

Special Called Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors and School Board (Thursday, March 10, 2022)

This meeting is held pursuant to and in compliance with the Emergency Ordinance for Continuity of Government due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Members of the Board of Supervisors were present together at the New Courts Building, 220 Judicial Pl., Heathsville, VA 22473. Members of the public were present in attendance and virtually with approximately 15 call-ins noted.

Members present:

Ronald L. Jett, James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann

Other Staff Present:

Mr. Luttrell Tadlock, County Administrator
Mr. Drew Basye, Assistant County Administrator
Ms. Morgan Wilson, Executive Assistant
Mr. Robert Headley, IT Administrator
Mr. Matthew Bailey, IT Assistant
Mr. Eric Gregory, County Attorney

1. Call to Order

Information: A. Meeting Call to Order 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Richard F. Haynie called the meeting to order at 4:30pm with the School Board.

Chairman Haynie was very appreciative of the School Board's attendance at the meeting and expressed his interest of seeing them more often in the future.

The School Board Chair called the School Board meeting to order as this was a joint meeting. Attending the meeting was Betty Christopher, Gayle Sterrett, Denise Mazyck, Dr. Cheryl Davis, and Dana O'Bier.

2. Discussion with School Board

Discussion, Information: A. Discussion with School Board

Dr. Holly Wargo shared her appreciation to the public for their attendance to review the school's 2022-2023 budget proposal.

To begin the presentation, Dr. Wargo introduced Mr. Jason Bellows, the new finance director, as well as Ms. Shelley Vanlandingham, the Clerk of the School Board.

Dr. Wargo guided the Board of Supervisors through a provided binder and began by reading the budget transmittal letter which gave a breakdown of the Northumberland County Public School's budget proposal.

Dr. Wargo moved onto Section 1, the introduction, to acknowledge the School Boards, as well as the Board of Supervisors, positions and expressed her appreciation for their service to the community.

Presented was an overview of the budget development practices performed as well as a brief outline for the budget calendar process beginning in October going through the month of April. The presentation included the 2022-2023 budget calendar and Dr. Wargo announced a public hearing on the proposed budget on March 14, 2022.

Dr. Wargo then gave a brief explanation of funding sources and types, average daily membership comparison, local composite index comparison, and regional teacher salary comparison. She expressed her appreciation to the Board for allowing the school to align their salaries in such a competitive way.

Section 2 of the budget presentation goes into detail on revenue changes, additional monies, and revenue recapitulation.

Section 3 reviews the expenditure's additions, deletions, and expenditure recapitulation.

Mr. Bellows presented section 4 as supplemental information regarding the district salaries scale for different positions, showing how it stands now and what it would look like with the 5% step raise.

Section 5 highlights the schools nutrition budget expenditure adjustments.

Section 6 is the capital improvements budget. Dr. Holly Wargo invited Mr. Jeff Brann to present some information to the Board regarding this budget.

Mr. Brann gave a brief explanation of what the school has done up to this point as well as a few updates regarding roof replacement, lighting and electrical at the bus facility, and well replacement. Along with this, Mr. Brann stated that the school's track, parking lots, and gym floors need repairs.

When Mr. Brann finished his presentation, Supervisor Tomlin asked why the Department of Environmental Quality had an issue with the wells at the school.

Mr. Brann informed the Board that when the construction of the wells took place, there was a grouting and cross contamination issue, but it was not a major concern at the time of installation.

Moving forward with the budget presentation, Mr. Bellows presented Section 7 regarding transportation fleet information. This section gave details on all the buses, vans, and cars that the district currently owns and operates along with their mileage breakdown.

Supervisor Long asked the School Board how many buses the school owns and if the students double up when traveling.

Dr. Wargo confirmed that there are 29 buses and stated that they changed from having separate school bus runs to all three schools traveling together on the buses to save money.

To conclude the presentation, Mr. Bellows presented Section 8, ESSER Grant Budgets, and informed the Board what the funds are being used for. These funds are to be used to support covid mitigation and cannot be used for their current budget or to fund operational expenses.

Supervisor Long asked about the progress on the ROTC building.

Mr. Jason Bellows stated that they were in the process of meeting and finalizing any contract/building details.

Supervisor Long asked about the number of slots for the governor's school.

Dr. Holly Wargo informed the Board that there are 27 slots currently because they are needed, but the slots can be minimized in the future if there is no longer a need for that great amount.

Supervisor Long asked how many students are homeschooled.

Dr. Wargo stated that 90 students are currently homeschooled, but she believes this is due to the pandemic. Dr. Wargo hopes to see this number decrease and she informed the public that the school has a Covid-19 tracker on their website, so parents/students can see what is happening on a daily basis.

Supervisor Long asked if the state was requiring any new courses?

Dr. Wargo stated that they work with the Virginia Department of Education, and they release any updates on required courses.

Supervisor Tomlin asked about the proposed 5% salary increase for employees and 1.25% step for scaled employees. He asked the School Board who is not scaled.

Mr. Bellows stated that parttime workers, hourly positions, substitutes, and custodial employees are those who are not scaled employees.

Supervisor Brann asked if the school system had some of their own janitorial workers.

Dr. Wargo mentioned that the school faced a lot of challenges at the beginning of Covid regarding disinfection and cleanliness, so they went into a contract with Service Master and believes their buildings are now cleaner than they have ever been before.

Supervisor Tomlin asked if the school anticipated any reduction in the contract with service master.

Dr. Wargo said that this could be a challenge due to rising prices but that she would keep the Board updated on this matter.

Vice Chairman Jett mentioned the average daily membership decline.

Dr. Wargo stated that she hopes to bring students back due to pandemic numbers decreasing.

Supervisor Brann noticed students who won a contest in the school's monthly update and congratulated them. He stated that he would love to see the artwork done by these students.

3. Closing of Meeting

Action: A. Adjournment

The School Board having adjourned their meeting, the Board of Supervisors then motioned to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: James M. Long.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Ronald L. Jett, James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann