

At a budget workshop meeting of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors held in the Board Room of the Southampton County Office Center, 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia on April 17, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

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

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator (Clerk)
Beth Lewis, Director of Community Development
Lynette C. Lowe, Finance Director
Richard E. Railey, Jr., County Attorney
Cynthia J. Edwards, Administrative Secretary

OTHERS ABSENT

Julien W. Johnson, Jr. Public Utilities Director

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Faison gave the invocation.

Chairman Jones stated that tonight we will hear the presentations by county departments and community agencies. He stated he was not going to put a time limit on the presentations as such, but we have other departments and agencies that need to speak so please think about that when you come up to the podium. He stated further that if something has already been said don't say it again. He stated that the schools would be first.

Dr. Alvera Parrish, Superintendent of Southampton County Schools addressed the Board. She greeted the Board with a Good Evening to Chairman Jones, Members of the Board of Supervisors. She said they certainly thank them for this opportunity to make this budget presentation for Southampton County Public Schools tonight. We have been very appreciative of this relationship that has been developed with this Board and our School Board who have worked diligently to put this budget together. This budget is reflective of input from all of the departments and all of the representation and leaders in our school system. As you can see on our first frame our focus as we enter into this process is for everybody to remember that education is more than a luxury; it is a responsibility that society owes to itself as recited by Robin Cooke. The next slide is a photo of our school board and we put this slide on here because these are the members of our local school board that represent Southampton County Public Schools. The members on this board are very much committed to opening the doors of excellence. They are constantly making positive decisions to make sure that they are intricately a part of the decisions that are made to ensure quality instructional program for our students and that our students are engaged in providing the opportunities to help them become contributing members to society. Our mission statement is here and I won't read it to you, but basically our focus is that we want to make sure that through our combined efforts of staff, students, families, and the community is to ensure a quality education and a safe environment that will prepare students to be successful learners and productive citizens in an ever changing society. As we look at that mission statement we ask you to be reminded as we go through this presentation as you are making decisions as to what we are trying to do. We are always trying to provide services that will help our students to either go to college or to the world of work as they exit the K-12 program at Southampton County Public Schools. At this point, this range just shows you a reflection of the total enrollment of students

that we are talking about tonight that we want to talk about providing these services for. At Southampton High School we have 774 students, Southampton Middle School 639, Nottoway 300, Meherrin 289, Riverdale 653, and 191 students in Capron Elementary with our total enrollment being 2,846 students. I won't spend a long time on this ring, but I do want to bring out that as we prepare for the future of our students that we have to look at the budget as to what is required of the public school system going forward. In the past we only had to look at one type of diploma, being a standard diploma with 20 credits, there was no graduation rate that was required in the past. The accreditation rate was different then and the SOL Test then was basically paper, pencil, and multiple choice. Now we have a variety of diploma types. Our main two diploma types are standard and advanced studies diplomas where students are earning 26 credits for graduation and our graduation rate requirement is 85% for the cohort. Our accreditation rating is fully accredited and that is what we esteem to try to achieve there and our SOL testing now are all on line including writing. I share that with you because that does have a fiscal impact on the services that we must provide for our student to continue to be competitive. As we look toward the future we want to be mandated to continuously provide a foundation for students through early literacy, increased course requirements, early grades, legislative mandates, online courses, as well as the state and federal reporting. This frame basically sums up from 2009-10 to 2011-12 as just a glimpse of what our students have acquired and how they are faring as compared to other schools across the Commonwealth. As you can see as far as advanced study diplomas we have a 44% rate of students that receive an advanced studies diploma. 46% have received a standard diploma, and 8% have received a modified diploma, and two GED's. You can look at the second section and see that we had 63 honor graduates, 24 governor's seals, 11 board of education seals and 9 advanced math and technology seals, and you can see the other achievements that our students have accomplished along the way. Our career and technical education program has provided the opportunities where we have 151 of our students that are program completers. Why is that important? Because if we are going to prepare our students for the world of work here is where they get that foundation – here in our school system. As you can see our students are very competitive with the scholarship and award offers receiving 2.6 million dollars in scholarships and awards as well as they have raised \$23,313 dollars through community service funds to help others. So this is reflective of our students focusing on becoming good citizens and contributors to society. This is just a visual of what I just shared with you. You can see where the students of Southampton County Public Schools are performing. Again in our high school just another visual of some of the information that I have shared with you. We have a 98% senior graduation rate, 45% colleges and universities attended, and five branches of the military. That is what is happening with your students who graduate from Southampton County Public Schools. So where did our students go. As we look at the large part of this pie you can see that 68% of our students have gone on to 2 year or 4 year college opportunities, we have 16% that have pursued employment, 8% went to the military, and 8% to other educational plans. We are tracking the data to make sure that our students are going forward. Why is this important? We are looking at what can our students can bring back to the county. You want to have students who can pay their taxes, students who can make a living, students that can get a job, and students that can contribute back to the tax base here even after graduation. As we look at the CTE courses offered at Southampton High School, again I won't read this list to you because you have seen this before and I have shared it with you before, but you can see as you look at the CTE course offerings that we have a listing of those courses that we offer in business, trade and industrial education, agriculture education, as well as technology education. This is a fine representation of the opportunities that we have been able to afford our students as they prepare for the world of work. Again as we look at industry credentials and prepare our students for the world of work we look at the total credentials in 2012 being 123 and we are projecting 137 in 2013. We have 151 careers and technical education career programs completers and that is extremely high and commendable. This is a listing of the dual enrollment courses that we have been able to offer our students through Paul D. Camp Community College and the partnership that we have with them. There are 22% of the students at Southampton High School are able to be afforded the opportunity to enroll in dual enrollment courses. What does that mean? For our families that means that they can have a child or student who wants to go to college that can start as a first semester sophomore or second semester sophomore because they had this opportunity to earn college credit while they are in high school and that can save a family a lot of money in their personal budget. As we look at the advance placement courses that are offered at our high school we have 90 AP enrollment, and that is 11% of our students at Southampton High School and this June I am very pleased to say that we are going to have two students who are going to walk across the stage who have earned their high school diploma and their associates degree in 2013 and that is highly, highly commendable and

that speaks a lot to the quality of education that is offered in the school system. No student can be successful unless we reach out and develop partnerships with our community. School and community relationships are essential for the student's success and the schools success. This is just a listing of just some of those community partners that we interact with on a day to day basis to help our students to be afforded many opportunities through grants, through experiences, and through other opportunities that they are able to engage in through these community partners. So where are we now as we are opening the doors to excellence? We are very pleased to say that we have three new elementary schools that we are very, very proud of. We are proud of all of our schools. We are thankful and pleased with what we have been able to do with Nottoway Elementary, Meherrin Elementary, and with Riverdale Elementary being somewhat new. As we look as to what we are expected to do going forward we are continuously faced with more and more challenges from the state as well as the federal level – more rigorous assets, school accreditation system with consequences, increase in graduation requirements, increase in accountability in no child left behind, as well as rigorous license requirements for instructional personnel. That is a reality right now that we are faced with as we continue to try to make sure that our students are taught and instructed at a level to help them be prepared and to be competitive. This is just a picture of what a classroom looks like today. Many of you have been in these classrooms. Some of you may have been a substitute in the classroom, some of you may have read to students in a classroom, and some of you have walked through the buildings, and you can see the kind of interactive involvement and differentiation of instruction that our students are involved in. This is a Smart board that this student is working on. This is technology that is required in order for us to be able to provide our students that exposure and opportunity. Here is just an opportunity just to share with you that in addition to teaching students the curriculum and content we also have to teach students how to be collaborative, how to be cooperative, social skills and working together and getting along together and that is important too as we teach the whole child. In addition you see that our teachers have to teach and instruct on a multi-disciplinary approach in using various motilities and learning styles in order to reach every students need and to make sure students are able to learn at the level where they are. Again another classroom that reflects the use of technology as they work toward mastering other required objectives and skills. As we look at the elementary school, and this is just to give you a flash look at the student achievement I just wanted to put one slide here of 5th grade, one elementary and one secondary, but I wanted you to take a look of where we were in 1998-99 school year and where we were in 2011-12 and look at the comparison here in terms of the growth and where the school system has come. I think a picture is worth a thousand words and that shows you without a doubt that we are definitely moving our students in the right direction. This is amidst some of those programs that go into making those results look like they look tonight. The implementation of these programs is what helps to keep our students on the cutting edge and to be competitive in this Commonwealth. As we have looked out at our secondary student achievement this is a reflection of a comparison of 1998-99 and where we were in 2011-12 at Southampton Middle School. You can look at the reading results from 54 to 87 and math 24 to 73 and science from 53 to 82, history, 23 to 85 percent pass rate – again moving the pendulum in the right direction. The high school tells the same story here. Look at the high rates. This is not seen across the state on a regular basis on an average of what students have been able to accomplish in our high school. Although we are a rural school division you have teachers, staff, and administrators that are dedicated to the success of these students. When you think about the school programs, and again this is another picture and this is something that I have already talked about, we are offering dual enrollment classes, the associate degree program, and even the distant learning courses and again all of this takes time and funding to support these programs which enables us to be able to continue them for our students. Even our professional development which is a requirement for our teachers requires our teachers to have to learn new things in new ways and new ways to present information to the students to be aligned to the way the students will be assessed and in order to provide that division wide teacher in service and also outside of our division to get that training we have to have professional development. One of our number one concerns for all of our schools is school safety. Ever since 911 that has been a real, real priority and even since then as we look at the most recent situation in Boston we recognize that school safety is essential and it is very important that we have our school resource officer to work together with us in ensuring that the campuses of all schools are safe at all times. This slide simply reflects that we have maintained fully accredited status for all of our schools for the past nine years. This is the first year that Riverdale has been identified with an accredited warning; however, they are moving in the right direction and we believe that they will be fully accredited this year. This is just a quick snapshot of some of the awards that our students have received. Capron Elementary School received the Title 1 distinguished school, first state

accreditation, May AYP, Board of Education VIP, excellence award. Meherrin Elementary had some of the same awards including the National Blue Ribbon School. Nottoway Elementary School had some of the same awards including reading first school. Riverdale in its first year received full accreditation. Southampton Middle School is fully accredited and the high school is fully accredited for eleven straight years and 55 years of SACS accreditation and I think that is something for you to be proud of as citizens of Southampton County. As we look closely now at the numbers and what all that I have said up to this point how does that reflect this first slide deals with the revenue sources as we look at our current FY 2013 budget with 55% of our budget made up of state funding, 38% of local funding, and 7% of federal funding. As we look at our revenue overview the state funds for the operating budget have declined significantly since FY 2009. The budgeted state revenue for FY 2009 was \$19.4 million dollars and budgeted state revenue for FY 2013 was \$15.7 million dollars for a loss of \$3.7 million dollars so the state funding in FY 2009 was 23.85% higher than it is now. Local revenue however has remained level funded for the last two fiscal years and we are appreciative; however we continue to be faced with unfunded mandates. Those requirements that have been sent down by the state and federal government requiring the school division to do without providing all the related funding so with the shrinking budget from the federal and state government for schools we still have to continue to provide those services for our students. Some examples of the unfunded mandates are listed here and I have spoken on these previously on the previous slide – the increased course requirements, the mandate on time graduation requirements, the requirements to pass the new SOL assessments, as well as additional reporting for the state as well as federal levels. This is just a picture of what I share with you. Here is FY 2009 where the funding was from the state \$19.4 and you can see that decline to \$15.7 in FY 2013. Now the debt service – this is a category in the local operating budget which funds are appropriated to pay school construction loans, principal interest on loans and building renovation of schools. As we look at our local revenue that is including the debt service we are level funded here at \$11,076, 473 in FY 2013; however if we look at that local revenue less the debt service we are looking at FY 2013 at \$8,778,678 which are the dollars that we actually have for operating. So in reflection on FY 2013 we have to look at the budget cuts and this year we have continued to struggle and I mean really struggle. With the loss of 45 positions from last year that were cut from the current FY 2013 operating budget. The positions that were cut had an adverse effect on the quality of educational services provided to our students these positions were right at the level in the classroom that impacted students as well as the overall school division – 19 classroom teachers, 7 instructional positions, and 19 classified positions. These are just a list of some of these support positions. There are the classified positions that were lost last year. The LPN program was cut last year and eliminated during FY 2013. As we look at the FY 2013-14 budget considerations we consider the federal job funds that are depleted. Mr. Michael Johnson shared this with you at your last budget meeting that the federal job funds have been depleted and we used those funds to keep teachers working. A one percent required salary increase due to changes in the VRS system. A 2% salary increase imposed by the state, the health insurance costs, critical personnel needs, special education, and regional tuition, and the instructional operating budget are the constituents considerations for the FY 2013-14 budget. As we look at the federal jobs funds as we have already said those monies had to be obligated by September 30, 2012. The \$451,457 is a balance that was used in FY 2013 to keep teachers working. Also we considered the retirement contributions Senate Bill 497 approved by the general assembly last spring requires the employees to pay the employee requirement contribution to the Virginia Retirement System and the locality is to offset the contribution with a comparable salary increase so the School Boards were granted the option to adopt or phase in the procedure as long as the 5% contribution was reached by July 20, 2016. Southampton County School Board approved the resolution to adopt the 5% phase in so as we look at the 1% VRS phase in salary increase the cost to fund the require a 1% salary increase with a 1% reduction in the employees share was \$22,729 dollars now the school division is still required to pay social security, retirement, life insurance, health insurance credit, and worker's compensation on the salary increase – the 2% salary increase. Now as we are all aware of the February 23, 2013 where the General Assembly adopted amendments to the 2013-14 bi-annual budget and that included a 2% salary increase for all SOQ funded instructional and support positions. In the General Assembly's adopted budget \$196,745 dollar in state funds has been designated for Southampton County Schools. In order to receive these funds a local match of \$49,922 is required. Again the local match of \$49,922 is required; however we are receiving the \$196,745 in state funds so as we look at the 2% salary increase for all of our employees a 2% salary increase for all employees is what is requested at this time and the cost to finance the increase with benefits is \$359,981. \$196,745 dollars of that is coming from state funds. Again the local match \$49,922. The additional cost is

\$113,314. Now for an update on the health insurance cost we are very, very pleased, we had included in this budget a 5% percent increase for health insurance however; when we received out health insurance renewal rates for FY 2014 it reflects that we had a 3.69 decrease and that was really, really great and due to the decrease in rates we were able to reduce the health insurance budget by \$206,134. Critical personnel needs in FY 2014 will directly impact students. We have been very prudent in building this budget. We haven't asked for any fluff. We haven't been exuberant in putting anything in here that isn't absolutely needed. Mr. Michael Johnson shared with you at the last budget meeting these particular personnel – critical personnel in fact that are needed for the high functioning of our school system. An elementary librarian is needed. We are right now currently sharing the librarian between Capron and Nottoway and those students are not receiving adequate services at those two schools as our other two schools are. I talked to you about the increase in course requirements for graduation and for students to receive advance placement diplomas. In order for them to be college ready they have to have the number of foreign languages and the higher level of math courses that are being required. This is why I am requesting a high school Spanish teacher so that all of our students will be able to get into the courses. How do we decide who gets to take the course and who doesn't? How do we decide who gets more ready for college than someone else so here is why we are requesting a high school Spanish teacher and the high school math teacher. As far as the Administrative Assistant at Riverdale you have seen the numbers at Riverdale and we have one principal and one assistant principal there. We are asking not even for another Assistant Principal, but for an Administrative Assistant at Riverdale that can assist with the administration of the school as well as lower the administrative pupil ratio. In addition to that we are required to implement a new teacher evaluation process that requires an additional amount of monitoring, an additional amount of checks and balances, an additional amount of reporting on teacher qualifications and teacher performance for the state department as well as the federal and having an Administrative Assistant will enable us to be able to function and complete those requirements. The middle school teacher assistant is an individual who can help us with students who are struggling and need to stay connected to school and be able to not be out of school, but be in school and receive the additional small group assistance that they need to be successful. We talked about the increase in the special education regional tuition, the draft budget has been increased by an additional \$105,535, but I do want to note that the state does reimburse the locality based on the composite index which is at 68.29% for Southampton. Our instructional budget has increased and you are going to see in a very few minutes that because it is imperative that we continue the implementation of our current instructional program so that we have students graduate as I said earlier and be prepared for college or the world of work. So what have we done to help ourselves? One of the things that we have done is to increase the non-resident tuition from \$700 per year for non-resident students to \$1,000 per year and in addition we will be receiving the state ADM that is being provided which is an additional \$5,000 per student. So in essence we will be receiving \$6,000 for those non-resident students that will be attending Southampton public schools. We have incorporated and engaged in a process to do efficiency reviews to look to be able to see what other efficiencies we may be able to generate. We are working with Mr. Michael Johnson, and three other different energy groups that have conducted walk through and prepared some preliminary reviews. Now when we look at this chart this is our proposed local operating budget categorical expenditure summary. This is the expenditure summary so what you have in this column are the categories. Here would be the 2012-13 budget and here is the request for the 2013-14 and this is increase or decrease column so in the instructional category we do have an increase and this is the largest increase and that is where it should be at \$473,729 in instruction for FY 2013-14, In administration and health we have a decrease of \$152,091. In transportation we have \$4,632 decrease. In maintenance we have a \$41,403 increase. In food service and hospitalization we had a \$2,869 decrease. The site improvement has basically remained level funded. The debt service has at \$105,804 decrease. Technology has a \$60,512 increase. The grand total for the FY 2013-14 is \$27,631,752. The total increase is \$310,248. Now here is the break down for you so you can see specifically beyond the categories what the specific breakdowns are. The 1% VRS increase is \$22,729. The 2% salary increase is \$359,981. The hospitalization budget a decrease of \$206,134. The critical personnel is \$224,449. The special education regional tuition is \$105,535. The instructional budget is \$91,321. The psychologist position that we deleted from the budget was \$59,613. The debt service has a decrease of \$105,804. The early retirement is \$49,910. The personnel savings for retirees \$72,306 and that is how we got the total of \$310,248. So as we look at the proposed local, state, and federal budget expenditure summary you see the same categories listed here, but we want to show you how it pans out with local and state as well as federal expenditure summary. The local operating budget for FY 2013-14 is \$27,631,752. Textbooks which are funded by the

state are \$166,354. Technology which is fully funded by state dollars is \$232,000. The Virginia Preschool initiative is \$233,552. The early intervention, fully funded by the state is \$44,774. Federal programs are \$1,444,037 which brings us a total of \$29,752,469. Food services although it is independently operated, we must fully fund it in our budget which is \$1,172,491 and that brings us to the grand total of \$30,924,960. That was expenditures. Now we are going to talk about revenue. As we look at the revenue we look at the local operating budget estimated revenue for FY 2013-14. As we look at the projected state revenue based on our ADM of \$2,748.80 we are looking at \$15,886,182. The local tuition in adult basic education is at \$104,300. The current local funding is at \$11,076,473 dollars. The total additional revenue required from the locality is \$554,797 so the total required revenue for FY 2013-14 is \$27,631,752, but the total funding requested from the locality is \$11,641,270. So as we look at our total revenue sources this again reflects the state, local, and federal dollars, we have \$16,562,862 in state funding. In federal is \$1,488,337, the local funding again is \$11,641,270. The non-resident tuition is at \$60,000. School food services are at \$1,172,491 giving us a total of \$30,924,960 and that is the projected funding sources for FY 2013-14. This is just another recap of the instructional programs that we have been able to afford our students; and that is what makes our students able to make these accomplishments that we shared early on in the presentation. This is what helps our students to be able to compete across the Commonwealth and we would like to continue to maintain those offerings for our students. Outside of that we have already shared with this Board the state of the vehicles for student transportation. We have been talking through our liaison meetings and I'm sure that Mr. Michael Johnson and other representatives that served on the Board as liaisons have shared with the Board the number of buses by age. We have 46 of our buses that are over 15 years old. We have 10 that are 11 to 15 years old, 17 that are 6 to 10 years old, and 11 that are 1 to 5 years old. This is the column that concerns us the most because the metal fatigue, the safety issues of buses after they have aged, the steering, and all other kinds of mechanical and control issues that come about over time that we are concerned about our buses. We are requesting a minimum of five new buses along with the continual bus renewal process to maintain a bus replacement schedule and this request is proposed outside of the FY 2013-14 operating budget. Again I say to you gentlemen that Southampton County public schools are a worthy investment. I hope I made that clear tonight and I say to you again that so goes the school system so goes the county. These children are our future and if we invest in them it is a worthy investment. She thanked Chairman Jones.

Chairman Jones asked if anyone had any questions. He thanked Dr. Alvera Parrish.

Chairman Jones stated that next we have Smart Beginnings.

Mr. Randy Betz addressed the Board. He stated that he was on the Board of Directors for Smart Beginnings of Western Tidewater. He thanked the Board for their continuous support of this program. He stated that he came at it from the workforce angle. Having a prepared work force is so critical to attracting companies and economic development in our area. We are making some really good accomplishments even with our children. The revenue that you get from your investment is important. I would like to recap just a few things that we have seen as far as progress over the last few years. The Kindergarten class pass rates in Southampton County have improved by 3% over the past year. That is a key ingredient for effective reading. We provided free workshops for parents and child care providers in Southampton County. Over 50 providers have attended these sessions and 150 children have been affected by these trainings. We assisted in providing training to preschool teachers in Southampton County to increase motor skills in children. We have enrolled approximately 12 families in the Medicaid program. We collaborate with local agencies such as the Department of Social Services, Head Start, Western Tidewater Health Department, the Blackwater Library, Southampton Public Schools, United Way, Western Tidewater Community Services Board, and local food banks to help the children in Southampton County in many ways. We assist in screening children for social and emotional behavioral concerns from ages 0 to 4. As you probably are aware that is a really critical part of their development. What happens to them early in life stays with them for the rest of their lives. We increased identification for eligibility of families in at risk programs in services such as early intervention, early head start, and head start. We have insured access to health care and nutrition through increased and continued participation in the Women, Infant, and Children Program. We have gathered individual data concerning children's preschool experience for more informative decision making on ideas that will help assist home and preschool centers to know in which areas to provide training. We promote the importance of quality childcare for children in preparing

them for school through our free monthly workshops for parents and childcare providers from both centers and homes. With him this evening is another board member, Mr. Jim Council, and also their Executive Director, Mrs. Ellen Couch. He turned the floor over to Mr. Jim Council.

Mr. Jim Council thanked the Board for the opportunity to come make this presentation tonight. As you know about eight years ago he is one of the ones who helped start Smart Beginnings and a way to address children. He said he couldn't help but think when he saw that white board demonstration that the public schools put up there it immediately reflected him back to his second year where they had sandbox tables with villages in it and blackboards with chalk and we would write words that rhyme on it each morning and that is a far cry from what they have access to today. What I wanted to share with you is just two things. The collaboration that Smart Beginnings provides for the whole early childhood development is really amazing. We are the largest and most effective collaborator in the whole state with Smart Beginnings Programs. As you heard mentioned we collaborate with all the health agencies and the school agencies in order to bring the resources under the same tent so that we can provide a leverage of resources that these other agencies have all on behalf of children getting an early start on their education so that when they come to your public school system they are better prepared and ready to succeed on a better level which was the reason for our beginning to start with. You are generous in funding us and we really appreciate it and Mr. Randy Betz told you about some of the things that you have gotten for your money and I would like to emphasize some of the things that you will save because you have invested in us. With every dollar that you all get we estimated that you get about a \$7.00 return per dollar. So you will get back about \$175,000 worth of benefits for the investment that you make to us. Every thousand dollars that is spent on nutritional support during pregnancy and the WIC Program about \$10,000 is saved on reducing low birth rate and high medical bills. Every \$9,000 that gets spent on the nurse family partnership saves about \$30,000 in families as they become better parents and have less child negligence. Of every \$10,000 that gets spent that is not your money that is the communities' money that gets spent on children being prepared to go to kindergarten. We save about \$250,000 instead of having a high school drop-out and his loss of earnings and his lack of contribution to society, as well as the increase in public assistance. In ten years 40% of Virginia's workforce will be ready for retirement and I'm really concerned about that because I want to be sure enough people are paying in social security because I am there. But they are really solid building blocks and you all have really helped us in this collaborative partnership. It starts off with Franklin and Southampton and Isle of Wight joined in equally. You have continued to be faithful supporters; we thank you for that. We hope that we are giving you a tremendous return on the investment. We think that because you are having children with a three percent increase in reading level going into the public schools it is beginning to show. When Mr. Lee came down from Baltimore, Maryland to help us get started he said it took the City of Baltimore eight years before they could actually see the results of the investment. We have been doing this particular part for about six months and we have already started to see the trend up. We are really excited about it and we appreciate your support and pledge to you our continued effort to see that the collaboration really brings a lot of resources to the table. He asked if there were any questions.

Chairman Jones asked if anyone had any questions.

Supervisor Phillips thanked Mr. Jim Council.

Supervisor Updike said he had enough questions to last until morning, but he was curious and had one question. He said of the numbers that you are talking about what are the percentages or actual numbers of Southampton people receiving the services versus Franklin and Isle of Wight? He stated that he was just curious. He said he had a lot of other questions, but he would just ask this.

Mr. Jim Council said he would refer some of that to Mrs. Ellen Couch, but his thought would be Franklin probably gets the least as they are the smallest, Isle of Wight is probably much larger so they probably get a little bit more services, but I don't know about that because it is equally distributed and everyone is invited under the tent to come and get training and we are there to provide that. He called on Mrs. Ellen Couch.

Mrs. Ellen Couch said good evening, Chairman and Board. She thanked Supervisor Updike for the question. She said that they do everything equal as far as materials, working with the community, and working with the children within Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Franklin. She

said that she is a local person and she believes in giving back to the community that she believes in keeping the resources that we have and giving them back to the children in the community. We are doing a very good job of being mindful of our dollars and spending them back into the communities which gave them to us therefore we spend a lot of time with that. Southampton has less licensed preschools in the county and we work closely with a lot of in home providers, people who watch other children in their home. We work closely with your school division and your preschool programs in the schools as well as head start. I have the numbers in the office, but we are equally giving back to Southampton as we are in Isle of Wight and Franklin.

Mr. Jim Council asked Supervisor Updike if there were any kind of numbers that they could get for them that would be helpful.

Supervisor Updike said me. Well, I'm just curious.

Mr. Jim Council said I think that is a good question. We can get that.

Mrs. Ellen Couch said she actually had providers who work in the workshops, the number of people they serve, the number of children within that community, the number of children within that community that they care for, and the number of children that we are working with in that county.

Supervisor Updike said you all are doing a good job, but for my information I'm just nosey.

Mrs. Ellen Couch said can I send that to you in an e-mail Supervisor Updike?

Supervisor Updike said sure that is fine.

Mrs. Ellen Couch said she would send that to all the Board members.

Supervisor Phillips said that is good information.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any other questions. He thanked the members of Smart Beginnings.

Chairman Jones stated the next group was the Children's Center.

Mrs. Rosalind Cutchins addressed the Board. She said Good Evening Chairman and Board. She stated that she is the Director of Professional Services at the Children's Center. She is also a home grown Southampton County girl and graduated from Southampton County High School and supports the excellent school system here. When she is in Southampton County she tends to introduce herself as Rosalind Crenshaw Cutchins just because her family was from the area and had been friends with many of you. She thanked them for including them in your budget last year. We have a proposal back in for this year and we appreciate your support. Our biggest thank you comes in helping us to receive the head start grant back in our local area. As you may know and remember the local grant was operated out of STOP in Norfolk and we had really strongly tried to get local control back into our area for the reason that Supervisor Updike just addressed. We wanted to be assured that the federal dollars were reaching the counties and the local cities in the region here. We serve Western Tidewater. Our specific request goes back out to match dollars for early head start and head start and those federal programs require a one dollar match for every four dollars. We look at that as a way of bringing dollars back into our community and serving the children that are at risk and in need of services. Obviously we see ourselves as collaborative partners with Smart Beginnings and also with the school systems as far as offering good quality preschool education back to children of low income households so that by the time they hit that school system they are ready to go and ready to be successful. So we just want to say thank you for that. Also, I don't know if you have had a chance to see the old Courtland Elementary School in collaboration with the Southampton County Schools. They are allowing us to continue to use that building. We are right in the process of renovating it right now. We are putting approximately somewhere between \$400,000 and \$500,000 of renovation dollars back into that building to bring it back up to par and keep it going. So, I think that is a good investment in the infrastructure here in Southampton County. We are also looking at bringing some head start students, which right now are served out of Franklin because that is where our facilities are, we are

looking at the possibility of getting them so they can be served in their home area in Southampton County. So again thank you very much for your support. We appreciate it in all kinds of ways and we appreciate your consideration for our request.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any questions. He thanked Mrs. Rosalind Cutchins.

Mrs. Rosalind Cutchins thanked Chairman Jones.

Chairman Jones stated that the next presentation would be from the Blackwater Regional Library.

Mrs. Yvonne Hilliard Bradley, Director of the Blackwater Regional Library and she appreciates the opportunity to speak with you tonight about the library and about the budget that we have submitted to you. The bottom line is the regional budget is the same as last years. There is no change at all. Blackwater's budget is shared by the five localities. That is Isle of Wight, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex Counties and the City of Franklin, all of whom have signed a contract with the library agreeing to fund the operating budget of the library according to a formula that is based on local population and library circulation statistics of the library or the libraries in that locality. Southampton County's share is 17% of the libraries operating budget based on that formula. The branches of the Blackwater Regional Library are centers of learning and activity in our communities. The public library is an over-arching full service organization providing early literacy programs, outreach to schools, summer and winter reading programs for kids, teen book clubs and programs, job skills programs, computer literacy training, and of course access to regional materials collections including books, journals, books, CD's, DVD's, e-books, on a wide variety of topics. By funding the library you are supporting learning and access to information for all of the age groups and wide possible diversity of interest. Because the library welcomes all users regardless of income, education, or any other demographic it is a core service for the county to offer especially critical in times of economic downturn as people who are out of work need to learn new job skills, apply for jobs, take GED's and other kinds of tests, and network with people who can assist them in finding jobs. Economic recovery is dependent on the ability of people being able to get jobs. Most people are finding jobs on the internet and that is the way they are applying for jobs. Many people do not have computers or if they do they may have had to turn off their internet service in order to save money so they are coming to the library to use the computers. They are also coming to the library to get help from the staff. The library staff are trained and can assist people in making use of our data bases to take over 770 different practice tests and tutorials and to find information related to job search and workplace skills improvement, career certification and licensing exam preparation, college entrance and graduate school admission exam preparation, GED exam prep, and basic skill improvements in reading, writing, and math for all ages. We have software tutorials such as Adobe, Photoshop, Microsoft Outlook, and more. We offer direct access to the job and career accelerator as well. This is the database that provides detailed information on occupations and has current job listings on over five million job postings which are collected from all major job boards. They teach us how to create professional resumes and cover letters, master interviewing and network techniques and much more related to finding and getting a job. The library is simply one stop shopping for an individual who is looking for a job or looking to improve job skills. The library is also deeply committed to early and childhood literacy and to our teen population. Library staff makes visits to all of our public schools in Southampton County and to Southampton Academy to encourage early literacy by providing story hours, book talks, and reading initiatives. They deliver collections of books to the classrooms or libraries and they speak at school meetings and open house programs. They read to kids and they get older kids to read to the younger kids, encouraging and helping them. Our summer and winter reading programs draw heavy participation from children in the county. The Courtland library offers after school programs for elementary school age kids and the teen set. Teens come to the library for teen tech week activities and for special programs designed around their interest. They talk to each other about books they enjoyed reading and they find the library a safe and welcoming environment. We are a partner with 4-H of Southampton County offering a venue for meetings and books on their interest, in return the 4-H leader comes to the library to speak to groups. The library and Paul D. Camp work together to publicize each other's events and hours and we offer materials and databases to assist students with their school work. Over one thousand people came out last weekend to the Southampton Renaissance Fair which is hosted by the library and friends of the library. These people came from all over the state and beyond the state and filled up restaurants and other local businesses. You have heard me use the word partnerships several times. We offer programs, social interaction, and intellectual

stimulation for all age groups and the way that we can do this to get the best return on investment is through partnerships. So much of what we accomplish is through partnerships in a variety of segments in our community. We prepared a list of the organizations that the Courtland branch partners with which Stanya will hand you. We want people to come to the library so that they can use the resources that we have there, but we know that isn't always possible. There are partnerships which are often able to take library services outside of the library to where people are. We also offer databases and e-books that can be accessed or downloaded from home or school computers as well as library computers or to hand helds. Our bookmobiles deliver books and other resources to people who live in Boykins, Drewryville, Sedley, and Ivor. We hear from bookmobile users regularly about what a life line the bookmobiles are for adults and children. Southampton residents have access to the entire regional library collection. Our online catalog allows users to see everything in our collections and they can put a hold on something they see that interest them that is in another branch and it will be carried to their home branch within a day or two. The library is a vital part of the life of this community. I hope that you will vote to fully fund the library this year so that we can continue the good work that the staff of the bookmobile and the Courtland branch are doing in this county. Thank you.

Chairman Jones thanked Mrs. Yvonne Hilliard-Bradley. He asked if anyone had any questions.

Chairman Jones called on Franklin Southampton Economic Development.

Mrs. Amanda Jarratt thanked Chairman Jones, Members of the Board of Supervisors, and Mr. Michael Johnson for the opportunity to speak to you tonight regarding the 2013-14 fiscal year. As all of you know I am Mrs. Amanda Jarratt, President of Franklin Southampton Economic Development and we are a 501 (C) 3 uniting the efforts of Southampton and the City of Franklin for economic development with support and guidance from the private sector. I have with me tonight the Chairman of our Board, Mr. Warren Beale. We are the key marketing and development organization to work with state and regional partners to market both the county and the city. We were created to diversify the local economic base and eliminate a conflicting marketing base by the two localities. Most of you are aware of the key initiatives and programs of FSEDI, but tonight I will provide you a quick highlight. First, we have created an inclusive marketing program with state and regional partners including the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance. We are tasked with developing areas for future business and industry to locate and to grow our existing parks targeting our key industry sectors. Since our creation in 2005 we have been directly and indirectly responsible for the creation of over 619 new jobs and a quarter billion dollars in new investment in the Franklin Southampton Region. The past year has shown significant progress. We are finally beginning to reap benefits from our efforts, but we must aggressively move forward to successfully market the region. As you know the Enviva facility at the Turner Tract is well under construction and that was a \$95 million dollar investment. The high end process for the 82 positions has begun. Three weeks ago we broke ground for a new asphalt and concrete plant outside of Ivor for AMAC and Curtis Contracting. This facility will generate close to 50 jobs and result in a five to six million dollar investment. This provides significant benefits to the Franklin and Southampton community. We are leveraging our partnership with Hollingsworth in revitalizing interest in Pretlow Park and the entire Franklin Southampton Region. We are marketing with both the county and city planning departments to proactively rezone property and amend ordinances to allow us to be ready to capture the development opportunities and to more properly position ourselves in the Hampton Roads market. Just recently we partnered with the City of Franklin and a broker to rezone 63 acres adjacent to Pretlow Park which complements the city's efforts to begin to serve as a retail center for Western Hampton Roads and Northeast North Carolina. As a result of those efforts, we hope to make a commercial development announcement in the next two weeks. Our office is the key to growing our tax base. We are producing the tax revenue to lessen the burden on our citizens. We are creating jobs not just for the workforce of today, but for tomorrow as well. We actively meet with local businesses and provide them with the local and state resources if necessary. In 2009 a tourism and steering committee was formed. That initiative has resulted in a tourism brochure being distributed at the welcome centers throughout Virginia and Northeastern North Carolina. We are again participating in the 2013 annual motorcycle ride of Virginia with stops in both the city and the county. This strong tourism focus that we had in years past has been tempered at this point due to lack of staffing as a result of budget constraints. But, I am hoping to begin a renewed focus on tourism this fall when a currently opened position is filled. Tourism is a key part of economic development that should not

be overlooked especially with the history and natural resources that our community offers. Small business and development is also another key priority. The main way, but not the only way, that this is accomplished is through the Franklin Business Incubator. The incubator currently has 29 businesses and it is at approximately 75% capacity. These businesses are owned by people mainly from the Franklin/Southampton community. This generates employment opportunities and drops dollars into our local area. Over 150 employees report to work for businesses that work in that facility. Our community also pays the local required match on behalf of both the city and the county to participate in the small business development center. They provide counseling once a month for new or existing businesses and they come here to either The Chamber of Commerce or to the office in the Incubator. The funding agencies for Franklin/Southampton Economic Development include the Southampton/Franklin charities, the Camp Family Foundation, Southampton County, and the City of Franklin. The private dollars that support our program are available to be leveraged only due to public dollars that are contributed. This successful public/private partnership allows us to effectively and efficiently market the city and county. This has only been possible because the private funds had historically supplied the majority of the funding for our local economic development efforts. As you all recall each entity initially entered into a five year agreement for certain funding levels, but that expired in 2010. Since that time we have been operating on annual appropriations. At the time that the agreement expired, it was also the time that the closure of International Paper was announced and we were in the midst of a devastating recession with critical impacts to our local area. These jobs are now slowly and steadily being replaced in our community and it is our job to make sure that happens. And, this year we are requesting an increase in funding to \$125,000 which is still a reduction from the initial \$150,000 that our budget was built around. This request has also been made to the City of Franklin and is included in their draft budget. We continue to be incredibly sensitive to cost, but we must have the resources for an effective marketing program. We are no longer just marketing ourselves against other communities in Virginia and other states, but also with the entire world. Projects that we are trying to attract to Southampton County are not just looking in this region or in North Carolina, but in China as well. So, we must be competitive. No raises for our staff are being planned for the upcoming fiscal year. No benefits are being increased. Every expenditure is scrutinized to make sure it is resulting in the best efforts for the City of Franklin and Southampton County. But, we have to have your investment to diversify our local economy and try to attract these job opportunities for future generations. We must continue to show the business community that we are serious about growing our local economy and that we are open for business. This concludes my planned presentation and remarks for tonight. I look forward to continuing to work with you and developing the strong relationship between the county and FSEDI. I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have at this time.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Amanda Jarratt.

Supervisor Updike said I'm supposed to keep my mouth shut, but nevertheless with all the problems that we have financial wise and financing the school board budget and finding resources how can we ask all of these government bodies to hold their expenses and you are asking for a 25% increase. I know you all are doing a great job there is not any question about that. I love to see additional funds and additional staff and everything else. I think we have got to treat everybody fair handed and I wished you would withdraw that 25% raise. I can't vote for increasing your budget by 25% and not increasing the school board and other departments. So, it is not the question of wanting to. Again you all are doing a great job, but we have got to treat everybody fairly and equally and be responsible to everyone. So, that is his only comment is there is a big concern with a 25% increase.

Chairman Jones asked if there was anyone else with a question.

Mrs. Amanda Jarratt said she just had one quick response. She said she would be happy to meet with Supervisor Updike to go over his concerns in more detail, but we have been operating at a 33% reduction for the past four fiscal years I believe.

Mr. Michael Johnson said three.

Mrs. Amanda Jarratt said three fiscal years and the private sector has been carrying the burden of the economic development for the two localities so I have to be absolutely understanding and fiscally responsible with every dollar that we receive. My staff did not receive raises last year and

nor will they this year. Our marketing efforts that result in direct benefits to the county have been dramatically reduced. I also have to be responsible to all of the funding agencies and I guess I would just say that I can only market this community and be as successful with the resources I am given. I fully understand your concern and would be happy to meet with you about it in more detail.

Chairman Jones thanked Mrs. Amanda Jarratt.

Mrs. Amanda Jarratt said thank you. Have a good night.

Chairman Jones stated next on the agenda is the Commonwealth Attorney.

Commonwealth Attorney, Eric Cooke, addressed the Board. He said good evening Mr. Chairman, Board Members, and Mr. Michael Johnson. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm told that the sooner that I leave the more money I get so won't be too long. In any event, I just want to take this opportunity to speak to you. I know that you are familiar with what we do. We are prosecuting cases in the Franklin District Court and Juvenile Court and in the Southampton Juvenile and District Court and the Southampton County Circuit Court. At any given time we have hundreds of open cases. We have prosecuted a number of cases since I appeared before you last. Primarily we have focused our energies on violent crimes and those which involve public safety. We also do a lot of misdemeanor prosecutions on such crimes as domestic violence and DUI. As far as prosecutions we spend a lot of time with that. I have three attorneys working for me, one administrative support person, and a victim witness coordinator. I know that you all are aware that Mrs. Joan Rice retired this year after twenty years of distinguished service. She did take the opportunity for the retirement which was offered. I'm grateful for your support of that and making it happen for her. I know that she is appreciative of it as well. So what we are doing is using a part time person as we agreed to, a temporary part-time employee. We won't hear from our board until sometime in June and I'm optimistic that we will be able to hire and fill the vacant administrative assistant position in July and that will bring us back up to full staff. If you remember when I was here last year this time, I asked you to consider an increase or salary supplement for the assistant commonwealth attorneys that are working for me. And, of course that was not possible last year and I think realistically we know that is not possible this year for the Board to do. I do want to tell you though and you may already be aware, the Governor's budget has proposed what is looking like, and we are on track for them, is an increase for them. So, the need has been seen and is being addressed on the state level. That will be a benefit to our locality and for the folks working for him. And, he is glad that it looks like that is going to happen. Most of what I wanted to do here was to take an opportunity to thank you for what you are doing, to thank you for your support of my efforts and my office's efforts. Often times I know you folks are taken for granted for the time commitments that you give and are not acknowledged for all your efforts. And, yet we were all here just last night at this time on something else and I know that is not an unusual occurrence for you so I appreciate your support and what you are doing for the county. I would ask that you approve my budget as presented to you. You will see there is a reduction in this year's budget over last years and that is primarily as the result of the retirement of a twenty year employee and paying her replacement significantly less. I invite you to come over and see what we are doing. Obviously the court proceedings are open to you, but I would be happy to meet with you individually or as a group if you have any questions regarding what we are doing and how we are conducting business. He said he would be glad to answer any questions here tonight.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any questions. He thanked Commonwealth Attorney, Eric Cooke.

Commonwealth Attorney, Eric Cooke, said thank you for having me.

Chairman Jones said that is all that we have signed up to speak. He asked if there was anyone else who wanted to speak. He asked if there was any other department. He said is there any else - citizen or department. Chairman Jones asked Supervisor West if he had anything.

Supervisor West said no sir. I appreciate everything that has been said and the presentations as well. Thank you.

Chairman Jones asked if anyone on this side had anything. Chairman Jones said if not we will adjourn.

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk