

April 4, 2017

At a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Robert M. Jones

Odessa H. Pride

Howard F. Simpson

C. Robert Timmons, Jr.

Jerry R. Townsend

Jim R. Wilck

Absent: Calvin L. Gray

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator.

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order as a reconvened meeting from March 30, 2017, for the presentation of the FY18 School Budget.

In Re: Presentation of FY18 School Budget

Dr. Barbara Johnson, Prince Edward County Schools Superintendent, stated she wanted to make sure everything that is presented is in the best interest of the students and growing the programs, and providing that which is necessary but also an extension of their learning.

Dr. Johnson reviewed the long term plan associated with the budget, adding that in three years, she expects the schools to be fully accredited; she said what is in the budget today has to do with supporting the instructional programs so the schools can be fully accredited. She said the high school is currently fully accredited. She stated the signature program will allow Prince Edward County Schools to distinguish itself from other schools, and Prince Edward County Schools must build on its strengths which are Science and Social Studies. She said she wants to build a Solid STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program, which helps students with critical thinking and problem solving, and to eventually move the STEM Program to a STEAM program, which includes “Arts.” She said she wants to build solid

partnerships to provide different experiences for the students, including more exposure to Arts and Sciences, and is working on building community and regional connections to make sure that happens. She said she wishes to have all students at or above grade level in reading and mathematics, and to provide career exploration and support as well as emotional support; she said to do that, committed, solid teachers are needed along with strong school counselors. She said to make any of this happen, there needs to be stability in the system, and how necessary it is to reduce teacher turnover.

Dr. Johnson reviewed the School Budget packet; she stated the total School Budget requested is \$26,982,080, and looking at the revenue that will come from both Federal and State, the Schools request an addition of \$1,067,473. She said considering the cuts made and what is being allocated in Federal and State funds, the School will have a shortfall of \$314,639.

Dr. Johnson stated the Board has been generous in the past and the Schools appreciate the recommendation at \$123,000 for this budget; still there is a need of about \$200,000.

Dr. Johnson reviewed the savings that will be accomplished through the end of the year. She said the budget packet provides a total breakdown of the Schools' allocation, as far as the shortfall. She stated the presentation on March 16 [2017] set forth several positions that the allocation will fund. She said there were contributing factors to their figuring their budget; two community forums were held and they also used the "Profile of Virginia Graduate" which speaks to content knowledge, workplace skills, community and civic responsibility as well as career exploration. She said they considered the School Board's priorities as well as recommendations from principals and staff.

Dr. Johnson said that overall, the Schools are looking to expand programming while trying to increase the rigor in the current programs around Math and Science, to provide a safe environment for the children, and to hire and maintain staff. The request of the monies to support that are:

- Hire a part-time principal for the elementary school (currently have 900 children in elementary grades)
- Expand Sciences and Mathematics with the hiring of a robotics / science / math instructor for the Middle school
- Expand use of technology in the buildings; currently the Schools have a grant to purchase technology and the teachers need know how to use that technology; there is a need to hire an instructional technology teacher
- Expand Sciences at the high school level; the Virginia School Quality Profile states currently, our Science proficiency is at 77%, statewide it must be at 70%, and we need to maintain that strength.

- Hire a guidance counselor for the Middle and High Schools to ensure students receive educational, career, and emotional guidance.
- Hire a physical education teacher.
- Hire a Reading Specialist for the Secondary grades.
- Hire a part-time public relations person and a strategic planner.
- Incentives to hire and maintain staff.
- VRS is increasing 1.88%.
- A 2% salary increase will take effect February 2018.
- Health insurance increases have caused them to issue an RFP; their representative will speak to the School Board regarding health insurance. She said assuming they will remain with Local Choice, there is a 14% increase expected.

Dr. Johnson stated the Schools are requesting \$314,639 to support these initiatives. She said potential savings for the next year include transportation (diesel), administrative, health, and attendance office, and seek grant opportunities. She said perhaps one day it will be revenue generating and people will pay to come to Prince Edward County Schools, much like Prince Edward County Schools pay Southside [Community College].

Supervisor Wilck said the Schools have not received a lot of positive publicity and suggested Dr. Johnson contact the Farmville Herald, WFLO, and the heads of service organizations such as the Rotary and Lions Club regarding Leadership Day. Dr. Johnson agreed and thanked Supervisor Wilck for the suggestion. She stated Leadership Day is Friday, April 7.

Mr. Bartlett asked Dr. Johnson how much is allocated for the signing bonus.

Dr. Johnson stated they are from Title funds. Ms. Cindy Wahrman, Director of Finance, said signing bonuses are paid from Title II, Federal funds, under Professional Development and hiring of staffing. Ms. Wahrman said it is going up \$45,000.

Mr. Bartlett said the 2% salary increase will be \$117,290 for FY18 and asked what it will equate to in FY19. Ms. Wahrman stated the 2% beginning February 1, 2018, it would break down to about 0.18% and would be 2.5% the next year. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bartlett then asked how the Schools will sustain that amount in the future years. Dr. Johnson said she will email that information to him. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Pride thanked Dr. Johnson and her staff for working diligently to make the cuts necessary.

In Re: Poplar Hill Community Development Authority Special Levy

Mr. Bartlett stated the County received a letter and resolution from the Poplar Hill Community Development Authority (CDA) requesting that the Board set the 2017 CDA District Special Levy at \$1.00. Mr. Bartlett stated that to facilitate the request to set the CDA Special Levy to \$1.00, the Board will wish to add the Special Levy to the Public Hearing Notice for the County's FY18 Budget and *Tax Levies for Calendar Year 2017*.

In Re: Work Session

Mr. Bartlett reported the Virso Recreation and Community Center is a non-profit organization and owns the property where it is located; it is not privately owned. He said their Board manages the 2.11 acres.

Supervisor Townsend said the Virso Center is tied to the Comprehensive Plan and the Strategic Plan; he said when donation levels are capped, it can hinder growth of the County. He said the County will stagnate as the same organizations receive funding each year and it doesn't allow for growth. Supervisor Townsend said there needs to be an increase of recreation in rural areas; one of the goals the Board set is for the County to grow.

Supervisor Townsend said the Board could move \$10,000 from the YMCA to the Virso Center, and next year, the Board should look at the cap of \$150,000. He said the budget is important but growth is also important, and the budget should be in line with the Comp Plan and the Strategic Plan.

Supervisor Timmons said hard decisions were made last year and will be made this year about managing the costs and tax burdens of the County citizens. He said that two years ago, Supervisor Townsend requested \$12,500 for Virso; \$6,500 was allocated the first year and the remainder last year, and it was agreed that they would not ask for funding for a third year. He said while he doesn't want to dampen what is going on in Virso, an agreement was made but now the agreement is being broken.

Supervisor Townsend said he is not opposing what was said and it is correct, but in the bigger scheme of things, he shouldn't have said that. He said this is about the County and its citizens, and the County must progress, not regress. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Timmons stated the Board set criteria for the budget to have no increase in taxes, and a balanced budget without drawing on the Fund balance.

Mr. Bartlett said the proposed Public Hearing notice shows the accounts by category as recommended by the Auditor of Public Accounts and the state, and therefore is consolidated from what has been presented in the past. He said the full budget is posted on the web site and is available in the County Administrator's office.

Mr. Bartlett said another change is the tax rates may be approved by resolution instead of by ordinance; he said this would save one advertisement [cost]. He said a public hearing is still required. He said the time of the public hearing should also be changed to the regular time for Board public hearings, at 7:30 p.m.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Townsend, to authorize advertisement of a Public Hearing on the FY18 County and School Budget and CY17 Tax Resolution Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.; the motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones Robert M. Jones Odessa H. Pride Howard F. Simpson C. Robert Timmons, Jr. Jerry R. Townsend Jim R. Wilck	Nay: None
Absent:	Calvin L. Gray	

On motion of Supervisor Cooper-Jones, seconded by Supervisor Wilck, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones Robert M. Jones Odessa H. Pride Howard F. Simpson C. Robert Timmons, Jr. Jerry R. Townsend Jim R. Wilck	Nay: None
Absent:	Calvin L. Gray	

the meeting was recessed at 6:20 p.m. until Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 5:30 for a Budget Work Session.