

March 13, 2014

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Prince Edward County Career Technical Center, 1419 Zion Hill Road, Farmville, thereof, on Tuesday, the 13th day of March, 2014; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Board of Supervisors

Howard F. Simpson, Chairman
Pattie Cooper-Jones, Vice Chairman
Howard M. Campbell
Pattie Cooper-Jones
Charles W. McKay
C. Robert Timmons, Jr.
Jerry R. Townsend
Jim R. Wilck

School Board

Russell L. Dove, Chairman
Dr. Timothy W. Corbett, Sr.
Sherry Honeycutt
Susan Southall Lawman
Linda L. Leatherwood
Thomas M. Tillerson
Lawrence C. Varner
Beulah M. Womack

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Dr. K. David Smith, Superintendent; and Cindy Wahrman, Division Director of Finance.

Chairman Simpson called the special meeting to order as a joint meeting with the Prince Edward County School Board.

Chairman Dove called the School Board meeting to order.

Dr. K. David Smith, Superintendent, expressed thanks to Mr. [Donald] McClelland and the culinary arts students for preparing the meal.

Dr. Smith then reviewed the highlights of the Budget Presentation. He stated all localities and schools are “in limbo” in terms of the legislature; when this occurred before, it was well into June when the state budget was passed which had a huge impact on local governments all across the state. Dr. Smith stated the “limit of the unknowns” is due to the range of difference between the Governor’s budget, the House budget and the Senate budget, which equals a difference of \$94,175.

Supervisor Timmons questioned the ADM numbers and their correlation to the costs. Dr. Smith said in arriving at the current total budget figure, the School Board had to take into account all of the operational costs that continue to increase regardless of student enrollment. Transportation costs, health insurance costs, and the VRS continue to increase. This reduction does incorporate everywhere in the

operation that can be affected without stopping the critical services. There is a limit to how reductions can be applied at a time when the requirements and accountability are continuing to increase on a state and federal level.

Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, said the cost per student was \$11,660 in 2010; it's \$11,826 currently. Less is provided from federal and state funds and more from the locality.

Ms. Cindy Wahrman, Division Director of Finance, reviewed the 2014-2015 Governor's proposed budget, reviewed a comparison of the budgets presented by the House and the Senate, and then presented a summary of the Preliminary 2014-2015 Budget. She stated that at its February 19, 2014 work session, the School Board determined the top priorities to be funded for the next school year:

- State and Federal revenue decrease of \$252,179
- Virginia Retirement System rate increase – projected 3.11% (\$413,200)
- Estimated health insurance costs increasing – expected 8.2% (\$129,450)
- Salary increase, proposed 2% to all employees (\$371,900)
- Kindergarten aides (5) (\$150,000)
- One pre-school teacher (\$68,140)
- One pre-school teacher aide (\$30,000)
- Place current teachers on correct salary scale (\$50,761)
- Career & Technical Center requested increase (\$33,416)
- Transportation, purchase of one replacement bus (\$100,000)

Ms. Wahrman reviewed the changes in the Federal, State and local funds, and the Food Service Total Budget.

Supervisor Jones questioned the cost of the 2% salary increase for the employees in food service. Ms. Wahrman stated there is a supervisor, a secretary, and approximately 20 employees; many are part time employees and it is a minimal increase.

Supervisor McKay asked how many special needs students are attending Prince Edward County from other counties. Dr. Smith said he isn't aware of any that live in other counties; he said a few go from Prince Edward County schools to Fuqua and another private school that get special education services. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Timmons questioned the cost of \$800 more to \$2,400 more per student as compared to surrounding counties. Dr. Smith stated differences will come in the way programs are structured and staffed. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Townsend asked if the salary requested for the kindergarten aide is comparable to the salaries provided to aides in the surrounding counties. Dr. Smith said the figure includes benefits to the total cost and is not just the base salary.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones stated the people are very much affected by the closing of the schools even though it was three generations ago; she asked for a number of school buses that have been purchased in the past 10 years and a list of the buses that need to be replaced. She also expressed disappointment that Black History Month has been cancelled.

Supervisor Townsend requested the actual mileage of the buses also be included on the report regarding the school buses. Dr. Smith said the Department of Education didn't make mileage a requirement because it would have implied a level of funding; the Department of Education made a strong recommendation to replace buses after 15 years of use.

Dr. Smith stated possible changes to the Capital Improvements Plan have not been shared; one was developed last year and as the School Board is talking about the possibility of renovations within Performance Contracting, as those energy audits are completed, the CIP list is likely to be reorganized, reprioritized, but the School Board is working on that revision currently. Discussion followed.

Chairman Simpson stated there is no one else in attendance at the meeting that was there when the schools were closed, adding the school has come a long way for the students. He said it is necessary to look at the things that are needed to help the schools instead of arguing about how to cut everything. He said people forget that people paid taxes for those younger to get their education, but now they don't want to pay for the following generation. Supervisor Timmons stated he wants to know why it costs more per student in Prince Edward County than other surrounding counties.

On motion of Supervisor McKay and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell	Nay:	None
	Pattie Cooper-Jones		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Charles W. McKay		
	Howard F. Simpson		
	C. Robert Timmons, Jr.		
	Jerry R. Townsend		
	Jim R. Wilck		

the meeting was recessed at 7:05 p.m. until Thursday, March 25, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.