

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA
March 9, 2017

A special meeting of the Prince George School Board was called to order on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at the School Board Office at 6:00 P.M.

Members present:

Mr. Robert E. Cox, Jr., Board Member
Mr. Kevin S. Foster, Chairman
Mr. Roger E. Franklin, Jr., Board Member
Mr. Lewis E. Stevenson, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Renée P. Williams, Superintendent
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Bingham, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Rebecca Kirk, Clerk of the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Foster, Chairman, called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Foster welcomed the guests in the audience. He appreciated the young student appearing at the meeting to hear elected officials at work.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following School Board Members present:

Present: Cox, Foster, Franklin, Stevenson
Absent: Ashcraft

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Franklin made a motion to amend the agenda by adding a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss specific personnel matters pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Cox, Foster, Franklin, Stevenson
Absent: Ashcraft

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Foster.

V. FY2017-18 BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mr. Foster publically welcomed Mr. Cox and Mr. Franklin back to the meetings. Mr. Cox has been out with sickness and Mr. Franklin has had some personal family matters he's had to contend with. The Board has missed the "seasoned" members with their knowledge and expertise recently.

Mr. Foster and staff members attended the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 8, 2017. The School Board was only a small blurb on the agenda. Calculations of the MOU were discussed and additional monies have been made available for roof projects and purchase of an additional bus as discussed at the March 7th meeting. In addition, the Supervisors ask permission to use cash proffers for the South Elementary School replacement window project.

Mr. Cox made a motion that the \$408,239 carry over funds be allocated to Rotary bus lift (\$151,318), wireless access upgrade (\$80,000), increase technology bandwidth (\$44,000), summer enrichment program (\$31,000), furniture and carpet replacement at schools/school board office (\$101,921). Mr. Franklin seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Cox, Foster, Franklin
 Nay: Stevenson
 Absent: Ashcraft

By a 3:1:1 vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Foster stated the school board is "only one spoke in the wheel of county government." The Supervisors know education and the school division is important due to economic development and attracting businesses to the county. There is an approximate 1 million dollar shortfall and the two groups are working together to lessen the gap. On March 20, 2017 the health insurance consultant will be at the Board of Supervisors Board Room to give a presentation on health insurance. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and our Board is invited to hear the presentation.

Mr. Foster asked Board members for input on items not currently in the budget. Mr. Cox questioned the use of GPS on our division vehicles. There are 19 units that do not have the GPS attached to their vehicle (cars, buses, maintenance vehicles). He wants all units to be accommodated with the GPS device. They are designed to keep up with our fleet, however, they are needed for safety measures in case of an emergency in some of our rural areas. He wants about 25 units purchased, placing 19 units on the vehicles not currently outfitted and the remaining 6 units kept for spare use.

Mr. Stevenson questioned the problems with the of cameras at Clements Junior High School. Optech has ordered switches for the cameras. Mr. Rhodes will give an update during his presentation at the next regular school board meeting.

Mr. Franklin shared his concern for the lack of GPS coverage within our vehicles. He also spoke about safety issues and the need for a public safety radio. Mr. Foster indicated that the county has a budget item that does include a public safety radio system.

Ms. Hicks provided updates to the Board on items questioned at the March 7 meeting. The first update was a detailed summary of furniture and equipment requested by school, description and cost (if available). Some items still need to be priced out. Not all requests can be filled but the district will fulfill as many requests with the greatest need. The Board wants a prioritized list generated. Mr. Cox did not feel all the money should be spent on furniture and equipment. There is also a need for providing a stipend for someone to stay with students who are returned back to the elementary schools in the afternoons when parents are not at the bus stop to receive their children.

Prince George County donates 30% to schools from the general fund. Ms. Hicks showed a chart from other localities and their contributions to the schools (Hopewell 27%, Surry 30%, Sussex 32%, Charles City 34%, Hanover 35.30%, Dinwiddie 43.20%, Powhatan 45%, James City 45%, Goochland 49%). The contributions do not include debt. We do not know how much they receive from state/federal or the locality's composite index.

Ms. Hicks shared that the division has just received an additional \$853,000 for Impact Aid payment. The division has now received 1.4 million dollars this school year. Mr. Foster will have a discussion with Mr. Robertson on the use of the Impact Aid funds. This is money not pre-funded by the county and it should be returned to the school board's budget for its use. In addition, Mr. Foster will address the MOU and CSA local match funds with Mr. Robertson.

Ms. Hicks reached out to a colleague about creating a technology fund for future needs. It was shared that any fund balance at the end of the fiscal year typically gets appropriated by the Board of Supervisors back to the school division for technology purposes. The funds are appropriated to a budget line item, Capital Projects Fund, not the operating budget. Technology carryover funds do not have to be spent in the fiscal year. She will contact the Department of Education to find out if a technology fund can be established to tackle the technology initiative. Mr. Foster is excited about the DoDEA Grant to use for technology, but when the grant is gone we need a way to sustain technology growth.

Ms. Hicks again reviewed the five scenarios for health insurance. Each scenario reduces HSA funding and premiums go up for employees. There are 564 employees on the health insurance high deductible plan and 16 employees are on the plan for employees over the age of 65. The Board would like Ms. Hicks to re-work the figures to realign the premium rates to make the plan more equitable for all employees. The

employee rate + child or + family is substantially higher than the rate for employee only. Concentrate on rates and keep the HSA contribution as is.

VI. CLOSED MEETING – pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia [added to the agenda]

- A. Personnel Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.1
1. Personnel Matter P22/16-17
 2. Personnel Matter P23/16-17
 3. Personnel Matter P24/16-17
 4. Personnel Matter P25/16-17
 5. Personnel Matter P26/16-17

Mr. Cox made a motion to go into a closed meeting to discuss specific personnel matters pursuant to the personnel exemptions of the VA Code §2.2-3711.A.1. Mr. Franklin seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Cox, Foster, Franklin, Stevenson
Absent: Ashcraft

VII. CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING AND ACTIONS [added to the agenda]

Mr. Cox made a motion to go back into an open meeting and certified that nothing had been discussed in the closed session other than what was stated in the original motion. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Cox, Foster, Franklin, Stevenson
Absent: Ashcraft

No action was taken on Personnel Matters P22/16-17, P23/16-17, P24/16-17, P25/16-27 or P26/16-17.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stevenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Cox, Foster, Franklin, Stevenson
Absent: Ashcraft

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we set our signatures this 13th day of March, 2017.

Approved:

/s/ Kevin S. Foster – Chairman

Attest:

/s/ Rebecca B. Kirk – Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Prince George County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this school board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince George County School Board hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

VOTE

Ayes: 4

/s/ Rebecca B. Kirk – Clerk

March 9, 2017

Meeting Date