

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JOINT MEETING with COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS  
BOARD of EDUCATION  
Monday, March 09, 2020  
6:00 P.M.**

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

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dylan Bowen, Deputy Finance Officer

**COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD of EDUCATION:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Deanne Meadows, Superintendent  
Bill Phipps, School Attorney  
Lisa Nowlin, Finance Officer  
Jonathan Williams, Assist. Super.  
Rowena Gore

**The News Reporter:** Allen Turner

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

At 6:00 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the March 09, 2020 Joint Meeting with the Columbus County Schools Board of Education to order. The invocation was delivered by Vice Chairman Jerome McMillian.

**EVENING MEAL:**

At 6:03 P.M., a delicious evening meal was served.

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

Chairman Russ requested that each attendee state their name and title in sequential order inclusive of the Columbus County Schools Board Members and Staff Members, and the Columbus County Board of Commissioners and Staff Members.

**Agenda Items #4 and #5: PURPOSE of JOINT MEETING and RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE:**

Chairman P. Edwin Russ stated the meeting would be turned over to Superintendent Deanne Meadows to present information relative to the schools, and questions would be recognized.

**Agenda Item #6: DISCUSSION:**

Superintendent Meadows presented the following information relative to Columbus County Schools.

**What does effective education include?**

- Personnel - high quality and meets varying needs of students
- Facilities - safe, secure and conducive learning environments
- Curriculum Resources - provides structure and assurance with academics
- Technology - raises engagement and connection to business and industry
- Opportunities - varied and create balance for students

**What does an effective education provide?**

- Students an opportunity to reach their potential
- Student a choice in their post-secondary plans: 2-year or 4-year college, workforce, or military
- Draw for business and industry - educated and skilled workforce
- Improved tax base
- Confidence in County Leadership

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT DECLINE**

SCHOOL YEAR	AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP	DIFFERENCE	COST
2013-2014	6071		
2014-2015	5960	-111	-\$943,500
2015-2016	5883	-77	-\$654,500
2016-2017	5685	-198	-\$1,683,000
2017-2018	5598	-87	-\$739,500
2018-2019	5475	-123	-\$1,045,500
2019-2020	5387	-88	-\$748,000
<b>TOTAL (7 YRS.)</b>		-684	-\$5,814,000

**FINANCIAL IMPACT of CONSOLIDATION and CLOSINGS:**

- Total One Time Costs: \$319,400 (\$260,400 w/o Mount Olive)
- Total Recurring Costs: \$124,542.89
- Total One Time Savings: \$684,202.00
- Total Recurring Savings: \$2,420,066.32 (\$2,320,741.32 w/o MO)

**NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS:**

Critical time for Columbus County Schools

- Declining enrollment
- Opening of new charter school
- Closing of nine (9) schools/sites
- Completed construction of two (2) schools and one (1) started
- Funding at the state level

**IMPACTS to FUNDING:**

- Consolidation and closing: +\$2,400,000
- Declining Enrollment average 100 students per year: -\$800,000+
- New charter school opening (85-180 students): -\$1,000,000+
- New Loan Payment on New Schools: -\$1,100,000
- 2020-2021 funding vs costs: -\$500,000

**CURRENT EXPENSE NEEDS:**

- Academics - Curriculum Resources
  - Math Resources K-8 - \$600,000
  - Literacy Resources 6-8 - \$200,000
  - Science 5-8 - \$85,000

-Core Subjects 9-12 - \$400,000

**-Personnel**

- Teachers/Lead Teachers - \$450,000
- Counselors - \$300,000
- Custodians/Grounds crew - \$200,000

**CAPITAL NEEDS:**

- Cameras on buses - \$228,000
- Multipurpose building at ECHS for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade - \$185,000
- Auditorium repairs at ECHS and SCHS - \$200,000
- Technology (5-year replacement cycle)
  - Interactive Panels and Laptops for Teachers - \$200,000
  - Student Devices and Desktops - \$1,000,000
- Demolition of closed schools - \$1,500,000
- Loan of new schools - \$1,100,000

**NECESSARY REQUESTS**

**-Current Expense Budget**

-10% increase over 2019-2020 = \$6,037,935

**-Capital Project Budget**

-\$1,500,000 over 2019-2020 = \$2,050,000

**-Retain Sales Tax on Article 40 and 42**

-Loan payment on new schools - \$1,100,000

**-One-time funding for school demolition**

-\$1,500,000 for ADMS, GES, and FB

**Agenda Item #7: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:11 P.M., Chairman Russ stated the Joint Meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**