

LUNENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LUNENBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL
583 TOMLINSON ROAD
VICTORIA, VIRGINIA

Minutes of March 24, 2016 Joint School Board Meeting

The continued meeting of the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors was held Thursday, March 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Lunenburg County Middle School, Victoria, VA. The following Board of Supervisors members were present: Supervisors T. Wayne Hoover, Robert Zava, Edward Pennington, Alvester Edmonds, David Wingold, County Administrator Tracy M. Gee, Assistant to the Administrator Nicole Clark, and County Attorney Frank Rennie. Supervisors Charles R. Slayton and Frank Bacon were absent.

Chairman Wingold called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Hoover arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Supervisor Zava made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to enter Closed Session citing Virginia Code Section §2.2-3711A1 Personnel, §2.2-3711A5 Prospective Business and §2.2-3711A7 Legal Consult.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lunenburg County, Virginia ("Board") convened a Closed Session Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section §2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Board that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board 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 business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

VOTING YES

Supervisor Hoover
Supervisor Edmonds
Supervisor Pennington
Supervisor Zava
Supervisor Wingold

VOTING NO

ABSENT

Supervisor Bacon
Supervisor Slayton

Supervisor Zava made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to return to Open Session.

Supervisor Edmonds made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Zava and unanimously approved, to release the 2011 Caterpillar loader equipment held as collateral for Global Refining Group in their agreement with the County.

The Board of Supervisors then joined the School Board for a joint budget work session.

School Superintendent, Mr. Charles Berkley, provided the school 2016-2017 budget overview via a handout presentation. Mr. Berkley discussed the school's accomplishments over the recent school year as well as upcoming accomplishments in the near future. He outlined five budget goals for FY 2016-2017.

1. Offer competitive salaries and benefits to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers, administrators, and support staff.
2. Ensure all learners demonstrate the 21st Century learning and technology skills that will prepare them for success in school, postsecondary education, work and life in a global society.
3. Provide safe, secure, and nurturing environments for students and staff.
4. Allocate the financial resources necessary to maintain class ratios and provide multiple remediation opportunities for students in schools not meeting Federal AMO or State Standards of Learning.
5. Foster a strong partnership with the County Government to fund Short and Long Term Capital Improvement Priorities.

Mr. Berkley stated several capital improvements that are in their six year plan. Those improvements include HVAC Units at KES, VES, and CHS, paving at CHS and KES, sealing of the parking lots at the School Board Office, LMS, VES and CHS, purchase of grounds maintenance equipment, playground equipment at KES and VES, sidewalk replacement, technology upgrades, additional programs in CTE, and additional staff for Chorus, P.E. and Secondary Math.

The average daily membership (ADM) for LCPS had been 1522. That average decreased to 1480 for numerous reasons. Mr. Berkley added that they would be receiving about \$59,000 less from the state this year.

The Governor also approved a 2% raise for those employees paid from Standard of Quality (SOQ) funds, which consists of about 35% of the staff. Mr. Berkley and the School Board would like to provide all staff with the raise, as it would be difficult to determine which staff would be part of the 35%. Mr. Berkley added that the Governor and the General Assembly suggested that the difference come from local funding.

Mr. Berkley and the School Board asked the Board of Supervisors to consider two budget options. The first asks the Supervisors to provide additional funds and the second requested that the Supervisors absorb the school debt service. Mr. Berkley added that LCPS have gone numerous years without receiving additional funding with the cost of educating students steadily rising. The School Board has made cuts continuously throughout the past and is now unable to cut any more from the budget.

Mr. Berkley explained that the budget deficit increased this year for several reasons; a 9.6% increase on health insurance, decline in enrollment which in turn decreases the state funds, and a 1% state mandated employee contribution increase to VRS. Also increases of the cost of school food and consumable products and the cost of classes at SVCC contributed to the deficit.

Mr. Berkley and the School Board are seeking assistance from the Board of Supervisors. He stated that they looked at potential positions that could be cut, but they are operating at the bare minimum. A few staff members will retire which will help but the saving will not be enough. He added that the administrators are the lowest paid in the region, however, most have grown up in Lunenburg and want to stay. Also the health insurance plan is better than most of the neighboring counties.

Mr. Berkley requested that the Supervisors please review their budget and see what may be done to assist with the School Board's budget. He added that they are truly in need of some additional funding this fiscal year. Mr. Berkley stated that they are trying to cut some part-time hours. However, at present, many staff members are all assuming multiple duties and jobs.

Supervisor Hoover asked if \$94,000 was the amount needed to cover the pay increase and if the School Board had enough funding for the current fiscal year.

Mr. Berkley replied that \$94,000 would only cover the SOQ funded positions. He added that about \$231,000 would be needed to cover every employee. He noted that this year's fiscal budget was going to be very close.

Supervisor Hoover questioned the minimum amount it would take to operate without any new revenue.

Mr. Berkley replied \$342,000.

Supervisor Hoover noted that it would require a \$0.04 tax increase to cover the additional amount.

Mr. Berkley commented that if the county could absorb the debt service, they could start on some much needed capital improvements. He stated that the HVAC systems at three schools desperately needed replacing. Mr. Berkley noted that they had not been spending freely; however, they are trying to provide a quality education and maintain the current buildings.

Mr. Berkley advised that Mr. James Abernathy has taken over Finance and Operations, as well as Clerk to the School Board, as a result of Mr. Tom Palmore's illness. Mr. Abernathy will be named Assistant Superintendent in July. Mr. Berkley also announced that one third of the staff is eligible to retire at the end of the school year, but some will stay.

Supervisor Edmonds questioned if the replacement hires would start at the lowest level salary.

Mr. Berkley stated that the budget was based on new teachers straight out of college. He added that salary and benefits for a teacher about to retire is \$73,000, whereas a teacher just out of college is \$52,000.

School Board Member Beverley Hawthorne commented that changing from 4 by 4 block schedule to a 7 period schedule will also prevent them from having to hire a couple of teachers.

Mr. Berkley noted that he and his staff are creating extra opportunities for staff and students all the time that are not costing the School Board or the Board of Supervisors, including planning periods for the teachers at the elementary schools, extra electives for secondary students and senior projects.

Supervisor Edmonds stated that the Finance Committee and Board of Supervisors would be discussing funding and the budget in the coming weeks. He stated that both groups would take a close look at potential avenues for assistance, noting that it may be time for a tax increase.

Supervisor Edmonds made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Zava and unanimously approved, to adjourn.

Tracy M. Gee, Clerk
County Administrator

David E. Wingold, Sr., Chairman
Board of Supervisors