

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Joint Meeting with**  
**COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD of EDUCATION, and**  
**WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS BOARD of EDUCATION**

Tuesday, February 27, 2012  
5:30 P.M.

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

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**  
Charles T. McDowell, **Vice Chairman**  
James E. Prevatte  
P. Edwin Russ  
Ricky Bullard

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Lynwood Norris  
Giles E. Byrd

**COLUMBUS COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:**

William S. Clark, **County Manager**  
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

**COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD of**  
**EDUCATION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Barbara Yates, **Vice Chairman**  
Norris Ebron  
Monte L. Herring  
Worley T. Edwards (Arrived 6:41 P.M.)

**COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD of**  
**EDUCATION MEMBER ABSENT:**

Junior Dew

**COUNTY SCHOOLS STAFF PRESENT:**

Alan Faulk, **Superintendent**  
Dr. Jonathan Williams

**CITY SCHOOLS BOARD of**  
**EDUCATION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Carlton Prince  
David Flowers  
Larry Hewett  
James DiMuzio

**CITY SCHOOLS BOARD of**  
**EDUCATION MEMBER ABSENT:**

Greg Martin

**CITY SCHOOL STAFF PRESENT:**

Dr. Charles Thomas Hager, **Superintendent**

**Agenda Item #1: MEETING CALLED to ORDER:**

At 5:30 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the meeting to order, and stated the following:

1. Welcome to our joint meeting;
  2. Communication is very important in the process of trying to get a mission accomplished;
  3. We all have a mission here in Columbus County and our golden objective is to make sure our children have the education they need to tackle the obstacles they will face in life;
  4. We are limited when it comes to funds, but we can do the best we can with the funds we do have;
  5. We know that your tasks are not easy, but you have shown us that you can operate on a very slim budget and accomplish that mission;
  6. We are here tonight to communicate with each other to find out what the most pressing needs are and what we can do about them;
  7. We can't meet all the needs immediately, but we can meet these needs a portion at the time;
- and**

8. We are here to discuss issues, and what we can do about them.

**Agenda Item #3: INTRODUCTION of ATTENDEES:**

**A. Columbus County Schools Board of Education:**

Barbara Yates, **Vice Chairman**  
Norris Ebron  
Monte L. Herring  
Worley T. Edwards

**B. Columbus County Schools Staff:**

Alan Faulk, **Superintendent**  
De. Jonathan Williams

**C. Whiteville City Schools Board of Education:**

Carlton Prince  
David Flowers  
Larry Hewett  
James DiMuzio

**D. Whiteville City Schools Staff Member:**

Dr. Charles Thomas Hager

**E. Columbus County Board of Commissioners:**

Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**  
Charles T. McDowell, **Vice Chairman**  
James E. Prevatte  
P. Edwin Russ  
Ricky Bullard

**F. Columbus County Staff Members:**

William S. Clark, County Manager  
June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board

**Agenda Item #4: PURPOSE of JOINT MEETING:**

Chairman McKenzie stated the following:

1. We are going to have our evening meal at this time;
2. We know a little bit more about each other;
3. It is not hard to communicate with someone you have met and know some information about, and feel comfortable with;
4. We all understand what you represent, and our heart is in the right place;
5. We only say no to your requests when we have no other choice; **and**
6. We rely on the County Manager to stretch our dollars just as much as he can, and he does a great job.

**Agenda Item #2: INVOCATION:**

The invocation was graciously delivered by Vice Chairman Charles T. McDowell.

**Agenda Item #5: RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE:**

Chairman McKenzie stated what we want to do is listen to Columbus County Schools, and however the Superintendent would like to do it. After that, we will listen to the Whiteville City Schools.

**Agenda Item #6: DISCUSSION:**

**Columbus County Schools:**

1. **Monte L. Herring:** stated the following:
  - A. On behalf of the Columbus County Schools Board of Education, we would like to

- thank you for this opportunity;
- B. We are going to try to be just as transparent as possible;
  - C. We understand that you have many hats you have to wear;
  - D. I have been on the board for six (6) years, and this is only the second meeting like this that we have had; **and**
  - E. We have a list of priorities and I will turn it over to our new superintendent who is doing a great job.
2. **Alan Faulk, Superintendent:** stated the following:
- A. On behalf of our entire Board of Education, I would like to thank the County Commissioners for everything that you have done for Columbus County Schools;
  - B. We have accomplished some big things this year that we talked about last year, as follows:
    - the chillers at the high schools (West Columbus and East Columbus High Schools);
    - replaced some roofs at West Columbus, East Columbus, South Columbus High Schools and Hallsboro Middle School; **and**
    - Excited about the project at Old Dock Elementary School;
  - C. I have a list that I will share with you, as follows:

**Columbus County School  
Needs Assessment Capital Improvements  
February 27, 2012**

1. **Aging Facilities (>50% over 60 years old):**

EES	1924	88 yrs.
TCES	1926	86 yrs.
CGES	1927	85 yrs.
ODES	1936	76 yrs.
HAES	1950	62 yrs.
ADES	1951	61 yrs..
HMS	1951	61 yrs.
TCMS	1952	60 yrs.
ADMS	1952	60 yrs
  
2. **Roofs (>\$400,000.00):**

NMS	\$55,000.00
HMS	\$50,000.00
CGES	\$100,000.00
ADMS	\$63,000.00
HAES	\$150,000.00
CCCA	\$29,000
  
3. **Pod Building Replacing Mobile Units at CGES (\$1,650,000.00):**
  
4. **Window Replacements (>\$1,200,000.00):**

ADES	\$450,000.00
CGES	\$22,000.00
EES	\$340,000.00
HAES	\$400,000.00
WTS	\$120,000.00
  
5. **HAVC (>\$500,000.00):**

CES	\$70,000.00
ODES	\$12,000.00
ECHS	\$150,000.00
SCHS	\$150,000.00
TCES	\$75,000.00
HMS	\$45,000.00
HAES	\$7,500.00
(Other Sites \$\$\$)	
  
6. **Walkway Covers (>\$150,000.00):**

HMS	\$50,000.00
TCES	\$35,000.00

CES	\$47,000.00
WCHS	\$30,000.00

- 7.     **High School Gym Bleacher Repairs (>\$150,000.00):**
  
- 8.     **Middle School Gym Floor Replacement (>\$300,000.00):**

ADMS	\$60,000.00
CGMS	\$60,000.00
NMS	\$60,000.00
CMS	\$60,000.00
TCMS	\$60,000.00
  
- 9.     **Security System Updates - Additional Camera (>\$75,00.00)**
  
- 10.    **High School Athletic Association Lighting Standards (>\$1,500,000.00)**
  
- 11.    **Miscellaneous - painting, equipment, etc (>\$100,000.00)**

- 3.     **Norris Ebron:** stated the following:
  - A.     The chairman and the superintendent have spoken for me; **and**
  - B.     The lottery funds that we received last year have been a saving grace.

**Board of Commissioners:**

- 1.     **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
  - A.     From what has been stated, I know now where the greatest need is, and that is in capital outlay; **and**
  - B.     When we can provide additional funds, the money needs to put where the greatest need is.
  
- 2.     **Vice Chairman McDowell:** The mobile homes that are on site at some of these schools, what is the wind rating on these?

A brief discussion was conducted with the general consensus being the mobile homes have a Wind Zone II rating, and being safe up to ninety (90) miles per hour winds.

- 3.     **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
  - A.     I have had a question come up regarding if Columbus County gives Southeastern Community College any funding for the Early College?  
Mr. Faulk replied stating no we do not give Southeastern Community College any funds to operate, but we do provide teachers.
  - B.     How many students are in the early college?  
Mr. Faulk replied stating approximately two hundred (200).  
William S. Clark, County Manager, asked if there was any flexibility with our funding between the Capital Outlay and Operating Expenses?  
Mr. Faulk replied stating that we have that flexibility ourselves.

**Whiteville City Schools:**

- 1.     **Charles Thomas Hager, Superintendent:** stated the following:
  - A.     One of the problems that we have in our facilities is that over a number of years, we have put band aides on the problems, and we have done the best we can with what we have;
  - B.     We are at a point now that these needs need to be addressed, based on the following list:

**Whiteville City Schools  
Short Term Facility Needs - SY 11-12  
February 27, 2012**

Description	School	Estimated Cost	Total Costs	Remarks
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Roof Replacement	WPS	\$90,000	\$90,000	Building G
Parking Lot	WPS	\$150,000	\$150,000	Located on hill behind the building
Student Restroom Renovation	EES	\$35,000	\$35,000	Throughout Buildings
Window Replacement	EES	\$150,000	\$150,000	On 4th grade hallway
Roof Replacement	CMS	\$130,000	\$130,000	8 <sup>th</sup> grade building
Roof Replacement	CMS	\$130,000	\$130,000	Building C
Roof Replacement	NWA/CM S	\$90,000	\$90,000	NWA portion of the wing
Auditorium Window Replacement	WHS	\$80,000	\$80,000	Bowers
Restroom & Locker Rooms	WHS	\$200,000	\$200,000	Legion Stadium behind bleachers
Roof Replacement	CS	\$50,000	\$50,000	Central Services

**TOTAL COST:****\$1,105,000.00**

- C. There is a point in time when you have to realize that repairs can't be done anymore, you have to fix the problem;
- D. Any assistance that we can receive will certainly help;
- E. Bonds from the State means exactly that, we can give you this money now, but you got to pay it back;
- F. This past year, the State allowed lottery funds, as long as the County Commissioners approved it, to be used to pay for personnel; **and**
- G. As the federal dollars go away, we will have these issues in the near future, and to what extent, we are not sure.
2. **James DiMuzio:** stated the following:
- A. There is a point in time when you can't keep dumping good money after bad money;
- B. The city and the county are at a point where we are almost wasting money;
- C. We are spending money on temporary fixes on something that really needs to be rebuilt;
- D. I don't envy your situation, but there is going to be a time when you will have to start replacing these facilities; **and**
- E. We have done a very good job on continuing to educate our children with less and less, but there is a point when you have to bite the bullet, and start with small bites.
3. **Carlton Prince:** stated the following:
- A. We have facilities that were built in 1918;
- B. We just have depended on the State primarily to pay the teachers, give some money for instructional;
- C. The State has pretty much assumed current expenses, but the State has given meager amounts for capital outlay and maintenance, and most of it has come from bond referendums;
- D. We did get a lottery fund passed, and the lottery funds can be used either way;
- E. You have to maintain your contribution to current expense or you get penalized, so it is a delicate balance; **and**
- F. One of the things that our citizens need to know is, if they want facilities and want them well maintained, then that is pretty much understood to be a local area expenditure and that is where all of us encountered our problems.
4. **Larry Hewitt:** stated the following:
- A. On the news today, they were talking about a shooter being in a school in Ohio;
- B. The condition that some of our schools are in, especially Whiteville High School having nine (9) or ten (10) buildings on the campus;
- C. It would almost be impossible to have an effective lock down on this campus with this many buildings;

- D. We have some old buildings with safety concerns, in today's world;
- E. That is some things that we need to look at; **and**
- F. We need to make sure our children are safe and that we do the best we can with our dollars.

Discussion was conducted relative to the following:

1. Lock down procedures being in the County and City Schools;
2. Doing lock down drill procedures in the schools;
3. Inviting the local police and sheriff personnel to participate in these drills;
4. The availability of the floor plans for the schools;
5. Eleven (11) buildings being on the campus of Whiteville High School campus; **and**
6. The difficulty that may be experienced at Whiteville High School during a lock down due to the openness of the campus and the multiple buildings.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:

1. The lock down procedures at Whiteville High School are very rigid;
2. One major problem that exists is the wind pressure that the main building at Whiteville High School might be able to sustain;
3. When the main building was built, before it ever went through the fire, it was noticed that it was some of the cheapest construction; **and**
4. There have been many incidences that have occurred at this school building that could have ended in serious bodily harm.

**Carlton Prince:** stated the following:

1. If I counted correctly, there are eleven (11) buildings on the Whiteville High School campus;
2. On this campus, there are drainage and parking facility problems; **and**
3. The main high school building that was built in 1960 has lots of glass, and the foundation of that building is poor.

**Chairman McKenzie:** How is the bullying being addressed in the school systems?

**James DiMuzio:** replied stating the following:

1. All the teachers have been in serviced in recognizing bullying;
2. They are pretty good on addressing this when needed;
3. It is a lot better than it has been a few years ago; **and**
4. You will always have a certain amount of bullying.

**Chairman McKenzie:** stated the following:

1. I would like to thank each of each for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend this meeting;
2. You have told us what problems you have, you have been able to share;
3. This type of meeting is a lot more beneficial compared to making an appearance before the Board at a regular meeting; **and**
4. This is a great aid in helping us make a good decision on keeping our kids safe.

**David Flowers:** The one thing that I really appreciate here tonight, whether you are from Columbus County or Whiteville City, we realize that what we are all concerned about the most is that our children are being educated the best that they possibly can be.

Discussion was conducted relative to the following:

1. Whiteville City Schools being in the process of replacing some roofs and patching some roofs;
2. The process of determining the right type of roof to use and locating someone with expertise to do the work;
3. Having a good roof maintenance program in place, replacing the roofs on a regular basis, and having enough funds to do so;
4. The amount of lottery funds being received and the use of the lottery funds;
5. The use of lottery funds for building maintenance or maintaining personnel;
6. Lottery funds being utilized to replace windows in poor condition;
7. The length of time it takes to get projects approved for the use of lottery funds;
8. The ability to increase the allocations to our school systems; **and**
9. The possibility of setting up rainy day funds for the school systems to address emergencies

when they occur.

**Worley T. Edwards:** stated the following:

1. I have been in the education field for many years, and I love children;
2. We have great teachers in both systems;
3. The safety of our children is very important, and I feel sure that we are all concerned about this;
4. I appreciate everything that the Board of Commissioners does; **and**
5. This meeting of the minds is very beneficial to each one of us.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:21 P.M., Chairman McKenzie declared the Joint Meeting adjourned.

**APPROVED:**

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**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

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**AMON E. MCKENZIE, Chairman**