

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Joint Meeting with
Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees
Tuesday, May 10, 2011
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 120, located at 4564 Chadbourn Highway, for the purpose of conducting a joint meeting with Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD of TRUSTEES:

Spruell R. Britt, **Chairman**
Harry Foley
Richard Dameron
Henry Edmund
Charles Gore
Joseph Lane Ray
Rhone Sasser
Stephen M. Smith

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kathy Matlock, President, Southeastern Community College
Kathy Britt, Executive Assistant to Dr. Matlock

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER and INVOCATION:

At 5:35 P.M., Chairman Byrd called the May 10, 2011 Joint Meeting with the Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees to order. The invocation was delivered by Vice Chairman Amon E. McKenzie. The floor was opened for discussion.

INPUT - FUTURE PLANS and CAPITAL OUTLAY NEEDS:

Chairman Byrd stated the purpose of this joint meeting was to discuss the future plans and capital outlay needs of Southeastern Community College.

Randy Britt: stated the following:

1. You know what our request is and that is we need additional operating funds to finish out this year due to a number of things, roughly in the neighborhood of \$151,000.00 so that we can keep the budget and the monies in the right positions so we will have funds to continue to operate from month to month;
2. How did this happen? There are several things and I can't get into detail about that. Some of the other members might speak to that.;
3. One (1) of the things that caused this is because we have always been coming up short on operating revenues, and historically we have always been able to transfer some capital outlay and we were able to get by with that;
4. A few years ago, we were not allowed to transfer the Capital Outlay funds, so we did not have enough of a cash balance so we were able to cover that, for that year, so that depleted some of the other funds;
5. This past year, we basically used up all we had in the Food Services Fund, \$179,000.00; **and**
6. We are in a situation now where we are going to be short, and this will have a domino effect

in the following years.

Rhone Sasser: stated the following:

1. North Carolina has fifty-eight (58) community college systems;
2. Southeastern Community College ranks 54th in the fifty-eight systems, in receiving local funding;
3. The average percentage of local funds for community colleges in North Carolina is 14.61%;
4. The Columbus County local funding is averaging 7.37%;
5. Since 1997, the local funding that Southeastern Community College has been receiving has either remained constant, decreased, or only a slight increase; **and**
6. Our operating expenses have increased, and we have added on two (2) new buildings.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion was conducted among all board members relative to the following:

1. The existence of three (3) educational systems in Columbus County that receive local funding which is based on certain factors;
2. A supplement and travel expenses being paid out of local funding for the college, and discovery was made this was part of an employment agreement;
3. The sum of \$600,000.00 taken out of foundation funds being utilized for Capital Outlay and this is not the purpose of these funds;
4. If the requested funds are granted, this amount will be deducted from the upcoming year's funding;
5. In 2000, state-wide bonds were passed with funds given to each community college, and these funds were specified as to how much could be used for construction and how much for maintenance;
6. Two (2) buildings have been added, namely the Health and Human Services Building and the Cartrette Building which have increased operating expenses;
7. Keeping the college up to the educational level to better serve the students and the community;
8. The three thousand (3,000) student curriculum being actual seated students;
9. The second fastest growing institution in the State of North Carolina;
10. The presence of an early high school being on campus that receives no funding;
11. In 2008, three (3) vehicles were purchased, and this year, we have purchased a fifteen (15) passenger van due to safety issues;
12. The receipt of a \$3 million gift last year which was used for buildings;
13. The purpose of this meeting is to develop good communication and to develop a happy medium for all parties concerned;
14. If you request additional funds from the State, they will tell you have the ability to raise property taxes up to \$1.50 per \$100 property evaluation;
15. Tax rate is already high, and our citizens can not afford a tax increase;
16. The purpose of the \$151,000.00 is to be used for funding in arrears and energy bills;
17. The \$50,000.00 monthly funds not being included in the \$15,000.00 fund balance reported at the Board Meeting;
18. The possibility of the college being overstaffed;
19. In accordance with a State Facility Report done, the study reflected the college being understaffed in terms of custodial, maintenance and grounds;
20. The Sykes Accreditation being done at the end of October and the need for extra cleaning of the buildings which will be a significant amount;
21. Part of the core principal is that we have adequate funding and resources to maintain our physical plans, which will be reviewed by Sykes;
22. The college is growing rapidly;
23. The college is not only the curriculum students, it is all the training we do, it is the GED, we maintain an award-winning high school on campus, we have a child-care center, we have community service, we never close and we are open seven (7) days a week;
24. In 2003, the college was one (1) of the first institutions in the State to start an energy-conservation program, which saves approximately five (5%) percent a month;
25. JobLink is on campus and is not a part of the curriculum and aided greatly when Georgia Pacific closed;
26. The Health and Human Services Building is a Lean Standard Building which saves a large amount of energy;
27. The college is serving a large percentage of the population of Columbus County;
28. Differentiating the needs of the college from the other requests received;

29. The college not being allowed to borrow money, have to have money in place;
30. As part of the college's Master Plan, the next building will be on the high land that is visible from US 74; **and**
31. The college employs 212 full-time employees and 300 part-time employees of which most live in Columbus County.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:19 P.M., Chairman Byrd stated the joint meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman