

The Washington County School Board convened for a Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors on Monday, January 28, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the School Board Office, 812 Thompson Drive, Abingdon, Virginia. Present were:

Washington County School Board:

Mr. Jim R. Sullivan, Superintendent	Dr. Douglas Arnold, Bd. Vice Chair
Dr. Foney Mullins, Asst. Supt.	Mr. J. Sanders Henderson III
Ms. Melissa Caudill, Director of Finance, H.R. & Clerk of the Board	Ms. Elizabeth P. Lowe
Mr. Billy W. Brooks, Board Chair	Mr. Tom Musick
	Mr. Dayton Owens

Washington County Board of Supervisors:

Ms. Nadine Culberson, County Adm.	Ms. Dulcie M. Mumpower, Chair
Mr. Mark Seamon, Director of Budget & Finance	Mr. Phillip B. McCall, Vice Chair
	Mr. William B. Gibson
	Mr. Odell Owens
	Mr. Randy L. Pennington
	Mr. C. Wayne Stevens, Jr.
	Mr. Joseph C. Straten

1. The School Board Meeting was called to order by Mr. Billy W. Brooks, School Board Chair. Mr. Brooks welcomed the group.
2. Determination of Quorum - six of seven School Board members were present. Mr. Herschel Stevens was absent from the meeting.
3. The Recessed Meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Ms. Dulcie Mumpower, Board of Supervisors Chair. Ms. Mumpower thanked the School Board for meeting with the Board of Supervisors.
4. Determination of quorum – seven of seven Board of Supervisors members were present.
5. Mr. Jim R. Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
6. Upon motion by Ms. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Musick, by 6-0 vote, the agenda was approved as presented.
7. Upon motion by Mr. Odell Owens, seconded by Mr. McCall, by 7-0 vote, the agenda was approved as presented.
8. Mr. Sullivan welcomed the group. He informed them that he has met with department staff to look for areas of adjustment in funding. The School Board Budget Committee has met, and they have also had a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. Budget briefing sessions have been held in small groups with the Board of Supervisors and School Board Members. He and some of the Board Members met with legislators during the Legislative Conference on January 24 to talk with them about funding and other issues. He acknowledged the Board of Supervisors support and the help they provided last year by providing \$3.6 million to help offset the \$6.5 million loss in state funding. The \$3.6 million enabled the school system to maintain student/teacher ratios, offset the VRS increase and allowed them to provide a raise for employees as well as add back some crucial positions such as school nurse and fine arts teachers. He commended the Board of Supervisors for their support of Phase I and II of the Facilities Plan.

2013-2014 Budget: The Governor has proposed a 2% salary increase for Standards of Quality funded positions, which amounts to approximately \$460,000. This implementation would cost the School System approximately \$1.2 million to provide a raise without a step or \$2.2 million

to provide a raise plus step for all employees. The General Assembly is, however, considering providing funding for a 2% raise for all employees. Another issue is sequestration, which will be a loss to the school system of approximately \$300,000 if fully implemented. The VRS appears to be stable for the coming year, health insurance is estimated to increase by 10%, and fuel and other utility costs are estimated to remain the same as last year. Due to the early February deadline for budget submission to the Board of Supervisors, definite information will not be available until a later date.

9. Ms. Caudill presented a Power Point of estimates for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget as follows:

- Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Total: \$83,880,040
General Fund: \$74,504,469
Textbook Fund: \$3,118,592
Facilities Fund: \$1,951,050
Food Service Fund: \$4,305,929
- Demographics:
The Washington County School System consists of four high schools, four middle schools and seven elementary schools as well as the Washington County Career & Technical Education Center, Administrative Offices, Technology/Special Services, and Facilities Warehouse.
There are approximately 1,014 contracted employees, 50 fiscal agencies and 513 substitutes and temporary employees. Student enrollment as of December 2012 was: 248 Pre-K; 7,144 K-12; and Total Enrollment with Pre-K, 7,392. Number of employees by status was provided as well as percent of contracted employees by years of service. There have been approximately fifty-four personnel reductions from 2008-2012.
- Revenue for 2013-2014 will have a \$1,806,066 reduction.
- Expenditures: FY13 \$83,880,174; FY14 \$85,164,108; FY13 to FY14 Change \$1,283,934
- Estimated Funding Deficit for 2013-2014: \$3,090,000
- Additional Cost to Implement Compensation Plan Final Year 5 is \$1,100,000

10. Discussion:

- Ms. Lowe said that personnel reductions of fifty-four people since 2008 have been made, and these people are in all categories and different jobs throughout the county.
- Mr. Musick said that we entered into the five-year Salary Improvement Plan in order to attract the best possible teachers. With no raises for three years, we have taken a step back, and in a few more years we will get even farther behind. We need to move in the right direction.
- Mr. Dayton Owens said that the school system, due to frugal budgeting, has been able to return money to the Board of Supervisors every year. We are responsible with the money we receive.
- Mr. Brooks said that we are asking for extra positions in order to maintain our class sizes to an acceptable level. Our budget requests are necessary things to maintain a high quality school system. He appreciates the good working relationship between both boards. Dr. Ratliff has been chosen as our next superintendent, and we were fortunate to have two highly qualified individuals apply.
- Ms. Mumpower said she appreciated the presentation, which has been informative and helpful.
- Mr. McCall asked if Phase II was under budget, and Ms. Caudill responded that we would be under by approximately \$400,000 if no other invoices are received. This surplus will be used for roof installations. Mr. McCall asked if temporary employees who work a full year receive insurance and benefits. Ms. Caudill responded that at present they do not, but she is not sure what the new health care act will bring. One issue is they are hired as aides for particular students, and we are not guaranteed to be able to use them all year. Dr. Mullins commented that tutors are also considered temporary, and all schools employ tutors.
- Mr. Gibson asked about the estimated health insurance increase. Ms. Caudill responded that our rates are based on our claims experience. He also asked if the \$1.6 million from the stimulus funds for salaries would have to be provided year after year, and the response was yes.
- Ms. Mumpower said she would like to see a comparison of health insurance increases for the county and school system.
- Mr. Sullivan commented that the Governor has asked the state to introduce a study to include school systems with the state insurance plan.

- Ms. Mumpower asked about upgrades to stadiums at Holston High School and John S. Battle High School. Mr. Sullivan responded that we are looking at field houses as well as other facilities upgrades. The order in which upgrades are done is need driven.

Mr. Brooks asked the Board of Supervisors members to continue to study the information provided and call if they have questions.

Ms. Mumpower thanked the School Board and said the Board of Supervisors appreciate the job administration does. Staff and teachers are committed to seeing our students get the best education possible. The Board of Supervisors is committed to assist and providing funding. She said that Mr. Sullivan has done an outstanding job as Superintendent, and we are honored to have him as part of Washington County.

Mr. Brooks said that Dr. Ratliff is anxious to be here and is willing to work with Mr. Sullivan prior to July 1.

11. Upon motion by Mr. Musick, seconded by Mr. Henderson, by 6-0 vote, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.
12. Upon motion by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Pennington, by 7-0 vote, the Board of Supervisors recessed until Wednesday, January 30, 2013, at 8:00 p.m.

_____, Chair

_____, Clerk

_____, Recorder