

August 15, 2022

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met in a Special Called Joint Meeting on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM with the Washington County School Board of Education (BOE) at the Washington County Early College School in Creswell, NC. Commissioners Ann C. Keyes, Carol V. Phelps and Julius Walker, Jr. were present in the room. Also present were County Manager/County Attorney Curtis Potter and Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett. Commissioners Tracey A. Johnson, William R. "Bill" Sexton, Jr. and County Finance Officer Missy Dixon were unable to attend.

Washington County Board of Education Members C. Riddick, L. Clark, J. Phelps and F. Norman were present. Also present were Dr. L. Carr, Superintendent and Ms. C. Pettiford, Clerk to the Board. BoE Member V. Cherry was unable to attend.

BOE Chair Riddick called the BOE meeting to order. BOCC Vice-Chair Walker welcomed everyone and called the BOCC meeting to order.

It was determined that four (4) members of the BOE were present and three (3) members of the BOCC therefore, both Boards have a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Doug Maxwell said he doesn't know what the BOE is after. They should fix what they already have. How much is insurance going to be on a glass school? How is a new school going to improve the education of the County's students? Mr. Maxwell stated he has hired students from the County's high schools and they can't read a tape measure or do simple math.

Ms. Charlotte Maxwell stated that she taught at PHS and CHS. Kids from this County have had the chance to go far and didn't. Why is a new school going to make kids better? Kids need to be built up. Ms. Maxwell said she taught in a trailer with holes in it. Basic education is not being taught in our schools. Basic math, science and English need to be taught.

ESSR BUDGET: Dr. Carr stated that she wanted to bring both boards back together since the Building Committee has been meeting. Dr. Carr also said that Ms. Julie Simpson is going to present the ESSER Budgets (PRC 171 and PRC 181) tonight since it is due to DPI soon.

Ms. Simpson gave her presentation on the ESSR Budgets.

BOE Member Clark made a motion to approve the ESSR Budget. BOE Member Phelps seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL FUNDING AGREEMENT: Mr. Potter said the Building Committee met a couple of weeks ago and looked at a rough draft of the funding agreement between the WCS and the County. The funding for relocating the Early College was also discussed. The building in Roper (Fall of 2024) would not be ready till Fall of 2024 since students are still in that building. Another thing noted is that WCS would have to bus students to outdoor athletic activities to Washington County High School fields. A bigger kitchen was going to have to be put in the budget. Mr. Bob Jessup, the County's Financial Attorney, completed the form exhibits on the

back of the funding agreement, the project agreement and a proposed form lease. The County will own property and building while under construction. The \$12M borrowed by the County is to be paid back to the County from WCS. Some typographical mistakes were fixed in the documents. Mr. Potter said there are lots of moving parts stacked on top of each other and also commended participants of WCS and the County for continuing to move forward on this project. Dr. Carr said WCS received an updated timeline, but still has the completion date of the new building of July 2024. Mr. Potter said certain bids have to be in hand before going to the LGC's Dec 7 mtg. He also said that overall, things are on track. Mr. Potter feels both WCS and the County can all stick to the timeline.

Dr. Carr said it was mentioned to have some marketing materials prepared to show the community what the new school is going to look like.

BOE Chair Riddick noted that WCS will need a JRROTC room.

Mr. Potter said what he has heard from the community is concern over the the amount of funds needed to go forward with such a project. Mr. Potter reiterated that this project is being put forth without raising taxes or going into either Boards' general fund.

BOCC Vice-Chair Walker thanked Dr. Carr and Mr. Potter for getting the two Boards together to make some tough decisions and they have kept this project moving together to do what's best for the children in Washington County.

Commissioner Keyes thanked both Boards on the tremendous work that has been put into this project. She also stated that she is a product of Washington County's school system. The BOCC's intent is to not have a tax increase but to do the best for students and citizens in Washington County.

Dr. Carr said WCS currently is submitting an application for Phase II additional funding. She asked that everyone please reach out to their legislatures for more funds for technology and furniture and outdoor athletic facilities. Dr. Carr also said she is grateful to folks purchasing lottery tickets! Dr. Carr said WCS will continue to ask for funding.

BOE Member Clark said this new school being built is what is needed for the County's kids. They have sat in schools with mold and our kids have suffered.

At 6:35 PM, with no further business to be discussed, **BOE Member Phelps made a motion to adjourn the BOE meeting. BOE Member Clark seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Keyes made a motion to adjourn the BOCC meeting. Commissioner Phelps seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Julius Walker, Jr.
Vice-Chair

Julie J. Bennett, MMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board