

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JOINT MEETING with WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD of EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2015  
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, T-Building, Room 120, at 4564 Chadbourn Highway, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of conducting a joint meeting with the Whiteville City Schools Board of Education.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Trent Burroughs, **Chairman** (Arrived: 5:35 P.M.)  
Ricky Bullard, **Vice Chairman**  
Amon E. McKenzie (Arrived: 5:53 P.M.)  
James E. Prevatte  
P. Edwin Russ  
Charles T. McDowell

**COMMISSIONER ABSENT:**

Giles E. Byrd

**PRESS:**

Wallyce Todd, **News Reporter**

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

William S. Clark, **County Manager**  
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**  
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

**BOARD of EDUCATION:**

Kandle M. Rogers, **Chairperson**  
Coleman Barbour, **Vice Chairman**  
Carlton Prince  
David Flowers  
Greg Merritt  
Kenny Garland, **Superintendent**  
Anthony Martin, **Chief Technology Officer**  
Kathy Buie, **Finance Officer**

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

At 5:35 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs, Chairman, called the March 10, 2015 Joint Meeting with the Whiteville City Schools Board of Education Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #2: INVOCATION:**

Commissioner James E. Prevatte delivered the invocation

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

Chairman Burroughs stated we are meeting here tonight to give and to take, and when we leave, we will leave on the same page and understand everybody. I would like for everyone to state their name and title.

**A. Columbus County Board Members and Staff Members; and**

Each attendee stated their name and title.

**B. Columbus County Schools Board of Education and Staff Members.**

Each attendee stated their name and title.

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

Chairman Burroughs stated the main purpose of us meeting is the following:

1. To take a look and see what your needs are and to take a look at your capital outlay needs;

**and**

2. To take a look and see where we want to go forward with the Whiteville City Schools Program.

### **DINNER WAS SERVED**

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

Chairman Burroughs stated that we would hear comments and input from the members present. The following spoke.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:

1. We all know that we don't allocate everything that is needed because we don't have the funds;
2. We need a strategic plan; **and**
3. We are interested in knowing what your long-range plan is and what your plans are for next year.

**Commissioner Russ:** stated the following:

1. Chairman Burroughs, Commissioner McDowell and myself went to a strategic workshop;
2. We had Commissioners, County Managers and Clerks there from the east of I-95 and Outer Banks; **and**
3. We had eleven (11) topics to discuss and the top three (3) topics that we all had on our minds were education, schools, and how do you build these schools.

**Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:

1. We did go to the strategic workshop in Wallace;
2. We had County Commissioners, County and City Managers and Planning Directors there;
3. The theme was that we know what we need, but we can't figure out how do we get it;
4. Some counties represented there were re-districting their school districts in lieu of building more schools;
5. At our Education Steering Committee Meeting, we are advocating to restore lottery money;
6. Wake County is building seventeen (17) schools, and we are having a divide there, and it is an urban to rural division;
7. We all realize that we have a problem and we need to decide what we are going to do about it; **and**
8. We are going on April 02, 2015, to Chapel Hill and they are going to give us choices about school funding, and we would like some of your members to attend.

**Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:

1. It is a good idea to get together like this;
2. We all know that there is no large amounts of funds;
3. When one of us has a problem, it will become a problem for all;
4. With new schools, kids tend to do better; **and**
5. It is our responsibility to educate our children the best we can and prepare them for the future years.

**Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:

1. We had a good meeting with Columbus County Schools; **and**
2. We need to have good relationships with the school boards and work together.

### **WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS**

**Kenny Garland, Superintendent:** stated the following:

1. This information that is being handed out is basically a summary of what is being requested for year 1, but our power point presentation is our 5-year plan, as well as what our needs are in the present year 2015-2016;
2. I want to thank you for allowing us to come to this meeting and present information;
3. It is very important that we have a good working relationship; **and**
4. All of our goals is for the betterment of our students.

### Whiteville City Schools Strategic Plan

- Goal 1:** Every student in the NC Public School System graduates from high school prepared for work, further education and citizenship.
- Goal 2:** Every student has a personalized education.
- Goal 3:** Every student, every day has excellent educators.
- Goal 5:** every student is healthy, safe and responsible.

Kenny Garland presented the following Spring 2015 Formal Presentation.

**-Mission Statement** - “Everyone Committed to the Success of ALL Students”.

**-Vision Statement** - “Empowering All Students to Reach Their Maximum Potential for Lifelong Learning and Productive Citizenship”.

**-College and Career Readiness:** Fall 2014, 40 classes successfully completed Spring 2015, 88 classes in progress. Potential Cost Avoidance to families: \$22,547.00, based upon SCC tuition and rate fees.

**-Career & Technical Education:** offered programs: Agricultural, Business, Early Childhood Development, Culinary Arts, Health Occupations, Automotive Technologies, Construction Technologies. 48 Students qualified for articulated college credit during the Fall 2014 semester.

**-Strategic Planning:**

-Developed a 12 point strategic plan for continuous improvement; **and**

-K-12 Plan focuses on creating a learning environment which fosters College AND Career Readiness.

#### Facilities Overview:

1. **Whiteville Primary School:**  
-Buildings: 1961, 1964, 1967, 1974, 1975, 1988, 1998  
-Issues: very open campus, moisture issues, roofing
2. **Edgewood Elementary School:**  
-Buildings: 1956, 1963, 1978, 1990, 1999  
-Issues: storage, roofing
3. **Central Middle School:**  
-Buildings: 1949, 1956, 1957, 1963, 1990, 1998  
-Issues: minor renovations
4. **Whiteville High School:**  
-Buildings: 1927, 1934,, 1961, 1972, 1976, 1979, 1990, 2000  
-Issues: very open campus, energy use, instructional space, maintenance burdens

#### 5-Year Facilities Plan

##### **Year 1: Safety and Security**

School Year 2015-2016:

- School Security Cameras
- Interior Bus Cameras
- Access Control @ WPS (Doors, Keying System)
- Security Lighting Upgrades
- Parking (Adequacy, Surface and Accessibility)
- Public Address System Upgrades (WHS)
- Windows for Central Middle School 8th Grade Building (Security and Energy Issues)
- Athletic facilities upgrades
- Utilize Whiteville City Schools Capital Outlay fund balance/continue current debt service payment amounts to complete projects
- Plan to lease/sell old North Whiteville Academy property to apply toward these projects.

##### **Year 2: Transportation, Security and Planning**

School Year 2016-2017:

- Activity Bus
- Access Control @ CMS and EES
- Secure Storage @ EES
- Instructional Space Planning @ WHS

**Year 3: Instructional Space**

- School Year 2017-2018
- Whiteville High School
- Build?
- Remodel?
- Renovate?
- Expand?

**Year 4: Transportation and Athletics**

- School Year 2018-2019
- Activity Bus(es)
- Fleet Management
- Bus Cameras Phase 2
- Soccer Field and Track Renovations

**Year 5: Equipment, Furniture, and Technology Upgrades**

- School Year 2019-2020
- 1 to 1 technology district wide
- All classrooms equipped for 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning
- \*This initiative will be funded by utilizing local, federal and state resources.

Continue to monitor, assess and implement with fidelity preventive maintenance on an annual basis (i.e. Painting, lighting, HVAC, etc.)

**Roofing:** replace and repair roofs using NC Education Lottery Funding each school year.

**Roofs Completed Last Two (2) Years:**

- WPS Building K
- WPS Building B
- WPS Building G
- EES Building C
- CMS Building D
- CMS Canopies

23 Roofs “may” need replacement within the next five (5) years. Rough estimates, at today’s prices total: \$1.47 million dollars. (\*NC Education Lottery Funding will fund many of these projects.)

Two (2) Years or Less:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ROUGH ESTIMATED COST</u>
EES Building D Slope	\$45,000
WHS GYM	\$125,000
TOTAL:	\$170,000

Three (3) Years or Less:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ROUGH ESTIMATED COST</u>
WPS Building A (A)	\$30,000
WPS Building A (B)	\$45,000
WPS Building G (A)	\$45,000
WPS Building G (B)	\$75,000
WPS Building H (A)	\$45,000
WPS Building H (B)	\$55,000
EES Cafeteria (A)	\$25,000
EES Building D (Main)	\$65,000
CMS Building B	\$80,000
CMS Building E	\$55,000
WHS Building C (Shingles)	\$65,000
TOTAL:	\$585,000

Five (5) Years or Less:

WPS Building H (A)	\$40,000
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WPS Building H (B)	\$55,000
EES Building B (A)	\$55,000
EES Building B (B)	\$65,000
EES Building A	\$125,000
CMS Cafeteria Building	\$50,000
CMS Building G	\$50,000
WHS Building E	\$135,000
WHS Weight Room	\$40,000
WHS Building F	<u>\$110,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$725,000

### **School Year 2015-2016: Capital Outlay and Current Expense:**

#### Capital Outlay Request -

- Last year, Columbus County commissioners approved \$130,997 in funding for Whiteville City School capital outlay needs
- This year, Whiteville City Schools request an additional \$82,749 in funding for capital outlay needs
- We anticipate sales tax revenue will be \$436,161 (2% increase)
- We anticipate NC Education Lottery funds will be \$120,000 (consistent with previous years allocations)

#### **Whiteville Primary:**

- Access Control
- Additional security - cameras
- Miscellaneous safety improvements

#### **Edgewood Elementary:**

- Miscellaneous safety improvements
- Security cameras
- Window repair (small project)

#### **Central Middle and North Whiteville Academy:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Windows
- Current: single pane glass, fiberglass bottom
- Additional cameras

#### **Whiteville High School:**

Security - more cameras - large campus requires more cameras

#### **WHS Legion Athletic Facilities:**

##### Parking:

- Major safety issue
- Approximately 105,000 SF of available parking
- Maximum of around 350 cars can park now
- 1,200 Average attendance during football season

#### **Lease Agreement with Columbus County Schools:**

- 5 Year agreement
- \$2,000 Annually
- Whiteville City Schools will improve lighting, parking surface and provide fencing
- 210-250 Additional parking spaces will be added with this lease agreement

### **Current Expense Request**

1. Last Year, Columbus County Commissioners approved \$1,957,770 in funding for Whiteville City Schools current expense needs.
2. This year, Whiteville City Schools request an additional \$175,199 in funding for current expense needs.
3. Whiteville City Schools will designate \$393,598 out of fund balance to meet current expense needs.

4. We anticipate fines and forfeitures collected by the district to be \$30,000.

**Primary Focus of Current Expense Request Increase:**

- 1. Five (5) additional teacher assistants for K-1;
- 2. Increased expenses to the charter school appropriation; **and**
- 3. Increased commitment to at-risk students.

**Agenda Item #6: DISCUSSION:**

**Commissioner Prevatte:** In the past, Whiteville City Schools made up approximately 25% of the student population, and the county schools made up approximately 75%, and the charter schools came in and reeked havoc. What percentage of the public schools do go to Whiteville City Schools now?

**Superintendent Garland:** replied stating that next year is showing 2,241, which is 27% of the public school population.

**Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following

- 1. I commend you and everyone else on the presentation that was delivered tonight; **and**
- 2. I would like to know if the roofs have been changed to save money.

**Vice Chairman Bullard:** What is your current Fund Balance? Mr. Garland replied stating it is plus \$1 million.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:

- 1. What percent is the teachers supplement? Mr. Garland replied stating the certified teachers receive 5% and the non-certified teachers receive 2 ½%.
- 2. Are you looking into the current facilities?
- 3. We think we should help fund the facility study.

**Commissioner McDowell:** I would like to know what vocational items are being offered? Mr. Garland replied stating at this time, it was Environmental Natural Resources, Bio-Med Tech and Culinary.

**Commissioner McKenzie:** Do you have a plan to hire minority teachers? Mr. Garland replied stating no.

**Vice Chairman Bullard:** The two (2) systems should get together to see where they could save money in what they need to do, especially for the two (2) systems to have a combined study done.

**Commissioner McDowell:** Are the facility grounds land locked or do they have room for growth if it is needed? Mr. Garland replied stating basically all the facilities are presently land locked.

**Carlton Prince:** I would like for one of our members to state the vocational items that Whiteville High School offers in addition to what was listed earlier.

**Anthony Martin:** the vocational items that are being offered at Whiteville High School are as follows: Automotive, Culinary, Health Occupations, Game of Business, Early Childhood, Agriculture, Building and Nursing.

**Agenda Item #7: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:31 P.M., Chairman Burroughs stated that the meeting was closed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman**