



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Thursday, June 8, 2017

6:00 PM

Agriculture & Conference Center - Rooms A & B

Special Meeting with the Board of Education

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Hales called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. She stated Chairman Crawford would be a little late.

Present from the Board of Education: Superintendent Dr. Derrick D. Jordan, Attorney Eva DuBuisson, and members Gary Leonard, Jane Allen Wilson, David Hamm, Melissa Hlavac, and Del Turner.

Present: 4 - Chairman Jim Crawford, Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Mike Dasher and Commissioner Karen Howard

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Walter Petty

BOARD PRIORITIES

17-2219

Accreditation Report

Attachments: [AdvancED Exit Report PPT Chatham](#)

[AdvancED External Review Report approved Chatham](#)

Dr. Derrick D. Jordan gave a presentation to the group. (Presentation attached)

Vice Chair Hales asked how long the accreditation process lasts. Dr. Jordan stated about one year.

Vice Chair Hales asked if having an advocate for each student was already something Chatham County Schools was considering. Dr. Jordan stated yes. Communities in Schools is a big part of that.

Commissioner Howard asked if accreditation is voluntary. Dr. Jordan stated it is voluntary and the school system initiates the process. Commissioner Howard asked if it is voluntary everywhere. Dr. Jordan stated he is unsure if it is voluntary in other states but it is voluntary in North Carolina.

Commissioner Howard asked if the team had access to Flight Plan 2020. Dr. Jordan stated they did have access.

Vice Chair Hales asked if these were different findings than were found five years ago. Dr. Jordan stated the findings were very different. The last process found the school system to be greatly fragmented. The latest process found that the school system has improved.

Commissioner Dasher asked if they have a good evaluation process for programs. Dr. Jordan stated yes. Chatham County Schools is engaged in assessment but a formal process has not been identified for every program. They are currently working on evaluating and strengthening the dual language program. They are also in the process of creating a list of programs and putting them on a review cycle.

17-2220

Legislative update and impacts

Attachments: [CCS Legislative Updates and Impacts](#)

Dr. Jordan gave a presentation to the group. (Presentation attached)

Commissioner Dasher asked if it is legal to make the Driver's Education a need based fee structure. Dr. Jordan stated more than likely but it could become muddy trying to orchestrate that. Mr. Leonard stated the state limits the fee (\$60/student max).

Commissioner Howard asked if the schools would maintain the level of teachers in grades 4-12. Dr. Jordan stated they have wide flexibility. There is the potential for HB 13 to impact higher grades. Commissioner Howard asked if the thirty teachers needed by 2018-2019 is in addition to current staff. Dr. Jordan stated it depends on who you ask. According to the state it is not in addition to current staff. According to school districts it is absolutely in addition to if you desire to maintain the status quo. Commissioner Howard stated the schools already have the challenge of finding teachers and the state is not giving much more money to pay for the teachers required.

Commissioner Dasher asked if the \$485,000 has been determined not to be spent. Dr. Jordan stated the Board of Education has agreed that if HB 13 is approved, they would use this money to fill the hole created.

Commissioner Dasher stated he appreciates the Board of Education planning ahead.

Chairman Crawford also asked if increasing class sizes in grades 4-12 would be across the board. Dr. Jordan stated yes across the board but the principals would need to make decisions regarding who needed more support not having more students. There is research around the most effective teachers taking on larger classes. Commissioner Howard asked if we have spaces large enough to do university style classes. Dr. Jordan responded yes, in some cases, with a bit of creativity. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district is currently testing out university style classes.

17-2221

Capital Improvement Plan update

Attachments: [CCS CIP Updates including status of new Elementary and High Schools](#)

Chief Operations Officer Chris Blice gave a presentation to the group. (Presentation attached)

Vice Chair Hales asked if the plan for the high school included re-use water. Director of Maintenance and Construction Randy Drumheller stated not at this time but they can take a look at it and come back with a cost.

Dr. Jordan stated the Board of Education has charged him with coming to them with a

small list of names for the high school and elementary school.

Commissioner Howard asked if both access points for the high school are on Seaforth Road. Mr. Blice stated yes but things are not completely finalized yet. Commissioner Hales asked if a blueprint was available. Mr. Blice stated yes there is a design schematic but nothing is nailed down at this point. Mr. Drumheller added that the current drawing has buses & cars in one lane and students in the other.

Commissioner Hales asked what CRA, the architect, has done for the county. County Manager Renee Paschal stated the Justice Center and the Joint Transportation Facility.

Commissioner Howard asked if the elementary school is a faster build than the high school. Dr. Jordan stated yes. Commissioner Hales asked if county water can be used for both schools. Mr. Blice stated yes.

Commissioner Dasher asked if DOT would get involved or if a traffic study would be done for the area, specifically with the light near Margaret Pollard School. Mr. Blice stated DOT will assist and traffic will be considered when building.

Chairman Crawford asked that the traffic impact analysis be shared with the commissioners.

Commissioner Howard asked if the entrance to the elementary school entrance is on Parker Herndon. Mr. Blice stated yes. Commissioner Howard also asked if there would be an entrance on Andrews Store Road. Mr. Blice stated no, but things are still preliminary. Dr. Jordan stated there is potential but still very early in the process.

Dr. Jordan stated that the Board of Education did not want to use eminent domain unless absolutely necessary. Mr. Leonard mentioned an interest in landbanking. Commissioner Dasher asked if there was ownership of the land on Pea Ridge Road. The County Manager stated the County owns it, not the school system. Chairman Crawford asked if there was enough land to build a school. The County Manager stated yes, it is over 100 acres.

Commissioner Howard asked if the speed limit would be lowered. Mr. Drumheller stated not at this time.

Chairman Crawford asked if principals are asked to do assessments of their structures and then district weed out and submit to Board. Mr. Blice stated yes. Mr. Leonard stated some schools even survey staff, parents and students.

17-2222

Discussion

Dr. Jordan distributed a handout comparing the House, Senate and Governor's budget. Dr. Jordan also distributed documents with salary supplement comparisons.

Ms. Wilson was not sure if the County Commissioners were aware of the sunset that could have happened with HB 13 and how that would have affected the schools. Dr. Jordan stated it would have been catastrophic in terms of having to add more resources without forewarning. They have been told superintendents have been too vocal on this issue and now superintendents will have to certify the class sizes and have the document notarized. If you are found out of compliance there have been some legislators that have said they want written into law that the superintendent's contract as issued is null and void. Ms. DuBuisson stated the law already states that the superintendent's pay will be withheld.

Dr. Jordan stated he is thankful for the good relationship between the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners. Members of both boards agreed that isn't always the case.

Commissioner Dasher asked if there are any performance based supplements. Dr. Jordan stated Chatham County had a performance based supplement. It was based on student performance but they found they were losing ground in the competition against neighboring counties.

Chairman Crawford mentioned a joint effort in continuing to improve Chatham County Schools and have plan and strong consensus behind those plans.

Commissioner Hales asked for an update regarding lottery funds. The County Manager stated the state isn't using the funds like initially intended and the pot of money is small.

Ms. Wilson would like to have a landbanking committee again. Vice Chair Hales agreed that landbanking should be a priority.

Commissioner Dasher asked about Chatham Park land. Dr. Jordan stated they will provide land as long as their project will generate schools and they will work with the district as needed.

Commissioner Hales mentioned workforce development and creating a similar set-up as Lee County with community college.

Chairman Crawford stated if you have a school near the lake that provides water to the central part of the state, this high school could be dedicated to environmental science. The school could be a lesson in environmental engineering.

Commissioner Dasher wants to look at water reclamation options and know the trade off with cost. Mr. Leonard stated money is the issue but is open to bringing forward other options.

Dr. Jordan announced upcoming graduation information.

ADJOURNMENT