaskins said school system is increasing, there are roofs to keep up, and would like the Board of Commissioners to really look at these needs. He said \$750,000 for capital outlay needed in just this budget. He asked the Board to consider giving the schools an increase in the capital expenditures. Mr. Tolmie said that capital expenditures have been constant for a long time.

Commissioner Bowen asked about the requested increase of teachers supplement by .25% and then Central Office increase by 8%. He expressed concern in the administration’s 8% increase in

salaries. He said he is getting calls that teachers need more pay, not that the schools administration needs an increase. Mr. Tolmie said that teachers' pay is driven by the State and they receive an increase every year, but administration may go years without an increase in pay. There was some discussion about Pitt County Memorial Hospital and Mental Health services. Chairman Ward asked if the increase in funds they were requesting was totally supplements. Mr. Tolmie said those funds could also be for new positions or administration. Mr. Tolmie said that Mr. Beaulieu tries to make the funds come from appropriate areas.

Long Range Educational Plan – Don Carson

Mr. Carson reported that they have enrolled over 20,600 students with 402 being new students. They have a 2002 inventory of school facilities needs. Smith Sinnett Associates performed a study of space to meet curriculum needs. Currently they have substandard conditions and equity issues have been documented. John Sinnett said the commissioners received the 300 page report on the needs of Pitt County Schools. This report is at the libraries of the schools and is also for the public.

Mr. Sinnett said that they predict that from the years 2000-2010 there will be an increase to 154,000 in Pitt County's population. They predicate another increase by 2010-20 increase of another 21,000 people. NC State University was commissioned to do the study. He said if the County wishes to bring the schools up to standard, they will need \$216 million to do that completely. Blue Book, Page 32 shows the schools capacity and when those students will be at each school. The report gave information to formulate immediate, short range and long range needs as follows:

LONG RANGE EDUCATIONAL PLAN PRIORITIES
ADOPTED MAY 8, 2003

<u>NEW SCHOOLS</u>	<u>DOLLAR ESTIMATE</u>	<u>IMMEDIATE NEEDS</u>	<u>SHORT TERM NEEDS</u>
PK - 5 school in the SCHS area to offset WH Robinson & AG Cox and provide additional capacity.	\$9,851,012	\$9,851,012	
PK-5 school in the JH Rose attendance area to provide capacity and eliminate mobile units.	\$9,851,012		\$9,851,012
PK - 8 in the DH Conley area to address growth	\$13,556,022	\$13,556,022	

<u>ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE COST</u>	<u>IMMEDIATE NEEDS</u>	<u>SHORTTERM NEEDS</u>
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Elementary Schools

Ayden Elementary	\$2.4	
6 Classrooms.....		\$.9
Multipurpose Room.....		\$1.5
Chicod (Replace 1929/36 Bldg.)	\$5.9	\$5.9
Sadie Saulter	\$3.9	\$3.9
Wintergreen Primary/Intermediate to a PK-8.....	\$2.4	\$2.4

Middle Schools

Farmville Middle 3 Classrooms & Science Lab.....	\$.8	\$.8
Science Lab Renovations -		
Middle Schools (6).....	\$.4	\$.4
K-8 Schools	\$.4	\$.4
Air Condition Remaining		
Middle School Gyms (10).....	\$.8	\$.8
AG Cox.....	\$6.9	\$6.9

High Schools

DH Conley.....	\$5.9	
Classrooms (18)		\$3.0
Aux Gym/Auditorium		\$2.9
Cafeteria Enlargement.....	\$.4	\$.4

HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

High School Science Labs, Media Center
Expansions, Athletic Facilities, Vocational
Labs and Auditoriums (High School
Program Equity)

SCHOOL	SCIENC E LABS RENOV	MEDIA EXPAN	ATHLETICS	VOC LABS	AUDIT RENOV	TOTAL
AGHS	\$275,880	\$115,966	\$691,733	\$725,719	\$586,649	\$2,395,946
DHCHS	\$531,190	\$1,031,621	\$1,246,300	\$1,153,015	\$1,886,289*	\$4,264,620
FCHS	\$275,880	\$225,738	\$1,064,800	\$306,323	\$529,149	\$2,547,090
JHRHS	\$758,670	\$0	\$1,125,300	\$1,185,884	\$0	\$3,069,854
NPHS	\$595,320	\$364,748	\$1,004,300	\$1,214,206	\$565,196	\$3,743,770
SCHS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$2,436,940	\$1,738,072	\$5,132,433	\$4,585,148	\$1,680,994	\$16,021,287

* Included previously in D.H. Conley (shown here for clarity)

	<u>IMMEDIATE NEEDS</u>	<u>SHORT TERM NEEDS</u>
Science Labs.....	\$2.4	
Media Expansion		\$1.7
Athletics.....	\$3.4	\$1.7
Vocational Labs.....		\$4.6
Auditorium Renovations.....	\$1.6	
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>	\$ 8.3	
Grades K-5.....		\$3.8
Grades 6-12.....	\$4.5	
<u>DEFERRED MAINTENANCE, LIFE-SAFETY & REGULATORY NEEDS</u>		
Immediate Needs.....	\$ 6.9	\$6.9
Short Range Needs	\$14.0	\$14.0
Facility Services – Land & Design (Contingency).....	\$.4	
<hr/> <i>SUB TOTAL</i>	<i>\$108.6</i>	<i>\$57.7</i>
		<i>\$50.9</i>

CONSIDERATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS & BOARD OF EDUCATION

Community Schools & Recreation Facility \$3.8

Mr. Sinnett said they looked at the greatest needs and where they could make the most impact with the funds available. They were looking at technology, providing computer training and other items for the entire school system. Mr. Sinnett noted that the Community Schools and recreation program requested \$3.8 million over and above other numbers listed.

Mr. Sinnett said they have broken the program down into areas of most urgent and compelling needs but understand the financial situation because other areas are in deep recession. Mr. Sinnett said the schools play an important role with Pitt Community College. Commissioner Coulson asked what the cost would be to the County to supply the \$108 million for each year. Mr. Sinnett said they would need the commissioners to accept the report and then he could give estimates on the costs for these improvements.

Mr. Elliott said that those figures would be presented at the Board meeting on May 19th. Commissioner Hammond asked about land for Sadie Saulter school. It was listed early on as part of the initial package where there was not differentiation between short term and long term needs.

Mr. Sinnett said that D. H. Conley would be comprised of several packages. They discussed another high school and that it would cost \$25 million whereas changes can be made to Conley for less expense.

Ralph Love and David Hammond left at 8:14pm.

Commissioner Garris asked about the expense of building schools. Mr. Sinnett said that 11% of the square footage in schools is in the walls. The corridors take up 15-18% of the facility because of building requirements. He said they need 38% more than actual classroom space built in.

Commissioner Owens asked if there were any immediate needs for Falkland. Mr. Sinnett said the Board did not decide they were immediate needs. Commissioner Owens said the Superintendent and the staff need to keep working with the County Manager to see how to best meet these needs financially. Chairman Ward said that the Board of Commissioners will meet in small groups to discuss budget needs with staff. Any commissioner can call and let staff know tonight that they want to meet with Mr. Sinnett to discuss these immediate needs. Commissioner Owens said they need more specific information. Commissioner James said Pitt County Schools ought to be able to play one another in sports so the students would not have to travel so far. He suggested they take some money and bring the schools up to at least a 2A status.

Mr. Sinnett said it would take \$10 million to do the improvements to Farmville Central and Ayden Grifton High Schools. Mr. Sinnett said the School Board has set number standards for these schools. Commissioner James said the schools need the rivalry. Mr. Carson said they tried to address that when they looked at attendance lines.

Commissioner Minges asked if the construction estimates would be accurate for the oncoming years. Mr. Sinnett said they figured in three years inflation at 3% but as time goes on it will depend on how much it cost to borrow money and what happens with inflation.

Mr. Tolmie said that there are other short term needs that had been identified for Falkland Elementary in the amount of over \$500,000. Walter Gaskins said these projects need to be ongoing until all the needs are met not just certain projects. This needs to keep going because of the way Pitt County is growing. Commissioner Bowen said that there are no schools for Ayden-Grifton sports to compete with in Pitt County. Commissioner Bowen said he would like to get information like he received tonight at least five days to a week in advance prior to these meetings.

Remarks – Scott Elliott, County Manager

Mr. Elliott said his comments will come with the County budget when it is presented on May 19th. He said the County is facing another bleak budget year. The Board will be meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in budget workshops and then they will meet to discuss the capital improvement program. He noted that the County currently has an excess of a \$180 million budget. Revaluation will effect the 2004-05 budget year which will increase the tax base but the funds will not be in this budget year. Consequently, Mr. Elliott said he would hold his comments until Monday.

Dr. Mike Priddy said the Education compact has been important to these schools over the past three years. They have made a difference in the ability to hire teachers. He said Page 2 in the Blue Book is focused on the 9th grade transition, noting the drop-out rate. The No Child Left Behind program requires everyone to be a high school graduate regardless of whether is a large or small school. Children with special needs are the second group they are looking at providing services. He said each child has a special plan. The need for community support has been more evident over the last 5-10 years. Leadership roles for, principals and the superintendent, have

become more difficult over the past few years. In class employees and teachers have been provided supplements. They have good folks and want to keep them involved.

Dr. Priddy informed everyone that during the long range transition plan, Dr. John McKnight will be retiring on June 30th. He will then be contracted with to oversee the long range plan starting July 1. He said he is happy to have someone they can trust watching over all the construction of these facilities.

Dr. Priddy said it is imperative to have additional space at this point. He encourage the commissioners to visit the schools. He said the cafeterias at noon are overflowing and they have 130 mobile units. He said that some schools are getting ready to exceed their capacity. Schools staff and Manager's staff work together to find a path to follow and to find a revenue stream to get started on these project. He said they need to work together so they won't confuse the public. If a long range educational plan could be achieved, it would high light what could be done for the school.

Dr. Priddy said they are asking for a bond referendum of \$108 million instead of \$216 million. They have 60% of funds for buildings that are already in use, they want to upgrade of labs from 6th to 12th grades and to improve athletic facilities. He said the School Board has been firm on appeals for changing high schools. He said it is important that they follow the assignments. He said there is a high need for 100% of maintenance of life/safety and regulatory needs and technology needs in all the high schools. Community schools recreation program needs to be added to the capital improvements program for the schools.

He thanked both groups and especially what the commissioners have done over the few years.

Chairman Ward asked commissioners to let the County Manager know when they want to meet with John Sinnett and he will arrange times. Chairman Ward said this was a thorough presentation and praised Mr. Sinnett on the report that he provided the boards. She commended the School Board on their work over the past week. The Commissioners have the materials that they need to move forward.

Chairman Camnitz thanked Mr. Sinnett for his report. She thanked Aaron Beaulieu and his staff for their work on the budget. She said the Education Compact has been instrumental in improvements in the schools and the continuing cooperation that started with the compact needs to continue. She said she hoped they can move the facility plan forward and also involve the community in the facility plan.

Adjourn

Motion

Commissioner James motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:50p.m.

Commissioner Minges seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board