1-28-08 15181

VIRGINIA:

At a joint recessed meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors and Washington County School Board held Tuesday, January 28, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., at the School Board Offices in Abingdon, Virginia the following were present:

PRESENT:

Board of Supervisors:

Kenneth O. Reynolds, Chairman Jack R. McCrady, Jr., Vice Chairman Phillip B. McCall Dulcie M. Mumpower Odell Owens Paul O. Price Thomas G. Taylor

Mark K. Reeter, County Administrator Mark W. Seamon, Accounting Manager

Washington County School Board:

Tom Musick, Chair Elizabeth P. Lowe, Vice Chair Buckey Boone Curtis Burkett Dayton Owens Herschel Stevens

Dr. Alan Lee, Superintendent Dr. Tom Graves, Assistant Superintendent Melissa Caudill, Director of Finance & Human Resources and Clerk of the Board

ABSENT:

Washington County School Board:

Bill Brooks

1. <u>Call to Order</u>

a. Washington County School Board

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tom Musick, Board Chair.

1-28-08 15182

b. Washington County Board of Supervisors

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kenneth Reynolds, Chairman of the Board.

2. <u>Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance</u>

Dr. Alan Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Washington County School Board:

Upon motion by Ms. Lowe, and seconded by Mr. Owens agenda was approved as presented.

The vote on this motion was as follows: (6-0)

Mr. Musick	Aye
Mr. Boone	Aye
Mr. Burkett	Aye
Ms. Lowe	Aye
Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Stevens	Aye

Washington County Board of Supervisors:

Upon motion by Ms. Mumpower, seconded by Mr. Odell Owens, the agenda was approved as presented.

The vote on this motion was as follows: (7-0)

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Mr. McCall
Mr. McCrady
Mrs. Mumpower
Mrs. Mumpower
Mr. Owens
Mr. Price
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Taylor
Aye
Aye
Aye
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4. <u>Presentation by Dr. Alan Lee</u>

Dr. Lee presented information on Standards of Learning test scores from 1999 to 2007, which showed significant improvements in pass rates in most areas.

In August, 2007, there were a total of seventy-two seniors, out of five hundred fifty-seven, at risk of not graduating due to not passing the Standards of Learning tests. That number dropped to forty in November, and currently, there are eleven. Washington County has had only one student who did not graduate due to not being able to pass the Standards of Learning tests.

In 2003-2004 sixty-four students successfully passed the credentialing exams for industry, state licenses and NOCTI. In 2006-2007, that number increased to three hundred seventeen students passing those exams.

78% of graduates plan to continue their education/training.

5. Presentation by Melissa Caudill

Ms. Caudill provided handouts of the proposed 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget as well as proposed salary scales.

- Revenues Projected State Entitlement Increase is \$3,136,953 as of December 17, 2007.
- Anticipated Federal Funding \$5,724,747.
- Miscellaneous Revenue \$1,779,681.
- Salaries & Wages Entering Year 4 of the 5-Year Plan 2008-2009 Estimated Cost: \$1,767,000 (Excluding Benefits).

FICA & Other Employment Taxes - \$251,000.

VRS Increase (Teachers) - \$500,000.

Health Insurance – No Estimated Increase.

Total Increase in Salaries & Benefits: \$2,518,000.

- Debt Funding Additional Debt Obligations to Service Bond Payments: \$506,337. Debt service will increase from \$1,464,475 to \$1,970,812.
- Health Insurance Costs Current Projected Annual Cost of \$6.1 million. Health insurance committee in RFP process for 2008-2009 Fiscal Year.
- Departmental Requests (General Fund) Total Expenditure Requests \$4,372,413. Remaining Amount to be Funded \$1,235,460.
- General School Fund Proposed Increase is \$4,372,413.
- School Textbook Fund Proposed Increase is \$601,625.
- School Construction Fund Proposed Increase is \$3,173,844.
- School Cafeteria Fund Proposed Increase is \$411,492.
- Local Revenue Request for 2008-2009 is \$1,235,460 Additional Funds.

6. <u>Discussions</u>

- Ms. Mumpower asked if an assistant band director was being considered for John S. Battle High School. Dr. Lee replied that he is looking at statistics that compare John S. Battle with the other high schools before making a decision.
- Mr. Taylor asked how the list of budget requests was compiled. Dr. Lee explained that principals compile the list, and, supervisors review the list. Dr. Mullins then looks at all levels. This list has been through two months of discussion and has been reduced by approximately \$500,000.
- Mr. Boone explained that the request for 2.5 library aides to be made full time is due to the increase in reading programs at the elementary level.
- Mr. Musick explained that the reason the salary scales appear to give some a higher percentage raise is due to some employees who have topped out on the salary scale and do not receive a step increase.
- Mr. McCrady asked why administrators were on a step program. Dr Lee explained that in comparing
 our administrators' salaries with other counties in the region, it was determined that they should be
 raised to a competitive level over a five-year period.

- Mr. Taylor asked if a merit system could be considered to evaluate staff. Dr. Lee responded that the history of education is to have salary scales that progress. All of our staff are evaluated annually.
- Mr. McCrady stated that he disagreed with the administrators' salary scales. He asked which line
 items contributed to the largest amount of returned funds to the county. Ms. Caudill responded that
 electricity and retirement estimates were greatest. She will provide Mr. McCrady with a list of
 retirement information.
- Mr. Taylor asked how many line items had changes and how many budget transfers were made. Mr. Caudill responded that rarely are changes made to major categories. Mr. Musick said that Ms. Caudill has done an excellent job of tightening up line items in the budget and eliminating those that were not necessary. Very minimal changes are being seen due to the precise method of accounting that is now in place.
- Mr. Taylor asked about graduation numbers, and Dr. Lee responded that our dropout rate is 2% and our graduation rate is 92%.
- Dr. Lee said that last year we had less than 2% unexpended funds.
- Mr. Price said he likes the School Board's method of keeping spending to a minimum and returning unexpended fund to the County.
- Mr. McCall said he appreciates the fact that the School Board does not have a flurry of end of year spending to use unexpended funds.
- Mr. Taylor asked about the county's goals on class size, and Dr. Lee responded that the goal is twenty-four students to one teacher.
- Mr. Taylor commented that Bland County historically lead this region in SAT scores. Mr. Catron said that students are encouraged to take the SATs. Washington County offers the PSATs, and some students also take the ACTs, depending on where they plan to attend college.
- Mr. McCall asked if local government is being taught in the school system, and Dr. Lee said that Mr.
 Catron recently gave a presentation to the School Board about Civics Education in Washington
 County. The school system begins civics education in Kindergarten and it continues through the
 senior year. It focuses on local government as well.
- Mr. Stevens said that our seniors can participate in Washington County Community Scholars and qualify for free tuition from Virginia Highlands Community College. They are required to work some community service hours, and he suggested that the Board of Supervisors use their services if they have an opportunity.
- Mr. Dayton Owens said he is proud of the progress that has been made to improve teachers' salaries.
- Mr. Burkett is proud that the Phase I of the Facilities Plan has begun. The plan to improve teachers' salaries has helped us to attract and retain quality teachers. He believes that not a better dollar is spent than that to educate our children.
- Mr. Reynolds stated that Dr. Lee, the staff and School Board Members have kept the Board of Supervisors abreast of things happening in the school system, and he encouraged that to continue.
- Dr. Lee relayed Mr. Brooks' comment about the positive feedback he heard from people who attended or read about the ground breaking ceremonies in the county. Other counties are struggling with maintenance issues that Washington County has diligently taken care of over the years. The building projects have been delayed because it was important to bring the infrastructures up to date first. Carryover money has been spent on heating systems.
- Mr. McCall is proud of the Board of Supervisors' support to provide things for children.
- Mr. Boone said he was excited about the five-year plan to improve salaries as well as the new facilities' construction. The contingency positions requested in the budget are a safeguard for future positions that cannot be predicted at this time due to the early development of the budget. If those positions are not needed, the funds budgeted for them will not be expended.
- Mr. Musick said that the groundbreaking ceremonies were a good way to get some positive publicity about what is happening in the schools. He reiterated the importance of early intervention for

1-28-08 15185

students and professional development for staff. He credited the Board of Supervisors for their continued support of the school system and education.

- Mr. Odell Owens asked if the school system was seeing an increase in enrollment in any certain area. Dr. Lee responded that an increase in enrollment may be seen from a new development near Abingdon Elementary School. John S. Battle High School is not taking transfer students at this time due to the number of students coming into the county from Bristol.
- Ms. Mullins said that Greendale Elementary and Watauga Elementary have seen growth. Wallace Middle School receives students from Bristol. Kindergarten enrollment is high.
- Ms. Mumpower attended the groundbreaking ceremonies and is glad we are able to improve our facilities and not have to look at new buildings right now. She is extremely proud of our teachers. Every dime is well spent, as education is very important.

School Board Members and Board of Supervisor Members all expressed appreciation for the good working relationship they had between the boards, and the School Board thanked the Board of Supervisors for their continued support of the school system.

Mr. Musick asked for further comments, and there were none from the School Board.

Mr. Reynolds asked for further comments, and there were none from the Board of Supervisors.

7. Adjourn

Washington County School Board:

On motion by Mr. Boone, seconded by Mr. Lowe it was resolved to adjourn the meeting.

The vote on this motion was as follows: (6-0)

Mr. Musick	Aye
Mr. Boone	Aye
Mr. Burkett	Aye
Ms. Lowe	Aye
Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Stevens	Ave

Washington County Board of Supervisors:

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Price, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting.

The vote on this motion was as follows: (7-0)

Mr. McCall	Aye
Mr. McCrady	Aye
Mrs. Mumpower	Aye
Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye
Mr. Reynolds	Aye
Mr. Taylor	Aye

Prepared by:	
Naoma A. Norris, Recording Clerk	
Approved by the Washington C Supervisors:	County Board of
Kenneth O. Reynolds, Chairman	