

April 9, 2019

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones

J. David Emert

Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.

Robert M. Jones

Odessa H. Pride

Gene A. Southall

Jerry R. Townsend

James R. Wilck

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; and Dr. Barbara A. Johnson, Superintendent, Prince Edward County Public Schools.

Chairman Wilck called the special meeting to order.

In Re: Budget Work Session – Presentation of the Prince Edward County School Budget

Dr. Barbara A. Johnson, Superintendent of the Prince Edward County Public Schools, reviewed their requested budget. She expressed the commitment to having a quality education and instructional program, by insuring that the students have several varying levels of support, that their teachers are certified, that they can provide competitive salaries and incentives to the teachers, and that they continue with the objectives and strategic plan. She then emphasized the importance of the STEM programming.

Dr. Johnson outlined specific items and positions that are most beneficial to the school system this year; she said focusing on the elementary school the past two years has paid off as the elementary school is fully accredited. In addition, over 60 students received academic jackets, and students are already accepted to universities.

Dr. Johnson then listed several things necessary to continue to improve. She said two additional special education teachers, necessary because Prince Edward County has 14% special education population. She said one additional high school special ed teacher and one early childhood special ed teacher are needed;

these are mandated as the numbers increase. Last year, two academic positions were dropped – history and science at the middle school level – due to several cuts being made. She said the split schedule was not beneficial and the positions are necessary. Dr. Johnson said an assistant principal is needed at the middle school; administrators address safety and security, child development, academics and socio-emotional growth of students in a different way than a teacher does. She explained the much higher number of referrals at the middle school (566) in comparison to the high school (300) and elementary school (150). She added the assistant principal handles class disruption, defiance, language, violence and physical aggression issues. She further explained the referral process.

Dr. Johnson then said the assistant principal may administer discipline, counseling, make calls to students' homes; the position may also offer teacher support and model appropriate instruction and discipline, as well as evaluate teachers. She said at the beginning of the year, they hired eight new teachers; two left mid-year, stating they were “not cut out to teach” middle school.

Dr. Johnson then explained the need for a Technology Assistant; she said with the growing STEM initiative and changing technology, the servers are at capacity. She said they have requested funding for a new server expansion and need someone to monitor that server and make repairs.

Dr. Johnson reviewed the request for a 5% salary increase across the board. She said last year, a 2% raise was state mandated to SOQ positions, such as guidance counselors, administrators, teachers and some support staff. She said it is important to treat all employees the same; Prince Edward County traditionally supports “what you do for one, you do for all.” She said “Your professional staff is just as important as your support staff, as important as your operations staff, without any one of those components, the school system does not run.” She said that in and of itself comes to \$749,844. She then said the supplement the state is offering is only approximately \$388,000. She then reviewed funding from the state and sources. She requested for the 2019-2020 Budget for Prince Edward County Public Schools \$26,080,279, which reflects an increase of 596,687 in local operational funding. The Food Service Requested budget is \$1,463,775. Therefore, Prince Edward County Public Schools is requesting a total budget of \$27,544,054.

Dr. Johnson thanked the Board for their continued support.

Supervisor Pride questioned the policy on students having cell phones. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Pride then asked about the transitional counselor position; Dr. Johnson stated she had to removed the position from the budget in order to meet the budget restrictions last year, and the person was reassigned.

Supervisor Pride asked how the defiance referral is handled at the middle school. Dr. Johnson provided an example; she said assistant principals handle most of discipline.

Supervisor Pride asked if the schools' insurance costs increase or decrease; Dr. Johnson said it decreased 2%.

Supervisor Gilliam asked for clarification on the 2% raise last year; Dr. Johnson said it was just for the teachers, and this year the 5% increase is for SOQ.

Supervisor Townsend asked for clarification on the need for an assistant principal or academic instructors. Dr. Johnson said the school needs the four teachers and would like to have the transitional counselor back, but an administrator can do multiple tasks. She then thanked them for their continued support of the schools.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Emert, to authorize advertisement of a Public Hearing for the FY20 Budget for Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.; the motion carried:

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

Mr. Bartlett introduced Mrs. Crystal Baker, Accounts Payable, in the Administrator's office.

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

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

the meeting was recessed at 6:06 p.m.