

April 16, 2024

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones  
J. David Emert  
Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.  
Victor “Bill” Jenkins  
E. Harrison Jones  
Odessa H. Pride  
Jerry R. Townsend  
Cannon Watson

Also present: Douglas Stanley, County Administrator; Crystal Baker, Finance Manager; Dr. Barbara Johnson, Superintendent, Prince Edward County Public Schools.

Chair Cooper-Jones called the reconvened meeting to order.

Mr. Stanley stated the State budget has yet to be determined by the General Assembly; he said it is in the County’s best interest to move forward with the County budget. Once the State budget is complete, we will make amendments to the County and School budgets. He said the State may not complete their budget until late June or after July 1.

In Re: Presentation of School Budget

Dr. Barbara Johnson, Superintendent, presented the 2025 Prince Edward County Public School Preliminary Requested Budget. She reviewed the priorities for the 2024-2025 year, including salary increase of 3%, Hot Spots for homebound students, an ABM (the division’s custodial/janitorial service) increase of 10%, and an additional Governor’s School slot. She reviewed the budget development process and contributing factors.

Dr. Johnson reviewed a budget comparison between 2024 and 2025; she said several funding sources will be ending, such as ESSR and CARES Act funding. She stated they must have at least two reading coaches or interventionists at the Elementary school which will have to be moved to “Operational.” She added the 3% salary increase for all employees will include the 1/2% increase between steps included in that number. She requested an increase in the ABM contract for salaries and supply costs, and for the Hot Spots (service cost). She stated the total

request is for \$849,092. Dr. Johnson then said they will continue to be responsible with the monies and asked that any excess go into the fund for construction costs.

Supervisor Pride asked if the chronic absenteeism will continue to have an effect on the accreditation. She stated will not be a deciding factor next year but will be a component of several factors.

Supervisor Emert questioned which grade levels will be served by the reading coach and reading interventionist positions. Dr. Johnson said they will work with all grades throughout the whole school.

Supervisor Jones asked how confident Dr. Johnson feels about achieving accreditation at the three school levels in 2025. Dr. Johnson stated she feels optimistic regarding the Elementary School, that progress will be made at the Middle School, but is concerned about the High School. She stated there is ongoing discussion of changing the schedule for classes. Discussion followed.

Mr. Stanley said that originally, he had included an additional \$250,000 in local school funding in the budget; he said the difference between the requested funding under the proposed General Assembly budget is just shy of \$600,000. He said that over the last five fiscal years, the school system has underspent [the budget]. He said the extra ESSR and CARES Act funding supported the budget, and the system has been able to return quite a bit at the end of the year. He said the cushion has been there. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Townsend questioned staff retention at the schools. Dr. Johnson said there were 28 potential vacancies; most were moving out of state.

#### In Re: Updated FY 2024-2025 Budget Schedule

Mr. Stanley stated the next scheduled meeting was set for April 23, 2024. The Board has received an invitation to the Moton Legacy Tribute: Honoring Change Throughout History, to be held at the Moton Museum on April 23, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Following some discussion, the Board concurred to adjust the Board budget meeting schedule to meet for the next work session and the Adoption of County and School Budgets and Tax Rates on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

#### In Re: PECPS Committed Funds Appropriation

The County received an invoice in the amount of \$114,700.54 from Moseley Architects for the Renovations to Prince Edward County Elementary School. The PECPS Capital Improvement Committed Fund available balance

is currently \$2,472,475.95. The Board is asked to transfer \$114,700.54 from the PECPS Capital Improvement committed funds to the School CIP line within the General Fund to cover this expense.

**FY24 BUDGET SUPPLEMENTS**

<b>Rev/Exp</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Debit</b>	<b>Credit</b>
3 (Rev)	100	41050	0202	Transfer from SP Fund		\$114,700.54
4 (Exp)	100	94000	0250	School CIP	\$114,700.54	
3 (Rev)	100	41050	0202	From SP Fund Balance		\$114,700.54
4 (Exp)	100	93000	0100	Transfer to General Fund	\$114,700.54	

**TRANSFER**

<b>Rev/Exp</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Debit</b>	<b>Credit</b>
3 (Rev)	100	41050	0202	Transfer from SP Fund		\$114,700.54
0	100	100	0001	Cash with Treasurer	\$114,700.54	
0	202	100	0001	Cash with Treasurer		\$114,700.54
4 (Exp)	202	93000	0100	Transfer to General Fund	\$114,700.54	
0	999	300	0100	General Fund		\$114,700.54
0	999	300	0202	Special Projects Fund	\$114,700.54	
0	202	300	0001	SP Fund Balance		\$114,700.54
0	202	300	0310	SP – PECPS Cap Imp	\$114,700.54	

Supervisor Emert made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Townsend, to approve and appropriate the FY24

Budget Supplement and transfer as outlined; the motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones J. David Emert Llew W. Gilliam, Jr. Victor “Bill” Jenkins E. Harrison Jones Odessa H. Pride Jerry R. Townsend Cannon Watson	Nay: None
------	--	-----------

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

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones J. David Emert Llew W. Gilliam, Jr. Victor “Bill” Jenkins E. Harrison Jones Odessa H. Pride Jerry R. Townsend Cannon Watson	Nay: None
------	--	-----------

the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.