

MINUTES
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 10, 2013

The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met jointly with the Lincoln County Board of Education on January 10, 2013 at the Lincoln County Board of Education Office, 353 N. Generals Blvd, Lincolnton, NC 28092 at 6:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present:

Carl E. Robinson, Jr., Vice Chair
James A. Klein
Cecelia A. Martin

Commissioners Absent:

Alex Patton, Chairman
Carrol D. Mitchem

School Board Members:

Candy Burgin, Chair
Mark Mullen, Vice-Chair
Cathy Davis
Clayton Mullis
Bob Silver

School Board Members Absent:

Ed Hatley
Tony Jenkins

County Staff Present:

George A. Wood, County Manager
Martha W. Lide, Assistant County Manager
Amy S. Atkins, Clerk to the Board
Andrew Bryant, Interim Director Planning and Inspections

Board of Education Staff Present:

Dr. Sherry A. Hoyle, Superintendent
Dr. Elaine Boysworth, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Matthew Stover, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Steve Zickefoose, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs
Darrell Gettys, Executive Director of Facilities
Karen Drum, Clerk to the Board.

Vice Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order and introduced the Commissioners and staff present.

Vice Chairman Robinson gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

The following agenda was submitted for approval:

1. Call to Order of Both Boards by the Two Chairmen

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of the Agenda

5. Update on Academic Achievement by Dr. Sherry Hoyle and Dr. Elaine Boysworth

6. Update on the School Construction and Renovation Projects by Mr. Darrell Gettys

7. Update on 1) the 2012 20-day student attendance numbers; and 2) Adequate Public Facilities Program school capacities using the curriculum methodology (Staff)

8. Budget Update

- Mandated Increases 2012-13 Update
- Cost Savings Initiatives

9. Other Business

- Legislative Breakfast Topics
- Lottery/ADM Funding
- Discretionary Cuts
- School Calendar
- Safety/SRO for Middle Schools

10. Adjourn

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Klein, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as submitted.

Update on Academic Performance:

Dr. Sherry Hoyle and Dr. Elaine Boysworth gave the following update on academic performance:

- Graduation rate is above the state average at 86.4%.
- Dropout rate below state average at 2.85%.
- Two schools recognized as Hone Schools of Excellence.
- 12 Schools recognized as Schools of Distinction.

Dr. Hoyle reported that Lincoln County School Strategic Plan has been updated. She reviewed the following priorities:

Strategic Priority #1 – Lincoln County Schools will produce globally competitive students.

Strategic Priority #2 – Lincoln County Schools will be led by 21st century professionals.

Strategic Priority #3 – Students in Lincoln County Schools will be healthy and responsible.

Strategic Priority #4 – Leadership will guide innovation in Lincoln County Schools.

Strategic Priority #5 – Lincoln County Schools will be governed by 21st century systems.

Update on School Construction and Renovation Projects:

Mr. Gettys reported on the construction from the 44.6 million dollar bond package that had taken place in the past year.

1. Pumpkin Center Primary School multipurpose room is now complete.
2. The Iron Station addition is also complete and the site has been able to tie onto the County sewer system thanks to Timken allowing the System to lay over 6,000 feet of sewer line through their property.
3. The architects are currently working on the expansion to Asbury Alternative School. It should be ready for bidding soon. The expansion to Asbury is being built so that the building could be incorporated into a full size elementary school in the future if needed.
4. In the bond is \$675,000 “seed” money for the LCST Technology/Culinary Arts Building. The total cost of the building is estimated to be \$1,891,500. This project is being re-evaluated to determine if this is what is needed today.
5. Repairs to the tracks at Lincolnton High School and West Lincoln High School are currently underway as well as the West Lincoln High School tennis courts.
6. The site plan for the new elementary school should be completed in 2013. The site plan is needed to determine placement of the county’s water tower. The school will not be built until it is needed.
7. Additional Accomplishments include:
 - a. Bus Garage – New Facility
 - b. ADA / Title IX Improvements
 - c. NLHS Roof Installation
 - d. ELHS Concession & Ticket Booth
 - e. Union & North Brook AC in Gyms
 - f. Rock Springs Shingled Roof
 - g. LHS Boiler Replacement
 - h. LHS Generator Replacement
 - i. LHS Tennis Court Lights Replacement
 - j. WLHS/WLMS Treatment Plant Upgrades
 - k. Various Driveway Repairs
 - l. Replaced 10 of 54 Heat Pumps at Rock Springs
 - m. ELHS Ceiling and Light in Front Corridor
 - n. Asbestos Removal at Love Memorial
 - o. LHS – Visitor Bleachers Safety Issues

Mr. Gettys reported that even after completing all of these additional projects approximately \$1 million is remaining that will help with other needs. There are more needs than funds, but some of the other needs include:

1. Safety – all schools
2. Vehicle Stacking Lanes – Rock Springs
3. Tennis Courts – East High
4. Boilers – Catawba Springs, Iron Station
5. Water Heater – West High
6. Roofs – Catawba Springs, GE Massey

7. Chillers – Iron Station, Catawba Springs, Battleground, Union
8. 44 Heat Pumps – Rock Springs
9. HVAC Controls Systems – GE Massey, Iron Station, Battleground, S. Ray Lowder, Catawba Springs, Love Memorial, Union.

Update on the 2012 20-day Student Attendance Numbers and Adequate Public Facilities

Program: Mr. Andrew Bryant reviewed the Adequate Public Facilities Program spreadsheet. He reported that the ADF started as a way to track growth and is now used as a tool to keep the line of communication open between the two boards. The first section is based on the current enrollment or twenty day numbers supplied by the school system. The column, *% Capacity, Existing*, is the capacity of the school as it is currently being utilized. From program capacity, the % capacity is very low. The highest elementary school capacity is under 88.18%, the highest middle school capacity is under 79.54% and the highest high school capacity is under 84.30%.

The *Pipeline* is based on the last twelve years of approved building permits plus three years of projected growth. Since 2006-07 Lincoln County has had a 7% drop in school enrollment and an 80% drop in building permits.

The Adequate Public Facility Program does not reach 100% - 110% at any school through the year 2016.

Mr. Wood stated that the bonds are issued for up to seven years and can be extended for an additional three years if requested. The bonds are scheduled to expire in May of 2015 and the County plans to request a three year extension at that time.

He stated that at this time the growth numbers are not expected to change much in the next two or three years. When the 13.5 million is borrowed for a new elementary school, it will require 1.1 million a year to pay back. They also estimated the operating cost for a new elementary school will be approximately \$900,000 a year. A tax increase of 2.5 cents on the dollar will be required to pay for that school.

Budget Update

Mandated Expenses

Mr. Steve Zickefoose reported that the development of the 2012-2013 budget for Lincoln County Schools (LCS) continues to present challenges given the current economic climate. The following provides information on the challenges encountered by the district:

CHALLENGES

- Employer benefits costs for hospitalization and retirement are increasing.
- State required a 1.2% salary increase.
- The Exceptional Children's program is facing a significant shortfall due to lower headcounts and the loss of stimulus funds.
- Fuel costs for the transportation of students is underfunded by the State, and the cost of utilities for operation of facilities is expected to increase.
- Edujobs funding for twenty-four teaching positions expired in 2011-12.

Discretionary Funds \$550,000 Decrease

- The 2011-12 discretionary reduction is \$3,412,838. Thirty teaching positions and sixty-seven teacher assistants were returned to meet the reduction.

- This will be decreased by \$550,000 for 2012-13. This is equivalent to 11 teaching positions that will not have to be paid from fund balance.

Edujobs (\$1,200,000)

- \$1,200,000 is equivalent to twenty-four teaching positions.
- The allotment formula has been adjusted to reduce positions in the schools.
- The majority of reductions will be covered by retirements/attrition, and temporary positions, or transfer of positions to other schools.

Children with Disabilities (\$880,000)

- The State allotment will result in a shortage of \$161,000.
- The Federal allotments will result in a shortage of \$166,000.
- Stimulus funds will expire (\$553,000).
- The program is being evaluated on a site-by-site basis to meet the required reductions.

Transportation Fuel (\$188,000)

- The State allots \$2.51 per gallon for diesel fuel. Based on our cost of \$3.41 per gallon, there will be a shortage of \$188,000.
- A request will be made to the County Commissioners for the additional funds.

Utilities (To Be Determined)

- Increases are expected for utilities including electricity, water/sewer and fuel oil.
- A request will be made to the County Commissioners for the additional funds.

Employee Benefits (\$158,080)

- Employer hospitalization rates will increase 5.3%.
- Employer retirement rates will increase 9.1%.
- A request will be made to the County Commissioners for the additional funds.

Employee Salary Increase - 1.2% (\$63,300)

- Salary increases of 1.2% required by state.

Drivers Education (\$9,032)

- The allotment for providing Drivers Education is decreasing 4%.

Unemployment Costs Federal Programs (To Be Determined)

- The State will no longer cover unemployment costs for employees that are paid from Federal funds.
- A request will be made to the County Commissioners for the additional funds.

Cost Savings Initiatives

Mr. Bob Silver, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, thanked Mr. Zickefoose and Mr. Wood for their insight, guidance and vision on the cost savings initiatives. Some examples of cost savings include:

1. Integrating the county voice communication system with the school district's
2. School's transportation department servicing over half of the county's vehicles
3. Securing a portion of the old hospital for dry and cold storage needs

4. Opportunities to produce revenues from the dry and cold storage

Mr. Silver stated some savings should be passed onto the School Board once the savings are quantified.

Other Business: The two Boards discussed topics for the Legislative Breakfast to be held on January 28th at 8:15 AM at the School Administration building. Topics they want to discuss are: the return of lottery/ADM funding, elimination of discretionary cuts, more flexibility with the school calendar, and possibility of campaigning for SRO's at the middle schools.

Adjourn: **UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Klein, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.