

April 26, 2022

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Prince Edward County Middle School, 35 Eagle Drive, Farmville, Virginia, thereof, on Tuesday, the 26th day of April, 2022; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Board of Supervisors

Odessa H. Pride, Chair
Beverly M. Booth
Pattie Cooper-Jones
J. David Emert
Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.
Jerry R. Townsend

School Board

Lucy Carson, Chair
Beulah Womack, Vice-Chair
Dr. Lawrence C. Varner
Susan Kimbrough
Doug Farley
Dr. Peter Gur
Dr. Timothy W. Corbett, Sr.
Elzora Stiff

Absent: Robert M. Jones
James R. Wilck

Also present: Douglas P. Stanley, County Administrator; Cheryl Stimpson, Director of Finance; Crystal Baker, Finance Manager; Dr. Barbara A. Johnson, Superintendent; Dr. Michelle Wallace, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; and Virginia Jones, Supervisor of Finance.

Chairman Pride called the special meeting to order as the Joint Meeting with the Prince Edward County School Board.

Mr. Stanley stated the County and Schools have been in a holding pattern for the last month, waiting on the General Assembly to provide a school budget for State funding which represents 16% of the overall School budget. He stated the General Assembly is returning for their veto session on April 27 [2022]; he was told it may be as late as June until the General Assembly agrees on a State budget. Mr. Stanley said this puts the County and Schools in a position where the Schools need to be able to issue contracts to engage the teachers, and the County must move forward with a budget; this is needed by July 1 in order to spend funds. He reviewed the time constraints to allow this to happen.

Mr. Stanley said everyone statewide is having to adopt a budget based on assumptions. He said the County and Schools will have to determine an overall budget to move forward for advertisement; currently, based on the new schedule, the public hearing will be held May 31 and the Board will adopt the budget June 7, and appropriate funds June 14. He said if a lower amount is used in the budget, and additional funding is approved from the State that is more than 1% of the total budget, there will have to be a separate public hearing to amend the budget for next year. This adds an extra step in the process. He said this will allow for contracts, with salaries subject to appropriation. He

said the County and Schools will have to come to an agreement and move forward with a budget that the School Board can live with and if additional monies come back, adjustments will be made.

Dr. Barbara Johnson, Superintendent, presented the 2023 Prince Edward County Public School Preliminary Requested Budget. She stated these numbers are not solid due to all of the things Mr. Stanley just shared. She said these will have to be readdressed. She said she will present several different options in this proposed budget.

Dr. Johnson reviewed the Executive Summary, or priorities, for the year, including a salary increase of 5% or more, Salary Scale Stabilization, an additional mathematics coach for the Elementary School, additional literacy coach for the Elementary School, a Spanish teacher for the Elementary School, Instructional Mentors, a Social Worker, and benefits for the bus and van drivers.

Dr. Johnson said continuing factors that led to this budget include Board discussions, the current accreditation status, Principal recommendations, Standard of Quality Salary Increase, and Long Term Instructional and Operational Infrastructure. She then shared information on the ADM and said the average is 1,840 throughout the year, but with the expectation that enrollment will decline in the region, they currently have an ADM of 1,810.

Dr. Johnson reviewed several other budget drivers, including the Composite Index, VRS rate compensation, VRS Health Credit rate, VPI slots and the K-3 ratio is 16 children to one teacher. She discussed the House budget highlights: Compensation Supplement of 4%; Bonus Payment of \$72,870; Infrastructure and Operations, \$409,402; Sales Tax, Hold Harmless, \$168,536; and Supplemental Lottery, which showed a decrease of \$477,946. The Senate budget highlights include Compensation Supplement of 5%; Infrastructure and Operations, \$459,789; Supplemental GF Taxes in Lieu of Food and Hygiene Tax, \$206,813; Supplemental Lottery, a decrease of \$477,946; and School Construction, \$1,618,262. She then reviewed further budget comparisons.

Dr. Johnson reviewed the Preliminary Cost Adjustments and Requests. She drew attention to several grant-funded positions, which may be lost in two to three years, unless other funding is located because these positions are needed. Grant-funded positions are not guaranteed to be there in the future. She said JROTC had to be taken out of the draft but it needs to be brought back; this leadership program is excellent. She discussed the costs for the various departments. Dr. Johnson said the total for these proposed items comes to \$3,000,421.

Dr. Johnson then reviewed the House Compensation Supplement/Bonus of \$416,743 and the General Conference Funding Increase of \$404,308, which equals \$1,578,609. She said because the budget in the General Assembly has not yet been approved, they tried to make adjustments to all of their budgets. She reviewed several options for consideration.

Dr. Johnson said they are looking for the budget request to be finalized, and when it is, they will present a final requested budget, similar to what has been presented, but with numbers that are practical, which will then go to the School Board for approval and then to the Board of Supervisors.

Chair Pride said there were positions that were never filled; she said she toured the Middle School last week and saw the library dark, and she knows there is someone filling in for Counselor. She asked how many positions were not filled and asked where is the funding [that was for those positions], and has any of it been used for other purposes.

Dr. Johnson said the Elementary School had two positions filled but they were not classroom positions; the Middle School was hit with 12-13 positions left unfilled, and they were in some core areas as well, meaning major adjustments had to be made. Some of the class sizes were made much larger than usual. She said at the High School, there were six or seven, but they were not all classroom teachers. The funding for those positions is still in the Salary lines; the money has been used for long-term substitute teachers, training and other incentives for the teachers and staff. She added that some were hired mid-year, so they did not use the full salary that was budgeted.

Supervisor Emert asked if their budget considers the increase in [salary] steps every year as a step. Dr. Johnson answered in the affirmative.

Supervisor Townsend asked how many teachers were lost due to the disparity in teacher salary. Dr. Johnson said they are just now beginning to lose teachers to other counties; the teachers that were lost went into private industry. She said this year they used "Intent-to-Hire" forms; she said she cannot offer contracts yet. She added they offer a \$2,500 sign-on bonus; discussion followed.

Chair Pride asked the term of the contracts. Dr. Johnson stated they are yearly contracts; the only employee that has a multi-year contract is the Superintendent. Discussion followed.

On motion of Chair Pride, seconded by Supervisor Emert, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Beverly M. Booth Pattie Cooper-Jones J. David Emert Llew W. Gilliam, Jr. Odessa H. Pride Jerry R. Townsend	Nay: None
Absent:	Robert M. Jones James R. Wilck	

the meeting was recessed at 6:29 p.m. until Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room, 111 N. South Street, Third Floor, Farmville, Virginia.