

AT A CONTINUED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY VIRGINIA, HELD AT ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM'S CENTRAL OFFICE, LEXINGTON VIRGINIA ON THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.

PRESENT CHAIRMAN D. W. HINTY, JR.
MEMBERS: R.R. CAMPBELL, J.M. HIGGINS, D.E. LYONS

MEMBERS A.J. "JAY" LEWIS II
ABSENT:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AND CLERK TO BOARD: SPENCER H. SUTER

FISCAL SERVICES
DIRECTOR: STEVEN J. BOLSTER

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: CHAIRMAN DAVID MCDANIEL, COREY BERKSTRESSER,
HEATHER HOSTETTER, WENDY LOVELL, NEIL WHITMORE

SCHOOL STAFF: PHILLIP THOMPSON, HAYWOOD HAND; MATT CROSSMAN,
JASON KIRBY

Call to Order:

Chairman Hinty and Chairman McDaniel opened the meeting at 5:00 PM and welcomed all present.

Chairman McDaniel provided an overview of the School Division's draft capital improvement plan (CIP). He noted that the only changes from the last time that the joint Boards had considered involved paying for some near-term improvements with current-year savings. He explained that this move effectively zeroed-out the previously-presented FY 2019 CIP expenditure request. He noted that there was not a funding plan yet in place for future capital needs related to proposed CIP projects in FY 2021 and 2022.

Chairman Hinty suggested setting aside dedicated portions of real estate tax increases to fund future school projects.

Supervisor Higgins noted that we won't be able to rely on year-end savings for some of the other near-term projects.

Chairman McDaniel noted that the School Division's feasibility study will help drive the direction of future CIP adjustments.

After some general discussion about some of the projects in the CIP, Supervisor Lyons suggested waiting until a funding plan has been developed, before adjusting or adopting the CIP. Chairman McDaniel agreed and suggested tabling the CIP for future consideration.

Chairman McDaniel then introduced discussion on a proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Boards, to memorialize the School's operational funding mechanism for FY 2019. He noted that the Boards' Executive Committee had reviewed and approved bringing it forward. He asked if there was any discussion.

Supervisor Campbell said that he was insulted by the document. Chairman McDaniel noted that there was no intention to insult. Supervisor Campbell disagreed with the mention of a "base" allocation for the School Division in FY 2020, noting that the County builds its budget starting from zero.

Supervisor Lyons asked what purpose a base serves. Chairman McDaniel replied that it is a starting point for future discussions regarding the FY 2020 budget. Supervisor Lyons disagreed that there was a need to refer to a base.

Mr. Berkstresser noted that the intent of the document was to clarify intentions for both the current and future Boards. Chairman Hinty noted that in prior years, the focus was always on the "base".

Supervisor Lyons noted that the Board of Supervisors will commit to support the School Division in any way possible. He said that we need to stop fighting and start working together. He stated that he did not think that the MOU is necessary to do that.

Supervisor Higgins agreed, noting that the Board of Supervisors had committed to funding the School Division budget if the State does not come through with expected FY 2019 funding. Supervisor Campbell added that the Board had agreed to the primary School request - funding staff and faculty raises.

Supervisor Lyons noted that the County simply can't commit to a future base because the economy can always hit a downturn.

Chairman Higgins asked for any comments from staff. Mr. Suter noted that Supervisor Lyons had made it clear in his comments during the Board of Supervisors advertisement meeting, that the Board was committed to

picking up any slack delivered by a lower than expected State budget. Dr. Thompson noted that the MOU was not intended to tie the Board of Supervisors to anything - that it was just for clarification. He said that he was fine moving forward without it.

Supervisor Lyons stated that the School Division should simply ask for what it needs and the Board of Supervisors would do its best to fund it. Chairman Hinty and Chairman McDaniel wrapped up the discussion by agreeing that both Boards were fine moving ahead without a written MOU. They agreed that we need to move ahead based on trust, with a different philosophy.

Chairman McDaniel then moved the discussion to use of carryover funds for current projects not yet completed. He explained that the Munis software update and feasibility study were not yet completed and requested approval of carryover.

Mr. Suter noted that the typical process is for the Superintendent to remit a letter of request to the County Administrator and that the rollover could be handled administratively.

Mr. Suter then gave a brief update on progress of athletic fields at the Virginia Horse Center (VHC). He noted that the field area had been leased by the Board of Supervisors in January, and that recently, collateral issues had been resolved. He explained that an escrow and purchase agreement had also been approved, which would protect any investment should the VHC ever default on loans for which the property had been pledged as collateral. He noted that the next step would involve the raising of private funds to help build fields. He explained that it appeared that the County would need to be the entity to bid and manage the construction project, noting that the field usage would need to be managed by the Schools, ensuring that the high school had first priority. He explained that a special exception permit request had gone through the Planning Commission and would be brought before the Board of Supervisors on May 29, adding that conditions requested were that there be no lighting and that the fields would be gated when not in use.

Dr. Thompson noted that the entire project would provide an excellent opportunity for students to shadow staff and volunteers. There was additional discussion involving the potential for one of the fields to be turf, and the potential for use in regional tournaments.

Supervisor Higgins asked how the tennis court resurfacing at the Lexington Country Club had gone. Dr. Thompson replied that it went great and that students are benefiting from the investment.

Supervisor Lyons asked what the Average Daily Membership was on March 31. Dr. Thompson replied that he did not have the numbers in front of him, but that it was up. Supervisor Lyons asked if this changed any perspective for FY 2019. Dr. Thompson replied that it did not, that this did not appear to be a trend.

Supervisor Lyons then asked about the projected Lexington City School cost share for the high school. Dr. Thompson noted that their cost share would be going up based on teacher raises.

Chairman Hinty then asked to consider the meeting schedule moving ahead. After discussion it was agreed that the Executive Committee would meet in June and August, with the next joint Board meeting in September.

Chairman McDaniel observed that trust between the Boards has improved, and that an excellent relationship between the County Administrator and Superintendent is having a very positive impact.

Chairman Hinty thanked staff and the Executive Committee for their service.

Ms. Lovell commented that we are all on the same team.

On a motion by Supervisor Campbell, with a second by Supervisor Higgins, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 by unanimous vote.