COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JOINT MEETING with COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD of EDUCATION
Monday, March 09, 2020
6:00 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the T-Building, Room 120, at Southeastern Community College, 4564 Chadbourn Highway, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of conducting a Joint Meeting with the Columbus County Schools Board of Education.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
P. Edwin Russ, Chairman
Jerome McMillian, Vice Chairman
James E. Prevattte
Giles E. Byrd
Trent Burroughs,
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:
Mike Stephens, County Manager
June B. Hall, Clerk to Board
Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer

APPOINTEE ABSENT:
Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney

STAFF PRESENT:
Dylan Bowen, Deputy Finance Officer

COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD of EDUCATION:

Worley T. Edwards, Chairman
Randy Coleman, Vice Chairman
Ronnie Strickland
Monte L. Herring
Junior Dew

STAFF PRESENT:
Deanne Meadows, Superintendent
Bill Phipps, School Attorney
Lisa Nowlin, Finance Officer
Jonathan Williams, Assist. Super.
Rowena Gore

The News Reporter: Allen Turner

Agenda Items #1 and #2: MEETING CALLED to ORDER and INVOCATION:

At 6:00 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the March 09, 2020 Joint Meeting with the Columbus County Schools Board of Education to order. The invocation was delivered by Vice Chairman Jerome McMillian.

EVENING MEAL:

At 6:03 P.M., a delicious evening meal was served.

Agenda Item #3: INTRODUCTION of ATTENDEES (NAME and TITLE):

Chairman Russ requested that each attendee state their name and title in sequential order inclusive of the Columbus County Schools Board Members and Staff Members, and the Columbus County Board of Commissioners and Staff Members.

Agenda Items #4 and #5: PURPOSE of JOINT MEETING and RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE:

Chairman P. Edwin Russ stated the meeting would be turned over to Superintendent Deanne Meadows to present information relative to the schools, and questions would be recognized.

Agenda Item #6: DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Meadows presented the following information relative to Columbus County Schools.
What does effective education include?
- Personnel - high quality and meets varying needs of students
- Facilities - safe, secure and conducive learning environments
- Curriculum Resources - provides structure and assurance with academics
- Technology - raises engagement and connection to business and industry
- Opportunities - varied and create balance for students

What does an effective education provide?
- Students an opportunity to reach their potential
- Student a choice in their post-secondary plans: 2-year or 4-year college, workforce, or military
- Draw for business and industry - educated and skilled workforce
- Improved tax base
- Confidence in County Leadership

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SCHOOL YEAR</th>
<th>AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
<th>COST</th>
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<td>TOTAL (7 YRS.)</td>
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FINANCIAL IMPACT of CONSOLIDATION and CLOSINGS:
- Total One Time Costs: $319,400 ($260,400 w/o Mount Olive)
- Total Recurring Costs: $124,542.89
- Total One Time Savings: $684,202.00
- Total Recurring Savings: $2,420,066.32 ($2,320,741.32 w/o MO)

NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS:
Critical time for Columbus County Schools
  - Declining enrollment
  - Opening of new charter school
  - Closing of nine (9) schools/sites
  - Completed construction of two (2) schools and one (1) started
  - Funding at the state level

IMPACTS to FUNDING:
- Consolidation and closing: +$2,400,000
- Declining Enrollment average 100 students per year: -$800,000+
- New charter school opening (85-180 students): -$1,000,000+
- New Loan Payment on New Schools: -$1,100,000
- 2020-2021 funding vs costs: -$500,000

CURRENT EXPENSE NEEDS:
- Academics - Curriculum Resources
  - Math Resources K-8 - $600,000
  - Literacy Resources 6-8 - $200,000
  - Science 5-8 - $85,000
-Core Subjects 9-12 - $400,000

-Personnel
  - Teachers/Lead Teachers - $450,000
  - Counselors - $300,000
  - Custodians/Grounds crew - $200,000

CAPITAL NEEDS:

- Cameras on buses - $228,000
- Multipurpose building at ECHS for 7th and 8th grade - $185,000
- Auditorium repairs at ECHS and SCHS - $200,000
- Technology (5-year replacement cycle)
  - Interactive Panels and Laptops for Teachers - $200,000
  - Student Devices and Desktops - $1,000,000
- Demolition of closed schools - $1,500,000
- Loan of new schools - $1,100,000

NECESSARY REQUESTS

- Current Expense Budget
  - 10% increase over 2019-2020 = $6,037,935

- Capital Project Budget
  - $1,500,000 over 2019-2020 = $2,050,000

- Retain Sales Tax on Article 40 and 42
  - Loan payment on new schools - $1,100,000

- One-time funding for school demolition
  - $1,500,000 for ADMS, GES, and FB

Agenda Item #7: **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:11 P.M., Chairman Russ stated the Joint Meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED:**

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JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board    P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman