

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a joint meeting with the Board of Education on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 in the Media Center at Weeksville Elementary School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cecil Perry, Chairman
Dr. William R. Sterritt, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Dixon
Charles H. Jordan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lloyd E. Griffin, III
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr.
Frankie Meads

OTHERS PRESENT: Rodney Bunch, County Manager
Sheri Small, Finance Officer
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

Also present were School Superintendent Dr. Larry Cartner, members of the Board of Education, and school staff.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Perry. Board of Education Chair Sharon Warden made the Board aware of upcoming events and invited them to participate.

Chairman Perry reassured the school board that the Board of Commissioners will support them as much as they possibly can.

Dr. Cartner introduced Ms. Angela Cobb, Principal of Weeksville Elementary School, and thanked her for hosting the meeting this evening, as well as Chef Carol Saunders.

Dr. Cartner provided a PowerPoint presentation. He updated the Board on: 1) HVAC at Northside Elementary, 2) High School Track Renovations, 3) Class Size Reduction, 4) 1:1 Phase III, 5) School Level Requests, 6) School Resource Officers, and 7) ¼ Cent Sales Tax.

Dr. Cartner thanked the Board for funding 22.7% of their overall budget. He noted that he recently learned that their Federal budget dropped last week.

HVAC at Northside Elementary School - Dr. Cartner stated that there is a myth that ECPPS installed a used system during construction at Northside Elementary. He said at first, an existing boiler from the PW Moore School was going to be used, but after considering the cost of renovating an old boiler, a new boiler was ordered in September of 1990. The HVAC system was constructed with all new parts. Currently, the engineered system does meet the BTU heating requirements for the square footage, but there isn't any extra. He explained that this means that the system must operate at peak performance all the time. The life expectancy of this HVAC system is 19-20 years and it is on year 29. He stated that the HVAC system just barely keeps up with demand on good days and it is 9-10 years past its life expectancy.

Dr. Cartner said the long term fix to the problem would be a total replacement. Because the system barely meets the requirements while operating at optimal performance, they do not recommend renovating the current system. The estimate from DPI engineers to totally replace the system is \$2M. In the short term, they will continue to improve water flow through chemical treatment to eliminate mineral build-up. He said they will also continue to flush water loops, but there are very limited opportunities to do this during the school year. They will also rebuild the 30 year old pumps for improved water flow.

High School Track Renovations - Dr. Cartner stated that the Northeastern High School track is in serious decline. He recommends total renovation of the tract in the summer of 2018 at a cost of approximately \$200,000. The Pasquotank High School track is the only eight lane tract in our

region. This means they are able to host significant track and field events for the region. The tract has separation of the underlying foundation and will need a total renovation soon. He recommends total renovation of the track during the summer of 2019 at a cost of approximately \$200,000.

Class Size Mandates – Dr. Cartner explained that class size requirements for K-3 will remain the same as 2017-18 for the coming school year. In the subsequent three years, they will phase in more of those mandates until by year four they will be at the original intended target. He stated that the Average Daily Membership has been like a rollercoaster. This year the school system repurposed twelve teaching positions. They used retirement vacancies and transferred some electives from secondary schools to elementary schools. He said they have used all of those 12 positions in K3. He stated that they estimate it will take no more than five teachers to meet the class size mandate. The estimated cost is \$420,000 (total cost, includes technology for the teacher, classroom furniture, and stocking the classrooms). He reported that the school system has lost a total of \$3.5M in state and local funding due to charter schools from 2016 to 2018. Loss estimates for 2018-19 are approximately \$1.675M. Other outside influences include an additional \$400K per year in retirement Costs and \$170K per year in hospitalization costs.

Dr. Cartner stated that they are currently talking with four companies to get the best deal they can with reducing their energy footprint.

Continue the 1:1 Rollout – Dr. Cartner said the school system currently provides a total of 5,562 electronic devices for students and 1,491 staff devices, which is quite an accomplishment in two years. He said the projected cost to rollout year three is \$318K. In year three of the rollout, they will add grades five and six, as well as high school Math. This will have 1:1 devices in grades 3-8 and in high school Math, English, and Science.

School Requests – He noted that the following figures will not make it all the way into the final budget, but he wanted the Board to see how they work with their schools and take their legitimate requests and how they have to work through those. He said they start their budget process in December. They ask principals to involve teachers in their budget request.

- \$90,525 to replace 1995 Wheelchair equipped activity bus
- \$86,314 for replacement of 1997 activity bus with 200,000 miles
- \$146K in supplies and materials at school level
- \$1,070,500 in personnel requests from school level
- \$800K in facility repair request from school level

Increase School Resource Officers – Dr. Cartner reported that currently the schools have five officers (two middle schools, two high schools, and HL Trigg). He said this leaves eight schools without immediate service: Weeksville Elementary School, Central Elementary, P.W. Moore, Pasquotank Elementary, Sheep-Harney Elementary, Northside Elementary, J.C. Sawyer, and ECPEC.

Sheriff Cartwright said he has done some research and would like to meet with Dr. Cartner to discuss other ideas that can be used to keep our students safe. He noted that he is having difficulty filling vacant deputy positions at this time. He said regardless of which solution is chosen, it is going to cost money.

The Boards discussed school safety at length.

¼ of a Cent Sales Tax – Dr. Cartner said the school board requests the Board place a referendum on the primary ballot.

After discussion, the Board directed staff to see if there is time to place a referendum on the primary election ballots. If time allows, a resolution will be placed on the March 5, 2018 agenda. The Board requested Chairwoman Warden provide a formal request to the County Manager's Office.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Charles Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD