

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JOINT MEETING with**  
**COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD of EDUCATION**  
**Monday, February 11, 2019**  
**6:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time at Southeastern Community College, 4564 Chadbourn Highway, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, to conduct a joint meeting with the Columbus County Schools Board of Education, in the T-Building, Room 120.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**  
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**  
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD of EDUCATION:**

Monty L. Herring, **Chairman**  
Worley T. Edwards, **Vice Chairman**  
Randy Coleman  
Ronnie Strickland  
Junior Dew

**STAFF:**

Jonathan Williams, **Interim Superintendent**  
Lisa Nowlin, **Finance Officer**

**NEWS:**

Allen Turner  
Kailey Tracy

**Agenda Items #1 and #2: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER and INVOCATION:**

At 6:25 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the February 11, 2019 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Joint Meeting with the Columbus County Schools Board of Education to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner James E. Prevatte.

**MEETING RECESSED for EVENING MEAL:**

After the invocation, Chairman Burroughs stated the meeting would be recessed for the evening meal, and then resumed.

**MEETING RESUMED:**

At 6:48 P.M., the meeting resumed.

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

The Columbus County Schools board members and the staff members introduced themselves individually. The Columbus County Board of Commissioners and the staff members introduced themselves individually.

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

Chairman Burroughs stated the purpose of the joint meeting was for discussion of the needs for the upcoming budget year.

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

Chairman Burroughs stated each individual member in attendance may speak and voice their opinion which will be taken into consideration.

**Agenda Item #6: DISCUSSION:**

Chairman Burroughs opened the floor for input and discussion. The following spoke.

1. **Jonathan Williams, Interim Superintendent:** stated the following:
  - I do not have any pictures with me but there are plenty at the office;
  - We are here to present next year's request;
  - We are finalizing the plans for the schools;
  - We are having some issues with the soil sampling in Tabor City;
  - The site in Tabor City is the highest in elevation in the county of all the schools;
  - The West Columbus site is ready to go;
  - We are requesting a Total Increase in our budget which includes the following:

**Local Budget Request for 2019 - 2020**

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	SALARY	ADDT'L REQUEST
Counselors - 4 Positions	4	\$75,630.00	\$302,520
K-5 Arts Teachers - 4 Positions	4	\$67,301.00	\$269,204
Resource Officers - 3 Positions	3	\$54,656.21	\$163,968.63
Custodians - 5 Positions	5	\$35,533.00	\$177,665.00
<b>TOTAL INCREASE:</b>			\$913,357.63
<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2019-2020:</b>			<b>\$6,403,782.63</b>

**Capital Outlay Budget Request for 2019 - 2020**

DESCRIPTION	ADDITIONAL REQUEST FOR 2019-2020
Parking Lot Repairs	\$250,000
Tennis Court Repairs WCHS	<del>\$50,000</del> \$200,000
Track and Field Outdoor - SCHS/ECHS	\$250,000
Furniture and Equipment	\$100,000
	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL INCREASE:</b>	<del>\$750,000</del> \$900,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2019-2020:</b>	<b>\$2,843,846</b>

- This is the exact same request we had last year;
- I would like to thank the Commissioners for the money;
- The transportation costs for the school buses are tremendous;
- The Capital Outlay Funding is done on an ADM basis;
- Maintenance travel is astronomical for county schools versus city schools;
- The transportation to the Career College is extremely expensive;
- The funding for the Whiteville City Schools and Columbus County Schools needs to be the same amount per child; **and**
- The plans for the Tabor City School and the Cerro Gordo School are yet to be finalized.

**DISCUSSION:**

The following topics were discussed among the Board of Education and the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

1. The formula used for ADM basis was established many years ago and has never been changed;
2. In other locations, the sales tax money is advantageous for the schools;
3. The interest rate for the schools cannot be tied in until the architectural plans are finished;
4. The importance of education for the children due to the fact they are our future;
5. The importance of everyone getting involved to provide and promote education;
6. Relative to ADM basis, would it be advantageous to have three (3) school systems in lieu of two (2) school systems; **and**
7. Would the extra \$10 million be used toward this project?

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:55 P.M., Chairman Burroughs stated the meeting is adjourned.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman**