

At a **Southampton County School Board/Board of Supervisors joint budget workshop session** held in the Wigwam of the Southampton County High School at 23350 Southampton Parkway, Courtland, Virginia on March 28 2012 at 7:00 PM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman (Drewryville)
Dr. Alan W. Edwards, Vice-Chairman (Jerusalem)
Glenn H. Updike (Newsoms)
Carl J. Faison (Boykins-Branchville)
Barry T. Porter (Franklin)
Ronald M. West (Berlin-Ivor)
S. Bruce Phillips (Capron)

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

None

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Russell C. Schools, Chairman
Mrs. Roberta T. Naranjo (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs. Denise Bunn
Mrs. Lynn Bradley
Dr. Deborah Goodwyn
Mrs. Diane Jones
Mrs. Florence Reynolds
Mr. Christopher Smith

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mrs. Becky Blackburn

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator (Clerk)
Jon Mendenhall, Assistant County Administrator
Lynette C. Lowe, Finance Director
Mr. Charles E. Turner, School Board Superintendent
Joy Carr, School Board Finance Director
Dr. Timothy Kelly
Mr. Bill Hatch
Cynthia J. Edwards, Administrative Secretary

Mr. Russell C. Schools, School Board Chairman called the meeting to order. He turned the meeting over to Mr. Dallas O. Jones, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Jones stated that he hopes they have a wonderful evening with both sides going away happy. He turned the meeting over to Mr. Charles Turner, Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Charles Turner said that tonight he was going to present the budget proposed for 2012-2013. He emphasized that this is the operating budget draft for the school board. The state has not finalized their budget process. The information presented in this draft is configured without the knowledge of final state figures. They will continue to monitor that situation and make the adjustments whenever they have the final budget figures. It is imperative that we stay on a schedule as we seek a final resolution. The schedule is as follows:

April 2 – School Board Public Hearing on Proposed Operating Budget.

April 9 – School Board Approval of the 2012-13 Proposed Operating Budget.

April 10 – Submission of budget to the county as requested.

April 11 – School Budget synopsis published in the Tidewater News.

April 18 – County Public Hearing on School Budget.

April 25 – Board of Supervisors adopts School Budget.

The forgoing is contingent upon what action takes place at the state and when such action is taken based on the Senate Finance Committee Budget, there appears to be one.

Senate Bill 497 which has been approved by the General Assembly requires the employees to pay the employee contributions and the locality to offset the contribution with a comparable salary increase. The ultimate result is to reach 5% employee contribution. School Boards are granted the option to do a phase in as long as the 5% is reached by July 2016.

Included in the proposed budget is a recommended phase in with a 1% employee contribution and a comparable 1% salary increase.

Mr. Charles Turner gave a presentation showing the budget reductions which are:

Sixteen (16) positions eliminated (10 teachers and six support staff).

Some of the allotted percentage break-downs are as follows:

63.36% Instruction

2.67% Administration

1.54% Health Services

10.26% Transportation

11.75% Maintenance

.23% Food Services

He showed the proposed operating budget recap. \$15,733,734 (Senate Finance Committee Projected State Revenue). \$674,647 is the total additional revenue required to avoid the lay-off of 25 support personnel. He stated support personnel means any employee who is not a classroom teacher. Included in this is a combination of professional and classified personnel.

Mr. Charles Turner said he would be glad to answer any questions.

Chairman Schools asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Charles Turner.

Supervisor West asked what the best and worst scenario is.

Mr. Charles Turner said he can only hope that something positive comes out of it.

Supervisor West said we all do. He asked again for a figure.

Mr. Charles Turner stated that he and Ms. Joy Carr had called Richmond and they can't get an answer at this point. They did try, but could not get any information out of the people in Richmond.

Supervisor West asked what was different in the Senate and the Senate Committee. He wanted to know what was different in the amount.

Mr. Charles Turner said he can't specifically say. It was just approved a few days ago. The state hasn't seen the info yet. He does not want to be premature in presenting any information.

Supervisor West said we can't force it.

Mr. Charles Turner says he doesn't know. He said this is so new and the chief in Richmond couldn't tell him. He wished he could. He talked to the person right there in Richmond and they couldn't tell him.

Chairman Schools said the people in Richmond are so wrapped up in transportation right now.

Supervisor Phillips asked aren't they working under a deadline.

Chairman Schools said not usually. The House had rejected the budget. Hopefully it will pass soon.

Mr. Charles Turner said last year they had different situations and this time they have nothing to fall back on. It is a complex process and nobody is willing to give you any information.

Chairman Schools stated that they usually have a hearing here before the Board votes on it. It has to be advertised in the paper. They just couldn't wait until the last minute to start work on the budget.

Supervisor Edwards asked what the 25 support personnel positions were.

Mr. Charles Turner stated central office positions, janitorial positions, and teacher assistants. He stated that some of these positions had been funded with stimulus funds. Attribution money in savings to cover teachers is 2.8% down to \$647,000.

Supervisor West said \$674,647 represents money they didn't have last year.

Mr. Charles Turner said yes. He stated he was glad they had these meetings so everybody could be aware of how things were.

Chairman Russell Schools asked if there were any other questions. He hoped they have a better understanding of the situation the schools were in.

Supervisor Edwards said someone stated both sides referring to the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. He said we are only one side. We have to work together as one.

Mr. Charles Turner said we are in this thing together.

Chairman Jones said he had been to some other counties meetings and the members don't get along and don't try to work together, but Southampton was not like that.

Supervisor Edwards said the county is blessed with that.

Supervisor Edwards asked wasn't anyone willing to make a guess on what they were facing even though they didn't have any numbers from Richmond.

Mr. Michael Johnson stated that they are still hashing it out and running through formulas. It would be a premature guess.

Supervisor Phillips asked if there was a chance the numbers from Richmond were going to be higher.

Mr. Michael Johnson said we just don't know.

Supervisor Edwards asked if there was any chance the numbers from Richmond would go lower.

Supervisor Phillips asked if the gap would be widened.

Mr. Michael Johnson said the gap is \$1.3 million before considering the \$674,000.

Supervisor West said that is \$2 million.

Supervisor Porter asked what is the probability they will give us less money.

Supervisor West said if they are tied up with transportation he can't imagine when we will hear from Richmond. He stated that he and Mrs. Reynolds didn't want the new Hwy. 460 in their back yards.

Mr. Michael Johnson said his guess was that they would end up with a little lower figure.

Mr. Charles Turner said it is all speculation.

Chairman Schools said they would get the Board of Supervisors some numbers as soon as they had them.

Chairman Jones said they can't do anything right now.

Supervisor Updike said he would like for the BOS to meet now either here at the school or back at the Board Room in the Administration office.

Mr. Michael Johnson asked Chairman Schools if they could use their facilities for a short time.

Chairman Schools said yes they could.

Mr. Michael Johnson stated at this time it is necessary for this Board to conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the provisions set out in the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the following purpose:

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), to discuss performance of the Department of Utilities, where the evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific employees.

A motion is required to convene a closed meeting for the purpose described.

Supervisor Updike made a motion to convene a closed meeting for the purpose as described.

Supervisor Phillips seconded the motion with it being carried unanimously.

Supervisor Edwards read the certification resolution.

RESOLUTION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Southampton County Board of Supervisors had convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law,

NOW, THEREFORE; BE IT RESOLVED that the Southampton County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed and considered by the Southampton County Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Updike made a motion to go back into open session.

Supervisor Phillips seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Supervisors Voting Aye: Dallas O. Jones
Barry Porter
Glenn Updike
Carl J. Faison
Alan Edwards
Ronnie M. West
Bruce Phillips

Supervisors Voting Nay: None

Chairman Jones stated that they did not discuss anything that was not on the agenda.

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Chairman Jones asked if there was anything else to come before them before they adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk

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