

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

**Monday, March 09, 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 Columbus County 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:**

Alan Turner, **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:**

Junior Dew, **Chairman**  
Norris Ebron, **Vice Chairman**  
Barbara Yates  
Monte L. Herring  
Worley T. Edwards  
Alan Faulk, **Superintendent**  
Jonathan Williams, **Assistant  
Superintendent**  
Terry Dudney, **Finance Officer**  
Timmy Watson, **Maintenance  
Director**  
William Phipps, **Board Attorney**

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

At 5:31 P.M., in the absence of Chairman Trent Burroughs, Vice Chairman Ricky Bullard called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #2: INVOCATION:**

Vice Chairman Ricky Bullard welcomed everyone and delivered the invocation. Vice Chairman Bullard stated that we would enjoy the dinner at this time.

**Agenda Item #3: INTRODUCTION of ATTENDEES (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 Trent Burroughs**

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

1. To get an idea of your strategic plan;
2. What your short-term plan is to address our building needs;

3. What is the short-term goals as to the long-term needs; **and**
4. I will open the floor for any comments.

**Commissioner P. Edwin Russ:** stated the following:

1. Chairman Burroughs, Commissioner McDowell and myself went to a Strategic Planning Workshop in Wallace last Friday;
2. There were Commissioners, Managers and Board Clerks present at the meeting; **and**
3. We listed problems each county had and the top three (3) problems were schools, mainly east of I-95.

**Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:

1. Education ranked top of all of the concerns;
2. This involved the schools east of I-95;
3. All of the counties were trying to figure out what to do, and we were basically in the same boat;
4. There is a workshop being held on May 02, 2015, at the School of Government, and this will be beneficial to all that attend;
5. This will do with alternative ways to fund schools and getting the best value for our dollar; **and**
6. The idea to re-district some of the school districts was introduced.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:

1. Through my years as being an educator, I was aware of the existence of a Facility Capital Outlay Plan;
2. I am being questioned about what the schools do with the money that we allocate to them; **and**
3. It would be very advantageous if the schools could present a report as to where the funds are spent.

**Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:

1. When one of us has a problem, than all of us have a problem;
2. We can work the problem out if we have a plan;
3. The biggest priority in Columbus County is our schools; **and**
4. By working together, we can work this out, slice by slice.

**Alan Faulk, School Superintendent:** stated the following:

1. I would like to thank you for having us here;
2. This past year, we replaced all of the athletic lights at all of the high schools;
3. We provided two (2) tennis courts with lights;
4. We re-surfaced the playing areas on the tennis courts;
5. We were able to get the stucco replaced at East and South Columbus;
6. At Tabor City Elementary, we replaced the sidewalks;
7. We painted the high schools inside;
8. With the windows from the QZAP Bond, we have finished Acme Delco Elementary School and Williams Township;
9. We changed boilers out at Tabor City Elementary;
10. We completed the ten (10) pod classrooms at Cerro Gordo Elementary;
11. 89% Of our schools met with city growth;
12. We funded elementary art and e-teaching for the first time;
13. We have a second regional teacher of the year
14. We increased the supplement to teachers and now the certified is at 5% and the non-certified is at 3%;
15. The following is some existing problems we have and need to be addressed, and could be used as our strategic plan.

#### **PERSONNEL**

- 15 Teaching Positions:
  - 7 Elementary Art Teachers
  - 7 Elementary Physical Education Teachers

1 Career-Technical Education Teacher  
 (Automotive Body Repair)  
 3 Part-time College Promise Bus  
 Drivers/Facilitators

- Approximately \$800,000.00 (including benefits)

**AGE of SCHOOL**

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>YR ESTABLISHED</b>	<b>AGE</b>
Acme Delco Elementary School	1951	64
Acme Delco Middle School	1926	89
Cerro Gordo Elementary School	1926	89
Chadbourn Elementary School	1952	63
Chadbourn Middle School	1948	66
East Columbus High School	1992	23
Evergreen Elementary School	1925	90
Guideway Elementary School	1978	37
Hallsboro Elementary School	1950	65
Hallsboro Middle School	1936	79
Nakina Middle School	1952	63
Old Dock Elementary School	2012	3
South Columbus High School	1992	23
Tabor City Elementary School	1927	88
Tabor City Middle School	1954	61
Whiteville City High School	1965	50
Williams Township School	2006	9

**TOTAL COST for WORK NEEDED**

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>COST</b>
Acme Delco Middle	\$1,093,660.00
Cerro Gordo	\$1,902,078.00
Chadbourn Elementary	\$839,429.00
Chadbourn Middle	\$1,069,500.00
Evergreen	\$1,320,473.50
Columbus Career and College Academy	\$186,550.00
Guideway	\$196,988.00
Hallsboro/Artesia Elementary	\$1,440,350.00
Hallsboro Middle	\$915,525.00
Nakina Middle	\$351,700.00
Old Dock Elementary	\$850,000.00

SCHOOL	COST
East Columbus	\$707,000.00
South Columbus	\$562,000.00
Tabor City Elementary	\$3,844,500.00
Tabor City Middle	\$778,300.00
West Columbus	\$1,876,000.00
Williams Township	\$193,362.00
Administration Building	\$181,034.00
School Bus Garage	\$91,000.00
Plant Operations	\$77,000.00

-All figures are from similar projects done within the last 3 years, quotes received in the last 2 years or evaluations done on sight.

-Columbus County Schools minimum needs to align with similar public school systems throughout our state - \$19,034,459.50.

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

**OPTIONAL SCENARIOS**

**Eastern Scenarios:**

NUMBER	DETAILS
I	Build 1 School: 1 Pk-8 (1200 Student) Facility (Eliminating ADES, ADMS, HAES, HMS) Resulting in a Net of 1 School Site and Elimination of 3 School Sites
II	Build 2 Schools: 1 Middle School (400 Student) Facility and 1 Elementary (800 Student) Resulting in a Net of 2 School Sites and Eliminations of 2 School Sites
III	Build 2 Schools: 2 PK-8 (600 Student) Facilities, Resulting in a Net of 2 School Sites and Elimination of 2 School Sites

**Western Scenarios**

NUMBER	DETAILS
I	Build 1 School: 1 Prk-8 (1100 Student) Facility (Eliminating CES, CMS, EES) Utilizing CGES New Building (10 classrooms) and Pod (4 Classrooms) Resulting in a Net of 1 School Site and Elimination of 3 School Sites
II	Build 2 Schools: 1 Middle School (400 Student) Facility and 1 Elementary (800 Student) Facility (Eliminating CES, CMS, EES) Utilizing CGES New Building (10 Classrooms) and Pod (4 Classrooms) Resulting in a Net of 2 School Sites and Elimination of 2 School Sites
III	Build 3 Schools: 3 PrK-8 (400 Student) Facilities (Eliminating CES or CMS) Utilizing Pods (4 Classrooms) and CGES New Building (10 classrooms) Resulting in a Net of 3 School Sites and Elimination of 1 School Site

## Southern Scenarios

NUMBER	DETAILS
I	Build 3 Schools:1 Middle School (800 Student) Facility (Eliminating NMS, TCMS and WMS) and 2 Elementary (500 Student): 1 Elem. School Facility (Eliminating GES) Utilizing ODES New Building (6 Classrooms) Pod (4 Classrooms) gym, and Planned Building (Administration, Media, Classrooms) and 1 Elem. Facility (Eliminating TCMS) Resulting in a Net of 4 School Sites (ODES, TCES, WTS, SMS) and Elimination of 2 School Sites
II	Build 2 Schools: 1 PrK-8 (800 Student) Facilities (Eliminating GES & NMS) Utilizing Pods (4 Classrooms), ODES New Building (6 classrooms), Gym and Planned Building (Administration, Media, Classrooms) and 1 PrK-8 (800 Student) facility at TCES (Eliminating TCMS) Resulting in a Net of 3 School Sites (ODES, TCES, WTS) and Elimination of 3 School Sites

**Agenda Item #6:     DISCUSSION:**

The following items were discussed for consideration:

1. The most beneficial and economical way to approach this large need of the school system;
2. The need for a professional study to be done by an outside agency to determine the best way that would benefit the school system the most, and deliver the most savings;
3. The cost of the study to be paid by the school system and the County;
4. The best and most effective approach to seek the funds needed; **and**
5. Having a plan in place for both sides to have and to see.

**Agenda Item #7:     ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:47 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**