

AT A JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY VIRGINIA, HELD AT THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, 150 SOUTH MAIN STREET, LEXINGTON VIRGINIA ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016 AT 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN J.M. HIGGINS
MEMBERS: R.S. FORD, D.W. HINTY, JR, A.W. LEWIS, JR.
ABSENT: R.R. CAMPBELL
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND CLERK TO BOARD: SPENCER H. SUTER
FISCAL SERVICES DIRECTOR: STEVEN J. BOLSTER
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: CHAIRMAN DAVID MCDANIEL, KEVIN BROOKS, WENDY LOVELL, LAURIE STRONG, ALBERT JAY LEWIS
SCHOOL STAFF: JACK DONALD, PHILLIP THOMPSON, JOHN MORRIS, MATT CROSSMAN; STEVEN WILDER

Call to Order:

Chairman Higgins and Chairman McDaniel welcomed all present.

Discussion:

Chairman McDaniel reviewed the agenda and introduced Cathy Cox and Scott Wise of Trane, Inc., and Charlie Barksdale with the Commonwealth. He noted that Trane had been selected as the Schools' Performance Contracting partner.

Mr. Wise and Ms. Cox gave an overview of Trane's proposed approach to the performance contracting process, noting their partnership with Wiley Wilson, Inc. as the technical advisor.

Dennis Knight with Wiley Wilson briefly presented information pertinent to a needs assessment and master campus planning for the RCHS campus. Supervisor Hinty asked if the courtyard in the middle of the school would be considered and Mr. Knight affirmed.

Chairman McDaniel noted that partnering with the County on being prepared for economic development is a primary focus.

Ms. Cox noted that existing HVAC equipment at the high school and vo-tech center is at or past the end of its service life.

In response to a question from Supervisor Lewis, Ms. Cox noted that a detailed technical study should be complete by May 1, 2017.

Chairman Higgins asked about projections of student populations. Chairman McDaniel noted that a slight decline and then stabilization is projected. He then noted that the vo-tech center has been unchanged for 40 years, and that there is also a need for athletics facilities.

Mr. Suter noted that there may be an opportunity for the County to look at the Administration building and Courthouse as part of the performance contracting this process.

Mr. Brooks and Ms. Lovell then discussed the need to look broadly at all school facilities. Supervisor Ford noted that in 1976, the region had four high schools that were served by the vo-tech center, and now it serves two; he pointed out that we need to be looking toward increased partnership for technical training with Dabney S. Lancaster Community College as well, molding programs to fit local needs, to include such components as welding, IT and tourism-related careers. Mr. Wilder then reviewed some of the school's current and planned offerings, to include welding, cyber security, entrepreneurship, agriculture and culinary arts.

Returning to the performance contracting discussion, Chairman Higgins noted that it does not hurt to dream big, and then whittle back down to what we can afford. Mr. Suter noted that we need to be cognizant of the overall County debt cycle and begin planning projects for periods in the future when current debt loads begin to fall off.

Mr. Brooks noted that the School Board understands that there is not an unlimited supply of money - but that we need to make sure that form follows function.

Ms. Cox then stated that Trane deals in facts, pointing out areas where affordable equipment upgrades can lead to immediate savings. She noted that we need to focus on the long-term mission and use energy savings to help pay for future projects.

Chairman McDaniel stated that the two Boards have come a long way, noting that the two Boards would not have been at the same table five years ago. He suggested that we "shoot for the moon" and then focus on what we can successfully achieve. Chairman Higgins agreed.

Chairman McDaniel then reviewed the School Board's legislative priorities. The Board of Supervisors concurred and agreed to remit a letter to our House and Senate representatives supporting the Schools' request.

Supervisor Lewis moved to adjourn at 5:25. Supervisor Hinty provided the second and the motion passed by unanimous vote.