

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE,NORTH CAROLINA
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009 MINUTES**

Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 8:30 AM in the Commissioner's Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Board Members Present:

Melvin McLawhorn, Chairman
Kenneth Ross, Vice Chairman
David Hammond, Commissioner
Beth Ward, Commissioner
Eugene James, Commissioner
Tom Johnson, Commissioner
Mark W. Owens, Jr., Commissioner
Jimmy Garris, Commissioner
Ephraim Smith, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
Patricia Staton, Clerk To The Board
Janis Gallagher, County Attorney
Melonie Bryan, Deputy County Manager/Financial Services
Phil Dickerson, County Engineer
Shelley Leach, Budget Administrator
Denise Urban, Budget & Grants Analyst
Michael Taylor, Deputy County Manager/Chief Information Officer
Florida Hardy, Human Resources Director

Call to Order

Chairman McLawhorn called the budget workshop to order.

Invocation and Pledge

The invocation was given by Commissioner Eugene James. The Pledge was led by Commissioner Beth Ward.

Approval of Agenda

Staff Recommendation

Approval of agenda as submitted.

Motion:

Approval of agenda as submitted.

Motion made by Commissioner Jimmy Garris.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Items for Report

Manager's Overview

Information Provided with the Agenda

Meeting Notes

Mr. Elliott provided the board with a PowerPoint on the Pitt County FY 09-10 Budget. This was an overview of the recommended budget.

Pitt County FY 09-10 Budget

Manager's Recommended Budget Overview

Budget Workshop

May 19, 2009

Fiscal Year 09-10 Overview

Considerations FY 09-10 Budget Development

- Recession (Local vs. National Economies)
- ARRA – Stimulus Funding
- Current Year Funding Reversions
- Resolution of \$1.6 Million Sales Tax Duplicated Payments
- Long Term Sustainability of Services & Programs
- Continues Commitment to Funding Board's Priorities

Directions to Departments Staff

- Not a year for expansion
- Aim to preserve operations without additional funds
- Aim to maintain operations without negative impacts to staffing – furloughs, layoffs, salary reductions

Preliminary FY 09-10 Budget

FY 09-10 Grand Total \$206,395,257

*FY 08-09 Revised \$220,850,994

Change -6.55%

*FY 08-09 Adopted: \$212,401,152 -2.83%

Preliminary FY 09-10 Budget General Fund

Original Requests \$112,239,178

Reductions by Mgr \$ 3,665,930

Mgr's Preliminary \$108,573,248

FY 08-09 Revised \$110,051,188

Change \$ 1,477,940 or -1.34%

BOCC Priorities

- To promote quality education;
- To promote community safety through enhanced emergency service programs;
- To enrich the quality of life for Pitt County citizens through opportunities for improved health and welfare;
- To advance economic development opportunities for Pitt County;
- To address the facility and space needs of all county government programs—general government, public schools and community college;
- To champion infrastructure improvements throughout the county; and
- To promote the provision of and access to recreational activities for county citizens.

FY 09-10 “Expenditure Drivers”

General Fund

- Detention Center / Jail Medical
- Education Funding Increases (BOE/PCC)
- Employee Health Insurance

Revenue Review

FY 09-10 Estimated New Revenues

General Fund

● Ad valorem taxes	
• Current Levy	\$ 1.3 M
• Medicaid Swap	<u>\$ 3.6 M</u>

Total New Money	\$ 4.9 M
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Medicaid Swap

Reduction in transfer
to Social Services \$ 6.2 M

Sales Tax to Raleigh \$ 2.6 M

Savings \$ 3.6 M

Ad Valorem Tax Rate

● Proposed Rate 66.500¢
per \$100 – No Change

Distribution

- .6540 to General Fund
- .0110 to Industrial Development

● Distribution has changed from FY 08-09 – 0.0024 moved back to General Fund

Fund Balance

- **Fund Balance is a calculation based on the combined activities of the six “general” operating funds within our budget.**
- **Fund balance is calculated as follows:**

Unreserved funds / total expenditures = fund balance %.
- **County projected to maintain current fund balance level @ June 30, 2009.**
- **Fund balance at June 30, 2009, is expected to be approximately 18.39%.**

Fund Balance

- Proposed FY 09-10 General Fund control budget does not rely on fund balance to cover recurring expenditures—no spend-down of the budgeted \$4.5 million expected.
- Proposed \$1.1 M fund balance appropriation for final debt service payment on Pitt Community College bonds.
- Medicaid “Swap” reduces FY 09-10 expenditures which allows for one-time additional fund balance appropriation with no anticipated negative impact.
- Projected June 30, 2010 fund balance: ± 18%

Proposed Fee Changes

Environmental Health

Change of Use, Flow Increase, or **Repair Area** for Existing Septic System

Current	Proposed
\$125	\$125

(clarification of description only – fee does not change)

Proposed Fee Changes

Solid Waste

Tipping Fee

	Current	Proposed
Commercial C&D	\$45	\$40
Residential C&D	\$ 0	\$40

Solid Waste

- It is proposed to change \$45/ton down to \$40/ton charge for commercial C&D
- Currently, the County only charges for commercial C&D and C&D from new residential construction
- It is proposed to charge \$40/ton for all C&D waste
- Charging for all C&D waste would generate ~\$250,000 new revenue

Proposed Fee Changes

EMS Transport Fees

	Current	Proposed
Basic	\$310	\$330
ALS I	\$365	\$390
ALS II	\$520	\$565

- Recommended Fee changes will bring the County rates in line with the 2009 Medicare reimbursement rates.
- Practice of matching Medicare rate began FY 08-09 as a result of Fitch & Associates consultant report.

Proposed Fee Changes

County Travel

Current	Proposed
.505/mile	.55/mile

*County practice is to adopt at July 1, the IRS Rate that was effective the prior January.

Expenditure Review

Expenditures by Fund

● General Fund	\$ 108,573,248
● Public Health	\$ 10,590,212
● Social Services	\$ 31,058,403
● Mental Health	\$ 760,000
● Debt Service	\$ 13,801,503
● Solid Waste	\$ 7,833,050
● Health Insurance	\$ 9,136,156
● Fire & EMS Districts	\$ 6,060,352
● All Others	\$ <u>18,582,333</u>
Total	\$ 206,395,257

Education Funding

**Pitt County Schools
&
Pitt Community College**

Education Funding Pitt County Schools and Pitt Community College

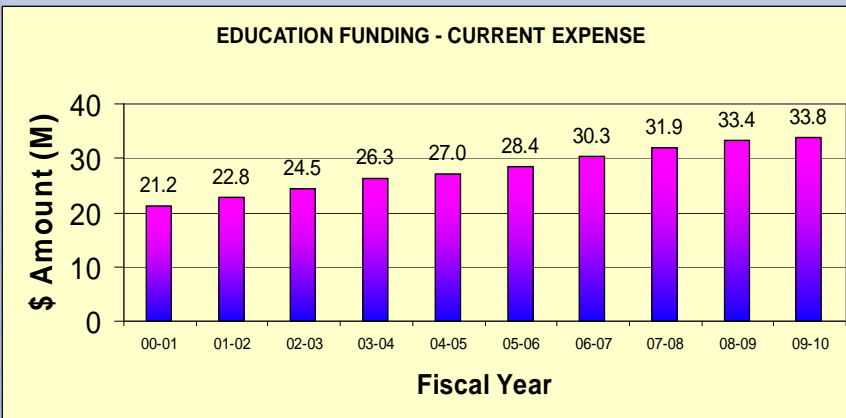
Funding for education is a high priority of the Board of Commissioners.

The FY 09-10 budget places a total of \$ 625,506 in new funding towards this priority.

Education Funding

- Based on FY 09-10 NCACC data, Pitt County is in the 40th position in funding
- Provides funding for 23,239 students
(per Pitt County Schools budget data)
- Fully funds Pitt County Schools request for FY 09-10

Education Funding



Pitt County Schools

● Current Expense \$34,139,841

Includes funds for 23,239 students, operating costs for new and/or expanded facilities and \$340,000 for rent on administrative space

● Category I,II,III Capital \$ 750,000

Total Funding \$34,889,841

Results in PPE of \$1469

Increased Funding

Current Expense Increase \$ 408,360

History of Per Pupil Expenditures (PPE)

<u>Year Ending</u>	<u>ADM</u>	<u>PPE</u>	<u>Rank</u>
2006	22,030	\$1,307	29 th
2007	22,498	\$1,362	33 rd
2008	22,994	\$1,409	36 th
2009	23,236	\$1,465	40 th
2010	23,239	\$1,469	??

Note: County's rank impacted by actions of other counties.

Pitt Community College

Current Expense	\$4,110,835
Capital Outlay	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
Total Funding	\$4,185,835

Increased Funding

Current Expense Increase	\$ 217,146
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EMS Fund

EMS Fund

FY 08-09 Budget	\$ 4,129,958
FY 09-10 as Recommended by EMS Oversight Committee	\$ 4,562,527

Revenue Sources:

• Transport & M'caid Settlement Revenues	\$ 1,750,000
• Tax Proceeds	\$ 2,412,527
• Transfer (General Fund/Admin)	\$ 200,000
• Transfer (PCMH –P.I.L.T.)	\$ 200,000
Total	\$ 4,562,527

EMS Fund

- Funds 10 stations using a new standardized formula.
- All stations using few to no volunteers – paid staff covering majority of shifts throughout the system.
- Includes funds for contingencies or grant match.
- Transport rate increases are recommended to keep County fees current with the Medicare reimbursement rates.

Fire Fund

Fire Funds

● One department is requesting a tax rate change:

- Ayden 0.0075-cent decrease under current rate
(.0375 to .0300)

All other squads have requested to hold their tax rates constant.

Human Resources and Benefits

- Maintains existing staffing with limited negative impact (No RIFs or furloughs)
- Expansion of staffing directed towards the opening of Detention Center addition
- “Counter cyclical” nature – demands for service increase during tough economic times

New Positions

Departments requested 50 new positions

	Requested	Recommended
Sheriff's Office	7.0	1.0
Detention Center	33.0	30.0
Social Services	3.0	.0
All Other Departments	<u>7.0</u>	<u>.0</u>
Totals	50.0	31.0

Market Adjustment History*

Year	CPI – All Items Jan to Jan	Adjustment Implemented in FY	Annualized Impact
2005	3.0	1.5 July – 1.5 Jan	2.25
2006	4.0	2.0 July – 2.0 Jan	3.00
2007	2.1	2.1 July	2.10
2008	4.3	2.3 July – 2.0 Jan	3.30
2009	0.0	0.0	0.00
5-Year Average	2.68		2.13

*Historically based off the CPI for a Cost of Living Adjustment

Health Insurance

- County strives to maintain strong health insurance fund
- County is self-insured – program costs are funded directly by County and handled by a third party administrator (BCBS)
- Utilization had been stable for past 5 years
- Costs up in last 2 fiscal years (~\$1m) and trend anticipated to continue into new year

Plan Utilization

Plan Year	Plan Costs
2006	\$5,064,307
2007	\$5,989,110
2008	\$6,867,045
2009 (estimated)	\$7,470,000
2010 (projected)	\$8,100,000

Inflation Comparison

Year	Medical	General
● 2006-07	4.3%	2.1%
● 2007-08	4.9%	4.3%
● 2008-09	2.6%	0.0%

Medical inflation tends to outpace general inflation.

Source: US Department of Labor – year over year growth
– January to January.

Initiatives to Control Costs

- Biometrics
- Health Risk Assessments
- Wellness Incentive Plan
- Employee Clinic (Viquest)
- Educational Sessions
- Newsletters
(HISC Initiatives)

Health Insurance

- To maintain fund and cover increases, rate increase and plan redesign is required
- County continues to cover all costs for employee coverage with exception of tiered co-pays
- Employees may choose optional coverage for dependents

County Provided Coverage

- “Employee Only”
- \$596/month
- Up \$44/month
- \$20/month vs \$40/month co-pay

Optional Coverages

- 25% of workforce chooses additional coverage
 - Employee / Child @ \$344/mo (up \$26/mo)
 - Employee / Spouse @ 493/mo (up \$37/mo)
 - Family @ 596/mo (up \$44/mo)

BCBS – Proposed Plan

- 90-10 Co-insurance (vs. 100%)
- Deductible \$500 – (No change)
- Prescription Co-pays – (No change)
- Office Visit Co-pays – (No change)

Health Insurance

Ways to reduce Future Limitations

- Consider further plan redesign
- Grant employees an “allowance” and they purchase plan that “works” for their individual situation
- Remove insurance at retirement for FUTURE hires after a set date
- Wellness initiatives
- Other???

Classification Study

- Continuation of in-house process
- Year 1 of 3 (2nd Rotation)
- Three classifications affected

Projected FY 10-11

(based on best estimates available at this time)

A Projected Look Forward

Fiscal Year 2010-11

• Detention Center Phase III	\$ 710,000
• Education Funding	\$1,475,705
• New facilities – PCC	\$ 500,000 (est)
• Natural Growth in operations	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
• “Pay off” of long term debt	(1,100,000)
Total	\$3,585,705

After \$2 million in natural growth, it will take an increase of ~1.5-cents on our tax rate to cover.

A Projected Look Forward

Fiscal Year 2011-12

• Education Funding	\$1,475,705
• New facilities – PCC	\$1,000,000 (est)
• Natural Growth in operations	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
• Total	\$4,475,705

After \$2 million in natural growth, it will take an increase of ~2.0-cents on our tax rate to cover.

Future Considerations

- EMS
- Unmet Capital Needs
- Sustainable Funding – PCS & PCC

Other Issues

- Greenville-Pitt County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Points to Consider

- Budget reflects overall BOCC priorities
- No expansion of programs or services (other than public safety)
- Few new positions granted outside of those areas with grant funding or related to Detention Center expansion
- Less than 1/4 of the fleet vehicles recommended for replacement are included in the budget. Fleet is aging and, in many departments, staff “work” from their vehicles.
- Market Adjustment tracks CPI as has been the County’s practice for the past 5 years.

Points to Consider

- Recognizes impact of current economic conditions.
- Maintains the Health Insurance fund strength with minimal plan changes.
- Use of additional fund balance for recurring expenditures has negative long term impact (bond rating, ability to respond to disasters).
- \$1.1 M fund balance above typical “plug” is dedicated to a final payment of debt.

ARRA – “Stimulus” \$

- Industrial Development
 - LandsEast Industrial Park Wastewater Infrastructure (\$720,000 requested by GUC) Pending
- Sheriff
 - COPS Recovery (\$3,337,383) Pending

Stimulus \$

● Pitt Area Transit –

- Replacement Vehicles (\$321,600) Pending
- Radios (\$58,851) Pending
- Vehicle Preventative (\$15,000) Pending

● Engineering

- Stokes/Pactolus Sewer (\$1.5 M) Pending

Stimulus \$

● Planning

- Community Development Block Grant Supplemental Funding (\$200,000) Pending
- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Funds (\$1 M) Pending

● Social Services –

- Food Stamp – Two Positions (\$62,283)
- Extra Recipient Benefits (\$ N/A)
- Crisis Intervention Funding (\$ N/A)

Stimulus \$

● Areas being pursued

- “Green Initiatives”
- “Energy Projects”
 - energy efficient windows, solar parking lot lights, HVAC, rainwater harvesting

Staff continues to monitor NCRcovery.gov for other opportunities

● Other ARRA benefits to Pitt County Citizens

- COBRA
- Unemployment – weeks extension
- Job/Youth Training

Proposed Budget Highlights

- No tax increase
- Opens new 192-bed Detention Center Expansion
- Fully funds Pitt County Schools
- Maintains service levels without drastic reductions in funding
- Preserves Pitt County Government workforce (i.e.; no furloughs, RIFs, major changes to benefits)

Next Steps

- BOCC Input/Adjustments to proposed budget
- Carefully monitor state budget proceedings
- Public Hearing: June 9th
- Adoption of Budget Ordinance: June 9th or later

Questions

Comments

Concerns

Items for further research

Items for Discussion

Discussion/Questions

Information Provided with the Agenda

Meeting Notes

Commissioner Johnson asked the Manager to explain what COBRA was. Mr. Elliott explained COBRA is a health insurance term that employees can use for 18 months when they are no longer a county employee.

Commissioner Johnson stated he is the liaison for the Pitt County School Board and he started urging them months ago to encourage requesting a reasonable amount for expenditures. He stated Mr. Elliott stated he was proposing what the School Board asked for. He stated it is good faith effort to ask for what is a reasonable amount under the current economic conditions. Commissioner Johnson asked if the list of departments were in alphabetical order for the expenditures. He suggested they should be in alphabetical order. Mr. Elliott stated they were presented in this particular order and established by the Government Finance Officer Association. He stated Pitt County had received a national award on the presentation of information for 19 years.

Commissioner Garris spoke about the net impact of the Medicaid swap. He spoke of the spending and the savings. Commissioner Garris stated the 2010 health utilization plan is \$8.1M but it has \$8.3M going into the fund. Ms. Bryan stated a \$2M reserve fund is established in case health claims rise. Commissioner Garris stated that is a compliment to local government. Mr. Elliott said the goal is to build up the fund balance to \$1M in this fund. Commissioner Garris stated on page 19 of the presentation the only money that Social Services is committed to receive is \$62,283. Commissioner Garris spoke about transport services and fees for EMS. Ms. Bryan stated that staff built into the fees the usual amount for payments. Commissioner Garris asked if page 37 of the budget notebook was money for new facilities. Mr. Elliott said this money is for operating costs.

Vice-Chairman Ross said he appreciated the presentation. He thanked the Manager for bringing forward a budget without a tax increase. Vice-Chairman Ross stated the County needs to be very cognitive of what they are spending.

Commissioner Ward said she is pleased by the efforts made by Mr. Elliott and staff. She spoke about funding the schools and the board fully funding their request. She asked to include in the presentation the amount that has been spent over the years on the school system. Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Elliott to include how this would impact the 09-10 budget. Commissioner Ward said she is pleased how the formula is laid out for the ten EMS squads. She asked how the \$400,000 impacted the budget. Mr. Elliott said the \$400,00 was not attached to the general ad valorem tax rate. He stated two sources of money are used to justify that expenditure.

Commissioner James said he appreciated what Mr. Elliott has done. He said what needs to do be done now is to look at ways to cut spending. He spoke about the Board of Education also cutting spending. He said the mileage reimbursement cost is too much and should be cut back. He stated the biggest problems to worry about is the jail and health insurance. He spoke about \$594 for employee health insurance and the wellness program provided by the County. He stated more rewards should be given to employees that are working to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Commissioner James asked about the bed capacity of the Detention Center. Mr. Elliott stated there is a 404 bed capacity but there was an average capacity of 450 at the Detention Center. Commissioner James asked about the EMS fund and who investigates how the money is spent? Mr. Elliott stated the county auditor investigates how the money is spent on a yearly basis.

Commissioner Hammond thanked the Manager for a good presentation. Commissioner Hammond asked about other taxes and licenses. He stated the profit from ABC sales are Pitt County money. He asked what it will cost to relocate the Board of Elections. Mr. Elliott stated it would cost between \$15,000-\$20,000 to move the Board of Elections to the County Office Complex. Commissioner Hammond asked how much is the balance in the sales tax fund for school capital needs. Ms. Bryan stated \$2.6 million was in the tax fund at the end of last year. Ms. Bryan stated the \$1M that will be used to purchase the land on Allen Road will come from Pitt County Schools 2007 bond. Commissioner Hammond asked how much money was generated from the quarter-cent sales tax fund. Ms. Bryan stated about \$4.8M.

Commissioner Owens said Mr. Elliott and staff has fulfilled the needs of the County Commissioners within the presentation of the budget. Commissioner Owens stated the Manager had looked after the tax payers and the employees. He asked Mr. Elliott to be aware of the challenges within schools and health care.

Commissioner Hammond asked if anything was owed on the 40 acres of land located on South Central campus. Mr. Aaron Beaulieu stated the land was paid for.

Chairman McLawhorn inquired about the bond rating with the economic time. Ms. Bryan stated the ability to maintain the fund balance says a lot for Pitt County. She stated the ability to maintain the fund balance is what the rating agency wants to see. Chairman McLawhorn asked about communication devices for the governing board members. Mr. Elliott stated \$100 per member has been included within the proposed budget. Chairman McLawhorn asked about Pitt County being ranked number 40 in school ranking by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. Mr. Elliott stated the Association ranks the schools annually.

Commissioner Johnson asked for clarification regarding the Detention Center. Mr. Elliott stated a backlog would be on file at the Detention Center. Mr. Elliott stated the bed capacity is 404 but the functioning capacity is 380. Mr. Elliott stated if the State did close some State owned prisons, the County could see more of an overflow at the Pitt County Detention Center. Mr. Bryan stated payment from the State occurs after the 15th day at rate of \$35 a day.

Pitt Community College

Information Provided with the Agenda

Meeting Notes

Ms. Susan Everett thanked the Board for their continued support of Pitt Community College. She stated Dr. Massey was unable to attend today. She spoke about the classes for continuing education filling up. She spoke about the normal wear and tear on the buildings and people being in the buildings more often. She spoke about deferred maintenance projects. She spoke positively about a suggestion from the county manager using the fund balance for the maintenance projects. She spoke about taping the fund balance in the last three years.

Commissioner Ward asked what the Goess student center is used for. Ms. Everett stated half of the building is used for students to register and meet with counselors. Ms. Everett stated there was also a dining cafeteria facility and multi-purpose meeting areas.

Vice-Chairman Ross spoke about upcoming renovations and additions. Ms. Everett stated they were in the design phase for several projects and a renovation of the Vernon White Building. Vice-Chairman Ross spoke about individuals unemployed going back to school.

Commissioner James asked if Pitt Community College offers scholarships to high school students. Ms. Everett said yes. Commissioner James asked about the trade program. Ms. Everett stated Pitt Community College ranks six or seven out of the State for the trade program.

Commissioner Hammond asked about the Raymond Reddrick Building, Craig Goess Building, Joan & Ed Warren and how many other buildings were currently under construction. Ms. Everett stated the Herman Simon Building is shovel ready and is funded and they hoped to occupy the building next summer. Commissioner Hammond asked if the contractor was local. Ms. Everett stated the contractor was located in Charlotte, North Carolina but they have encouraged the use of local sub-contractors.

Commissioner James stated scholarships should be given to trade students to help as maintenance assistance on the buildings currently under construction.

Pitt County Schools

Information Provided with the Agenda

Meeting Notes

Dr. Beverly Reep address the board and thanked the board for their support.

Mr. Michael Cowin presented the board with a PowerPoint presentation of Pitt County Schools proposed 2009-10 local budget.

Pitt County Schools

Proposed 2009-10 Local Budget



Pitt County Board of Education
1717 West Fifth Street
Greenville, NC 27834

Pitt County Schools

Proposed 2009-10 Local Budget



Operating Budget

Pitt County Schools
2009-10 Proposed Operating Revenue Budget

COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 33,799,841
RENT- COUNTY AGREEMENT	340,000
OTHER OPERATING REVENUES	4,332,077
TOTAL	\$ 38,471,918

Pitt County Schools
Proposed Fiscal Year 2009-10 Local Budget
Pitt County Government Education Funding

FY2008-09 County Appropriations	\$33,391,481
Proposed Increase	408,360
Proposed FY2009-10 County Appropriations	33,799,841
Rent- County Agreement	340,000
Total Proposed FY2009-10 County Funding	\$34,139,841

* Proposed FY2009-10 County Appropriations Based on Original FY2008-09 Appropriations Before County Reversion

Pitt County Schools
Proposed Fiscal Year 2009-10 Local Budget
Proposed Increase in County Appropriations

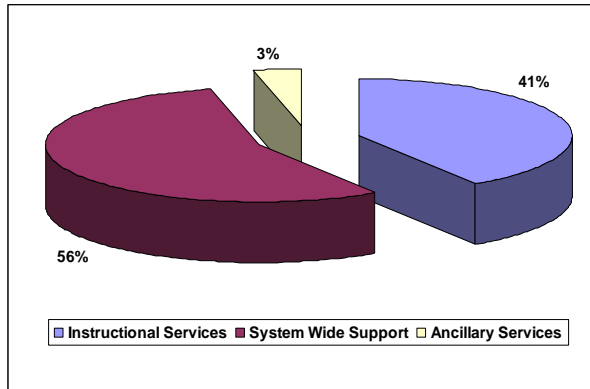
Fixed Cost Increases	\$ 495,797
Workers Comp Reduction	(87,437)
Proposed Increase	\$ 408,360

Pitt County Schools
Proposed Fiscal Year 2009-10 Local Budget
Projected Fixed Cost Increases

Benefit Expense	\$ 301,136
Liability Insurance	27,314
Facility Operations	167,347
Total	\$ 495,797

Pitt County Schools 2009-10 Proposed Operating Expense Budget

Instructional Services	15,656,574	40.7%
System Wide Support	21,470,002	55.8%
Ancillary Services	1,345,342	3.5%
Total	38,471,918	100.0%



Pitt County Schools

Proposed 2009-10 Local Budget



Capital Budget

Pitt County Schools
2009-10 Proposed Capital Budget

Capital Revenue

County Appropriations	\$ 750,000
Sales Tax- Article 40, 42	785,000
Total Revenue	\$ 1,535,000

Capital Expense

Category I, II, III	\$ 750,000
Regular Capital Outlay	785,000
Total Expense	\$ 1,535,000

Pitt County Schools
2009-10 Proposed Capital Budget
Category I, II, III

Category I

Mobile Unit Repair and Relocation	\$ 50,000
Athletic Equity Allocation	90,000
Window Walls @ EB Aycock (1st Part)	150,000
Warehouse Loading/Unloading Doc Addition Fac Serv.	80,000
Total Category I	370,000

Category II

Classroom Furniture- Teachers	\$ 40,000
Equipment Allotment to Schools (\$10 per ADM)	236,000
AS400/SIMS/Bookkeepers/Payroll	25,000
Total Category II	301,000

Category III

Maintenance- Replacement Vehicles	\$ 79,000
Total Category III	79,000

Total Category I, II, III	\$ 750,000
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Pitt County Schools
2009-10 Proposed Capital Budget
Regular Capital Outlay

Roofing Replacement	\$ 400,000
Technology Projects	200,000
Painting	185,000
Total	<u>\$ 785,000</u>

Commissioner Smith asked how many teachers are hired out of the county budget (current expense appropriation). Mr. Cowin said about 40. Dr. Reep said there will be some reduction this year. Commissioner Smith asked if any determination had been made about K-8 program at Chicod. Dr. Reep said this has been put on hold but it is a priority. Dr. Reep said the Board of Education is still working on the project. She stated Chicod is one of the first projects on the list. Commissioner Smith asked if Greenville Utilities Commission is interested in running sewer to the Chicod school. Mr. Aaron Beaulieu said they have been in contact with Greenville Utilities Commission about the sewer project for Chicod. Commissioner Smith asked about the \$80,000 budgeted for charter schools. Mr. Cowin stated students that attend charter schools outside of Pitt County are entitled by the law to a portion of the overall revenue money. Commissioner Smith said he appreciated what is done for the boys and girls of Pitt County.

Commissioner Johnson asked if Pitt County has frozen any money for Pitt County Schools. Mr. Cowin said the State has frozen everything except the on-going payment of salary for employees.

Commissioner Garris thanked the Board of Education for coming before the Commissioners.

Vice-Chairman Ross asked about the drop out rates within Pitt County. Dr. Reep stated they are not reducing teacher allotments this year. Dr. Reep stated in fall 2009, high schools students will be offered the same courses. Dr. Reep stated the drop out rate is a K-12 issue. Dr. Reep stated when working to decrease drop out rate there are some teachers that don't want those students back. Dr. Reep spoke about vocational training programs and the courses involved. Vice-Chairman Ross spoke about being concerned with the Board of Education purchasing land when they already have land. He asked them to utilize the land Pitt County already owns.

Commissioner Ward thanked Dr. Reep stating we are all in this together. She said she is glad to hear the vocational programs are still being funded. She stated vocational programs gave seventh and eight graders something to look forward to entering high school. Commissioner Ward stated she would like counseling to be available for seventh and eight graders.

Commissioner James asked about Title I money. He asked about hiring additional teachers and if they are hired using the Title I money. Dr. Reep said there is more flexibility with Title I money. She stated the goal internally is to use the money to employee people. Commissioner James spoke about School Resource Officers

being used during summer months for schools, yet schools not needing the assistance. He stated resource officers make more money than teachers. Commissioner Johnson thanked Dr. Reep and stated he knows she has a hard job. Dr. Reep stated the resource officers are on a 12 month contract, but it would be beneficial to schools if they could be on a 10 month contract.

Commissioner Hammond said Title I funds are also used to hire teacher assistants. He spoke of the property owned by the Board of Education at the County Garage. He spoke about selling the County Garage property. He stated the site would be worth about \$3.5M. He spoke about busing of students. He stated Schools are not being built in the inner-city and the expansions are not being kept up with the growth of the students.

Commissioner Owens spoke about not micromanaging the Board of Education. He spoke about the budget the Board of Education presented. He stated he could not argue in good faith for additional money since they only made a modest request for additional funds.

Chairman McLawhorn spoke about there being a false perception that the Board of Commissioners do not value the Board of Education. He thanked the Board of Education for their presentation.

Commissioner Johnson stated he would like to see the land across from Wintergreen School be held for another school. He stated the State Board of Education held a hearing a few years ago about vocational education programs.

Commissioner James left at 12:41.

Manager's Round Up

Mr. Elliott stated the Sheriff, Emergency Management, Solid Waste, Public Health and Department of Social Services would appear before the Commissioners tomorrow a the second day of the scheduled workshops.

Motion to recess meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly W. Hines
Deputy Clerk to the Board