

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in joint budget session with the Pender County Board of Education on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at the Public Assembly Room, 805 S. Walker St., Burgaw, NC 28425.

Commissioners Present: Chairman George Brown; and Commissioners F.D. Rivenbark, Chester Ward and David Williams.

Also present were County Manager Rick Benton; County Attorney Trey Thurman; Finance Office David McCole; Deputy Clerk to the Board Glenda Pridgen; and other staff and members of the press and public.

Board of Education members present: Chairman Katherine Herring; Vice Chairman Karen Rouse; and board members Karen Gonzales; Kenneth Lanier; and Tom Roper.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Allison Sholar; School Attorney Wayne Brock; Finance Officer Betsy Chestnut; and other Board of Education staff.

Chairman Brown continued the Board of Commissioner's regular March 21st meeting at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the Pender County Board of Education to present its FY 11-12 budget proposal to the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Sholar delivered a Power Point Presentation entitled "Pender County Schools Budget Presentation." The presentation included: Average Daily Membership; Personnel; Central Office Cuts; Central Office Staff Levels; Current Expense Expenditures-State; Current Expense Expenditures-Federal; Current Expense Expenditures-Local; Current Expense Expenditures-Total 2008/09; Per Pupil Expenditure; Schools Current Expense and Capital Outlay Funding History; Five Year Facility Plan; State Budget Possible Impact on Pender County Schools-5% Cut; State Budget Possible Impact on Pender County Schools-10% Cut; County Assistance Required; Governor's Budget; Legislative Options 3/11/11; and Other Issues Possibly Affecting the Budget. Ms. Sholar, Ms. Chestnut, Mr. McCole and other school staff explained each category of the presentation and answered questions. The entire presentation is on file with the permanent records in the Clerk to the Board's Office.

Some of the items discussed in detail included: shifting of public school cost responsibilities to counties, such as school bus replacement and workers compensation; reduction/loss of lottery and ADM monies for school construction/debt; having to share funds with charter schools; spending fund balance to help pay down debt service; the 3.5¢ additional taxes approved by the Board which had never been applied; taxes, revenue neutral and the new revaluation; losing teacher assistants would mean losing some bus drivers; the difference in state, federal and local current expense expenditures; summary of existing debt service; priorities in the Five Year Facility Plan; the impact of state budget cuts on teaching positions; possible office support, custodians and substitute teacher cuts; possible elimination of the More at Four program; non-instructional support cuts; possible elimination of Low Wealth money; food services contract, proceeds from vending machines and federal laws for child nutrition; contracts for custodians; and payment of technology, maintenance, supplements, athletics and utilities. Handouts were distributed and Ms. Chestnut explained the Capital Outlay process.

There were more questions and discussions. Mr. Ward remarked he had attended a workshop a while back and he thinks Pender County's Board of Education is doing a very good job and is very impressive based on the amount of money it received.

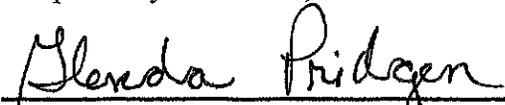
Ms. Herring said we need to look at this as a partnership in education and she wants the Commissioners to partner with the Board of Education in dealing with these problems. Mr. Brown said we have always partnered with the Schools and we all have vested interests in the Schools. There were closing remarks by members of both boards. The Board concluded its joint meeting with the Board of Education at 7:23 p.m.

At 7:23 p.m., Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to enter into closed session, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11: (3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded; and (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General policy matters may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to come out of closed session. There were no announcements made upon exiting the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



Rick Benton, Clerk to the Board