# COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **BOARD RETREAT**

Thursday, March 14, 2013 8:30 A.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 Board Retreat facilitated by Chris May, Cape Fear Council of Governments.

#### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Charles T. McDowell, Chairman Ricky Bullard, Vice Chairman Amon E. McKenzie James E. Prevatte Giles E. Byrd P. Edwin Russ Trent Burroughs

William S. Clark, County Manager Mike Stephens, County Attorney June B. Hall, Clerk to Board

**OTHER STAFF PRESENT::** 

# Kip McClary, Pub. Utilities Director

## **BOARD RETREAT OPENED:**

At 8:37 A.M., Chris May, Facilitator, opened the March 14, 2013 Board Retreat. Mr. May provided the following Columbus County Strategic Plan Update from the 2012 Board Retreat.

ORDER#	TOPIC	VOTES
1	Solid Waste Contract	3
2	Promote job creation and retention (EDC)	4
3	Schools funding - Public and SECC - Flexibility to choose where they spend it	6
4	Emphasize County wellness event, etc.	1
5	Reduce employee turnover	
6	Property re-val may result in budget issues requiring tax adjustment	1
7	Promote tourism and economic development	3
8	Affordable housing	2
9	Beaver control (private incentives) bounty, tag, etc Beaver Control Committee	3
10	Continue to expand all infrastructure to include natural gas to residents	3
11	Enhance current tax incentives for attracting new and supporting existing businesses - (review current asset inventory threshold incentive)	
12	Support efforts to reduce crime eliminate drugs	2
13.	Centralized bulk fuel	2
14	Purchase cost effective and fuel efficient right size vehicles	2
15	Continue to streamline county government	2

## **Top Five 2012**

- Solid Waste (1) -Handled, not an issue-1.
- 2. Schools (3)

- 3. Infrastructure (10)
- 4. Economic Development, Tourism and Job Creation
- 5. Beaver Control

# **DISCUSSION of TOP FIVE (5) PRIORITIES for 2012:**

Chris May, Facilitator, stated I would like to encourage all the Board members that can to attend the Cape Fear Council of Governments Annual Banquet and Meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2013. Mr. May opened the floor for discussion of the top five (5) priorities for 2012, and started with the following topics asking what had been done during the last year.

#### 1. Infrastructure (water-sewer):

- A. Chadbourn Rural Water;
- B. Water District I and Water District II Interconnection;
- C. The start of combining all the five (5) water districts; and
  - -Keep separate for revenue purposes or consolidate into one (1) system
  - -Connectivity essential
- D. Riegelwood Sanitary District sell bulk water to.

The goal is to have the results from the study being done by Rodney Tart, Green Engineering, to the County by budget time.

# 2. Natural Gas for Residential and Economic Development:

- A. Conduct feasibility study;
- B. Cost estimate for expansion; and
- C. Create equitable hookup.access policy for county residents.

## PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE:

Mr. May stated the following list would be the items that would be voted on at the end of this session for the top five (5) priorities.

- 1. **Continue to Expand all Infrastructure** natural gas expansion to every school in County.
  - -suggest to schools to use natural gas
  - -contact Piedmont Natural Gas and ask for map of the gas lines in the County
- 2. Infrastructure Riegelwood Water Interconnect.

(Combined to #1)

3. Infrastructure - combine all five (5) water districts. (Combined to #1)

# 4. Schools (Public and Southeastern Community College) Funding.

-granting flexibility to use dollars where they feel like they are needed

# 5. Encourage all school systems to follow long-range planning. (Add to #4)

#### 6. Economic Development, Tourism and Job Creation.

Product Development:

- -Greenhouse
- -Certification of Southeastern Regional Park as Food Processing Site (\$25,000.00)
- -New Park in Delco
- -Railroad and Georgia Pacific
- -Designated Area for Dental/Medical-Bio
- -Consider New Land Acquisition for Industrial Park (160 acres left in park)
- -Attract Chain Restaurants (work with Tourism and Chambers of Commerce)
- 7. Central County Fuel Station for County and Schools' Vehicles.
- 8. Conversion of Fleet Vehicles to Natural Gas/Bio-Diesel (alternative fuel). (Add to #12)

- 9. Study Feasibility of Building a County Maintenance Garage (Schools?).
- 10. Beaver Program Continued.
  - -landowner holding tags
  - -coordinate with adjacent counties
- 11. Employee Retention.
- 12. More Fuel Efficient, Cost Effective Vehicles Countywide.
  - -Make schools aware
- 13. Promote Awareness of Drug Abuse Due to Over Prescribing.
- 14. **Promote Wellness Program.** 
  - -Center
  - -Wellness events
- 15. Support Dental (East Carolina University) Clinic. (Added to #6)
- 16. Railroad for Economic Development.

-Encourage re-establishment of

(Added to #6)

- 17. Crime Reduction.
- 18. **Develop a Plan to Improve Roads in Private Developments.** 
  - -Establish step-by-step process and start it
- 19. Continue to Expand all Infrastructure.

-Water and natural gas (entailed in item #1, #2 and #3)

(Same as #1, #2 and #3)

# **TALLY of VOTES:**

Item #	VOTES
1	8
4	7
6 7	8
	5
9	0
10	5
11	0
12	6
13	0
14	4
17	2
18	1

# **TOP SIX (6) PRIORITIES 2013:**

PRIORITY #	# ON LIST	DETAILS	VOTE
1	1	Continue to Expand all Infrastructure	8
2	6	<b>Economic Development, Tourism and Job Creation</b>	8
3	4	Schools (Public and Southeastern Community College) Funding and Planning	7

PRIORITY #	# ON LIST	DETAILS	VOTE
4	12	More Fuel Efficient, Cost Effective Vehicles, Conversion of Fleet to Natural Gas	6
5	7	Central County Fuel Station for County and Schools' Vehicles	5
6	10	Beaver Program Continued	5

# **BOARD RETREAT CLOSED:**

At 11:33 A.M., Chairman McDowell stated the Board Retreat was clos	At 11:33 A.N	L. Chairman	McDowell	stated the	e Board l	Retreat wa	s closed.
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At 11:33 A.M., Chairman McDowell stated the Board Retreat was closed.			
	APPROVED:		
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board	CHARLES T. McDOWELL, Chairman		

# COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS <u>JOINT MEETING</u> with

The Honorable Christopher L. Batten, Columbus County Sheriff
Whiteville Police Lieutenant McGee, The Honorable Terry Mann, Mayor,
and Larry Faison, Manager
Columbus County Schools Board of Education
Whiteville City Schools Board of Education
Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees
Dr. Kathy Matlock, President, Southeastern Community College

Thursday, March 14, 2013 6:00 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-120/122, 4564 Chadbourn Highway, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of holding a <u>Joint Meeting</u> with The Honorable Christopher L. Batten, Columbus County Sheriff, Whiteville Police Lieutenant McGee, The Honorable Terry Mann, Mayor, and Larry Faison, Manager, Columbus County Schools Board of Education, Whiteville City Schools Board of Education, Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees, and Dr. Kathy Matlock, President, Southeastern Community College.

# **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

#### **APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

William S. Clark, County Manager Mike Stephens, County Attorney June B. Hall, Clerk to Board

#### **OTHERS in ATTENDANCE:**

The Honorable Christopher L. Batten, Columbus County Sheriff Whiteville Police Lieutenant McGee The Honorable Terry Mann, Mayor of Whiteville Larry Faison, Whiteville City Manager

# COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

DISTRICT	NAME
1	Norris Ebron
2	Barbara Yates, Chairperson
3	Monte L. Herring
4	Worley T. Edwards, Vice Chairman
5	Junior Dew

Superintendent; Alan Faulk Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Jonathan Williams

# WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

DISTRICT	NAME	
1	Carlton Prince, Chairman	
2	David Flowers	
3	Kandle Rogers	
4	Greg Merritt	
At Large	James DiMuzio	

Superintendent; Dr. Charles Thomas Hager Assistant Superintendent: Anthony Martin

#### SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT	NAME
County BOE	Spruell R. Britt, Chairman	Governor	Doris Dees, Vice Chairperson
III	Theresa J. Blanks	IV	Harry Foley
VII	Robert Ezzell	City BOE	Joe Hooks

Dr. Kathy Matlock, President, SCC Betty Jo Ramsey, Vice President of Operations and Finance

#### Agenda Items #1 and #2: <u>JOINT MEETING OPENED</u>:

At 6:05 P.M., Chairman Charles T. McDowell opened the Joint Meeting. The invocation was delivered by Vice Chairman Ricky Bullard.

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

The attendees were introduced from each group by one of their members.

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

Chairman McDowell stated the purpose of this Joint Meeting is as follows:

- 1. We are all here for the betterment of our educational systems in Columbus County;
- 2. All of us have the same intent, but we are all in different venues;
- 3. It is very advantageous for us to get together and share our ideas;
- 4. We want you to be candid and be honest;
- 5. When we leave this meeting, we will know each other's needs and we will address those needs as satisfactorily as we can; **and**
- 6. We are aware that all of the school systems are undergoing funding cuts from the state and federal levels, as well as the County.

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

Each group will be allowed approximately thirty (30) minutes to speak. We would like to start with Sheriff Batten and Lieutenant McGee to present to us as what they see as security issues and how they can be addressed.

# Agenda Item #6: DISCUSSION:

## **Group 1: Sheriff Christopher L. Batten:** stated the following:

- 1. We have had School Resource Officers in the Columbus County Schools System since 2003;
- 2. Our communications system has worked well;
- 3. We have and always will have the issue about the safety of our children;
- 4. Since the Sandy Hook event took place, I think our focus should be more toward the elementary and middle schools in lieu of the high schools;
- 5. We share one (1) Resource officer with Southeastern Community College and Fair Bluff;
- 6. The employees basically work for the Sheriff's Office, they are employed by us, paid by you through the school system, but in our case, for the months they work for the school system, they work for the superintendent and the principal;
- 7. We want to work you and the school system to make sure our school kids are protected to the best of our ability;
- 8. The new Acting Colonel of the North Carolina Highway Patrol is a resident of Columbus County, Gary Bell; and
- 9. Colonel Bell has instructed his captains to make sure it gets filtered down to each county, that his wishes are that his State Troopers in each county visit the elementary and middle schools, as their time allows.

# **Group II:** Whiteville Police Lieutenant McGee: stated the following:

- 1. I concur with what Sheriff Batten has stated;
- 2. This will not deter those who want to come and create havoc, but it will help;
- 3. We have to change our mind set;
- 4. Security has not been the number one focus when we design schools or renovate schools;
- 5. Being a former Resource Officer myself, we have wide-open campuses, and we don't have the best video surveillance;
- 6. We need to spend our money wisely;
- 7. I am all for putting more Resource Officers in our schools, but this is only one (1) little factor; and
- 8. We need to look at secured access and better patrol of the facilities.

#### Discussion:

**Vice Chairman Bullard:** Could the schools provide lunch to the Law Enforcement Officers on a daily basis so the officers would have a good avenue to spend more time at the schools?

**Sheriff Batten:** If the schools were willing to do this, we could encourage our officers to do this.

**Lieutenant McGee:** The Whiteville City Police Department has a program called Adopt-A-Cop. Each class adopts a police officer, and once a month he goes and spends a class with them and goes to lunch

with them. It has worked very well. It accomplishes two (2) things, it puts another police officer on that campus and it builds up more confidence with those small children.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** I agree with the Sheriff. The biggest problem we have is accessibility. We will not be able to stop this completely, but we can deter some of it. The schools need to look at their security plan.

Sheriff Batten: I would recommend security access cards.

**Lieutenant McGee:** I think the number one thing is to limit and have controlled access to the campus. If you have video surveillance, it needs to be monitored proactively. The entire mind set about security needs to change.

**Chairman McDowell:** Do we know of any cases where volunteers have been used for Resource Officers in schools, or are being used?

**Sheriff Batten:** No. The North Carolina Sheriffs Association, we met in a Legislative Work Day about two (2) weeks, and we are in the process of supporting a bill that is going to try to make it through the Legislature that the State will fund the Resource Officers. On top of that, they will have to be law enforcement officers and they will have to be trained. I put a higher qualification standard on our Resource Officers than the regular officers, and that is 80%.

**Commissioner McKenzie:** As far as security issues, do you have any recommendations? Where do we start?

**Sheriff Batten:** With all due respect Commissioner, it is fair to say that I might not should go there. I would rather say that I have given you the options and what I feel like is best to protect our kids. If you choose to put officers in the schools, your Board, I will be there to support it 100%. I would encourage all of you to listen to all that has been said here today. There are three (3) major factors involved here, and they are controlled access, monitored video surveillance, and additional Resource Officers. Another recommendation I would render is to have the school principals and superintendents to meet with me and give me ideas on the security issues at each school.

**Lieutenant McGee:** Like the Sheriff said, it is not just one (1) factor, it is a combination of different factors. Any time you talk security, it is going to be expensive. Controlled access, good video surveillance that is monitored, and additional officers. This is not going to totally solve the problem, but it will be a good deterrent.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** There are some things as simple as call-back buttons in the classrooms. If a person is determined to get in, they will get in.

James DiMuzio: We need to start by educating our faculty and staff on better security measures.

**Sheriff Batten:** It needs to be a two-way street. I don't think we need to be coming in to coach the teachers, principals or anybody else. It would be a good idea for the teachers and the principals to set down with an officer, between now and the end of the school year, and give them ideas of anything they did not feel was secure about their school.

**Chairman McDowell:** Having retired from the Columbus County School System, I know there are different situations in each school. We need to get a ground level of security and work from that.

#### **Group III: Columbus County Schools Board of Education:**

Alan Faulk, Superintendent, stated the following:

- 1. I would like to thank the County Commissioners, thank Southeastern Community College for having us, glad to hear from the police officers, and it is good to be with the Whiteville City Schools:
- 2. I think we have a good working relationship with the County Commissioners;
- 3. We have been able to accomplish some things with your help that we would have been able to do without your help;
- 4. We have presented to you three (3) priorities as follows:
  - -School Security;
  - -Facility Maintenance, Replacement and Repairs; and
  - -New construction projects;

# 5. **Priority #1 - School security:**

A. We did request funding for an additional nine (9) School Resource Officers which would entail the following costs:

<u>Item</u>	Cost Estimate
Annual Salaries and Benefits	\$369,661.43
Equipment and Uniforms for new SRO	\$40,518.00
½ Lease Payments for nine (9) cars annually	\$36,900.00
TOTAL COST:	\$447,079.43

Since the cost of the additional School Resource Officers was so extensive, we began to look at external locks and a camera/electronic opener at the main entrances for nine (9) elementary schools and have devices added to the remaining middle and high schools as follows:

**Electronic External Locks and a Camera/Electronic Opener** 

SCHOOL	COST ESTIMATE
Acme Delco Elementary	\$10,920.01
Cerro Gordo Elementary	\$14,285.04
Chadbourn Elementary	\$12,282.30
Evergreen Elementary	\$13,356.21
Guideway Elementary	\$8,858.40
Hallsboro/Artesia Elementary	\$16,583.47
Old Dock Elementary	\$11,596.06
Tabor City Elementary	\$14,427.55
Williams Township	\$12,939.88
TOTAL COSTS:	\$117,000 (Approximately)

- -We have lost tremendous staff over the last several years;
- -We need to do something, especially for our elementary schools;
- -You are aware of the problems and the issues we run into;
- -We need to do something, and I know we don't have all the money; and
- -I feel comfortable with the additional security at the doors, but that is not the total answer.

# 6. **Priority #2 - Facility Maintenance, Replacement and Repairs:**

Immediate needs include a roof replacement on several schools and athletic improvements to meet NCHSAA standards as follows:

**Roofing Projects** 

PRIORITY #	SCHOOL	ROOF LOCATION	COST ESTIMATE
	Acme Delco Middle	Cafeteria	\$66,216
3	Cerro Gordo Elementary	Main Building	\$207,723
	Chadbourn Elementary	Main Canopy	\$63,636
1	Hallsboro/Artesia Elementary	Main Building	\$207,723
2	Hallsboro Middle	Cafeteria	\$66,216
Holding Own	Nakina Middle	Low roofs on Gym	\$58,908
TOTAL:			\$650,000 - \$700,000

#### ATHLETIC FACILITY NEEDS

Proposal submitted by Torrence Lighting - April 23, 2012

SCHOOL	OOL FOOTBALL BASEBALL SOFTBALL		TENNIS	GYM	TOTAL	
ECHS	\$118,029	\$118,589	\$58,346	\$25,125	\$2,800	\$322,889
SCHS	\$118,029	\$118,589	\$58,346	\$25,125	\$2,800	\$322,889
WCHS	\$120,543	\$115,774	\$58,346	\$25,125	\$16,885	\$336,673

TOTAL:			\$982,451

- -According to the North Carolina Athletic Association, we have three (3) years left to get our lights up to standard.
- -If the lights are not up to standard, we will not be able to house any of the playoffs.
- -I have a letter from Neil Bouy who is the regional supervisor of the umpire officials that the lighting is unsafe.
- -We have had three (3) people to test these lights, and none of these lights meet the lighting standards.
- -This is a safety concern.

## 7. **Priority #3: New Construction Projects:**

- -Seeking outside sources to supplement/offset cost.
- -We need your help.

Discussion was conducted relative to the concept of lease-to-own school buildings as follows:

- 1. The advantages and disadvantages of doing this;
- 2. The possibility of setting up a meeting with the Board of Commissioners and the school boards;
- 3. Getting an expert on the topic to come and explain how the system works; and
- 4. Paying twenty-five (25%) percent more than usual with this method.

## **Group 4: Whiteville City Schools Board of Education:**

Dr. Thomas Hager, Superintendent of Whiteville City Schools, stated the following:

# Item #1: Security -

- 1. I don't have any information relative to security, but I do have an idea I would like to share with you;
- 2. I think it would be wise and cost effective to bring in a security specialist and let them look at all of the school systems within the County and advise us as to what we need and go from there; and
- 3. We can speculate as to what we need, but we are educators, and not security specialists.

## Item #2: Resolution -

- 1. The first item I would like to address is a document so entitled "Resolution in Opposition to School Property Transfer From Local School Board to County Commissioners;
- 2. This issue arose solely out of a dispute between the Wake County Board of Commissioners and their school boards; **and**
- 3. We feel the school property should stay in the hands of the school boards.
  - Commissioner Prevatte stated there was a split vote on this bill, and we, as a Board, supported the Legislative Goals with the exception of this one.

# Item #3: High Priority Project List -

LOCATION	REPAIRS NEEDED	COST
Whiteville Primary School	Replace roof on Building G	\$85,000
Edgewood Elementary School	Remove part of the boiler chimney to a safe level Replace the roof on the multi-purpose building Replace the roof on the media center building Student records and instructional storage area	\$15,000 \$55,000 \$65,000 \$15,000
Central Middle School	Reduce chimney at cafeteria by 15 feet Replace roof on the 6 <sup>th</sup> grade building Replace roof on the 8 <sup>th</sup> grade building Replace windows in the 8 <sup>th</sup> grade building Replace roof on the 8 <sup>th</sup> grade canopy and paint canopy	\$15,000 \$60,000 \$95,000 \$150,000 \$25,000
Whiteville High School	Boiler condensate pumps replaced in main building Campus Painting	\$7,000 \$15,000
North Whiteville Academy	Faculty Restroom Split classroom to add computer lab	\$5,000 \$12,000

LOCATION	REPAIRS NEEDED	COST	
Central Services	Civic Room renovations	\$25,000	
TOTAL:		\$644,000	

- -Fifty (50%) percent of our schools are now using natural gas, and the remainder is using heat pumps and fuel oil; **and**
- -The chimneys are no longer needed.
  - Discussion was conducted relative to the following:
- 1. Checking into the conversion of the remainder of the school buildings changing over to natural gas;
- 2. The cost of installing security doors and systems; and
- 3. The advantages of all the schools unifying and utilizing a specialist to do the security.

# **Group 5: Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees:**

- Dr. Kathy Matlock, President, Southeastern Community College, stated the following:
- 1. The main campus consists of the following:
  - -246 Acres
  - -247,000 SF
  - -21 Structures and 14 main buildings
  - -6,854 On-campus students in 2011-2012 academic year and this does include our thirty-six (36) children, 3-5 year olds that are here every day of the week, the County high school that is on this campus, and it does not count many of the groups that we serve;
  - -We are open 7:00 A.M. until 10:00 P.M., or as needed seven (7) days a week;
  - -We are the most energy efficient North Carolina Community College State Energy Office by North Carolina State; **and**
  - -Our insurance requires twenty-four (24) hour security coverage seven (7) days a week.
- 2. Security Concerns:
  - -We have a wide-open campus;
  - -It would be impossible to lock all the doors;
  - -Our students and staff are required to wear coded name tags;
  - -We have encountered problems asking people who they are and what their purpose is of being on the campus;
  - -Our Early Childhood Education Center has big glass walls.
  - -We have a wooded campus which lends to dark areas and many places for people to hide;
  - -We are going to present to you our prioritized needs in terms of safety and our capital needs;
  - -My Board met in January, and they meet Tuesday night, and until they approve the budget, we are not going to present that part to you tonight; **and**
  - -You presented some good ideas about natural gas, and I will ask Betty Jo Ramsey to talk about that.

# Betty Jo Ramsey, Vice President of Operations and Finance: stated the following:

- Only three (3) of our buildings are run on propane gas and the rest of the buildings are electric of some sort;
- The utility cost of the electrical usage is about \$200,000;
- We are only spending approximately \$20,000 \$25,000 in propane;
- I contacted Chris Cook at Columbus Regional Healthcare System and he stated it is wonderful, but did not know how beneficial it would be for Southeastern Community College because we would have to pay for getting the lines run to the buildings from the road;
- We would only use this for heating during the winter months;
- Based on the three (3) buildings and the location of the buildings, the payback would be 20-25 years, if at all;
- It is not feasible unless we start re-doing all of our buildings to natural gas, and I can't imagine what that cost would be.
- 3. If you will look at the graphics, one of the things you will see in the safety concerns is more lighting in the wooded areas especially where students have to walk and more call boxes.

## **Discussion:**

**Commissioner Prevatte:** There is some green money available for solar lights to help with the lighting problem.

**Chairman McDowell:** Was it not feasible to add the Cartrette Building to natural gas since it is so close to the line, and then, as time and need progress, bring the gas further into the campus.

Betty Jo Ramsey: I have got a call into Piedmont Gas, and they have not called me back, but we will

pursue anything that is cost effective.

#### **James DiMuzio:** stated the following:

- 1. I have talked to Piedmont Gas about my office and home and the schools;
- 2. They go by volume;
- 3. There is no costs to you, except for a small cost to get a certain distance;
- 4. They will do the work, and it depends on the volume that you use;
- 5. They have their formulas they use to determine if it is worth it to them to run the lines;
- 6. Natural Gas is about one third to twenty-five (25%) percent the cost of propane;
- 7. I cannot imagine it taking twenty-five (25) years for payback; and
- 8. They will need these numbers from you to be able to tell you how much it will cost.

#### **Carlton Prince:** stated the following:

- 1. We are all concerned about the safety of our children and keep our thinking caps on and develop a different mind set toward security;
- 2. This is very unique to every campus;
- 3. I really endorse the idea of a comprehensive study being done before we spend a lot of funds because there are a number of issues, and because I don't want us to make the mistake of shooting one bullet that is very expensive;
- 4. We, in this room, should be a spokesman for what we feel is important and what is essential for children in 2013;
- 5. There are a lot of other issues that affect the education of children other than security and I think a meeting like this on multiple issues is extremely important because our Congressman, our Governor, our Senators and our Legislators listen to the squeaking wheel so often, and I don't think we speak as a voice for what is best for the youngsters in Columbus County, as a comprehensive education;
- 6. We are in a communication interaction vistas, and there are many, many issues that a group like this needs to address and then communicate, as one voice, to our Legislators;
- 7. We appreciate all the dollars that you direct to Whiteville City Schools, Columbus County Schools and to the college; **and**
- 8. No dollar that you direct anywhere is more important than education.

**Chairman Charles McDowell:** I would like to close by challenging each and everyone of us to look outside the box. There are ways to save money, and the only way you find out is communicating with everyone else. Do not hesitate to call any of us that are involved. Any dollar saved will benefit all of us.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

At	8:1	7 P.M.,	Chairman	McDowel	l stated	the J	loint I	Meeting	was adj	ourned.
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	APPROVED:				
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board	CHARLES T. McDOWELL. Chairman				