

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a joint meeting with the Board of Education on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 in the Media Center at Northeastern High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cecil Perry, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Dixon
Dr. William R. Sterritt
Frankie Meads
Bettie J. Parker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Chairman
Lloyd E. Griffin, III

OTHERS PRESENT: Rodney Bunch, County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Sheri Small, Finance Officer
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

Also present were School Superintendent Dr. Larry Cartner, members of the Board of Education, and school department directors.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Vice-Chairman Perry who thanked the Board of Education for their hard work and for hosting the meeting. Board of Education Chairman Barry Overman thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss the needs of the school system.

Dr. Cartner updated the Board on ECPPS' Strategic Planning Process, the 1:1 Technology Initiative, and the school system's Capital Projects needs.

Dr. Cartner stated that the Board of Education began the Strategic Planning Process last September. He said for three months they updated their mission, vision, and goals statements, which were adopted on November 23, 2016. The information was used to build their strategic plan. He said the Task Force was then developed, which included community groups, with balanced gender and race and three community forums were held. The teams took the board's five goals and did a swat analysis to see what their strengths and weaknesses were. The Task Force is also analyzing the data received from the three community forums. He said he is very happy with the progress that has been made in such a short amount of time.

The school board had a retreat on January 14th and spent the day dealing with some significant issues that are facing our school district over the next several years. Out of that retreat, one of the items they talked about is where the schools need to go with technology for our students. Dr. Cartner said there is no proof that technology will improve student achievement, but it does increase student engagement. He said digital learning is the way of the future. It is a tool for learning and teaching. It does not replace a teacher or a curriculum. The nature of today's adolescent learner has changed dramatically. That change and development will continue to accelerate. Using technology as a tool, will open the windows of the world to our students, affording them the opportunity to use the tools of this century to learn quickly and deeply. He said they see technology as a way of leveling the playing field for our students and teachers.

Dr. Cartner said in February they developed the 1:1 Technology Initiative, which will provide technology devices, such as a laptop, iPad, or Chromebook for each student in the school system. They are still in the process of working out the details. He stated that they are proposing rolling out 3 grades per year and possibly leasing the equipment. The total cost of supplying the equipment for all students is estimated at \$535,794, which will be an ongoing expense.

Dr. Cartner went on to say that the school system's teachers have been left out in the cold for a long time and they need technology equipment as well. He said many are still operating on Windows XP, which is very outdated. In the past five years, technology requirements for teachers have changed dramatically. Most notably, teachers of record are required to have daily interaction with various state databases and management systems. Teachers are also required to

have a minimum number of technology credits when renewing their license. The effective teachers of today use their laptop to lead classroom instruction in a variety of settings and timeframes. He said their teachers have never received uniform technology from the district and as a result teachers are using laptops that are at the end of life cycle and can no longer be updated. He estimated it would cost approximately \$108,649 to purchase technology devices for all our teachers in one year.

Lengthy discussion followed. Barry Overman said one advantage our school system has is that we are doing this later than other districts and those districts have already worked out the bugs.

Dr. Cartner provided an update on the school systems' major capital projects. He said the J C Sawyer Roof Replacement Project is ready for bid. The design work was funded in the current budget and the remaining costs will be in the upcoming budget. In order for this project to occur this summer 2016, ECPPS needs approval to bid the work in March. He said if we do not bid in March, this project would have to start next summer 2017, which will push all the other critical projects back. The River Road HVAC Project was funded for design development only. As discussed in November 2015, the initial assessment determined that all the heat pump units should be replaced instead of just installing a dehumidification system. This change in scope increased the project by \$643,600. While currently working on the design development phase, the remaining cost will be placed in the 2016-17 Capital Outlay. This is the only HVAC project for the upcoming budget.

Dr. Cartner said ECPPS' current priority list is as follows:

- Priority 1 – J C Sawyer ES Roof Replacement - \$566,000
- Priority 2 – River Road MS HVAC Replacement - \$960,600
- Priority 3 – Northeastern High School Phase VI Roof Replacement - \$596,000
- Priority 4 – Sheep Harney ES Phase I Roof Replacement - \$271,862
- Priority 5 – Pasquotank ES Phase I Roof Restoration - \$200,000
- Priority 6 – P W Moore ES Roof Restoration - \$5,000

Dr. Cartner noted that the school system has some major painting needs in its facilities. They hope to get on a schedule to paint the schools with some regularity, with touchup work in the interim. Currently, some local painting contractors are working on a "ballpark" estimates for the cost.

Finance Officer Sheri Small updated the boards on restricted revenue sources for capital funding for the schools. For the year ended June 30, 2015, there was a total of \$2,690,913 of restricted funds available. Debt services totaled \$3,789,182. The shortfall totaled \$1,098,268. She reported the cumulative shortage from 6-30-1996 to 6-31-2014 totals \$4,121,862. Therefore, the restrictive money the county is receiving does not cover the capital or the debt service. The remainder must come from tax money.

Mrs. Small reported that \$1.4 million was allocated for school capital needs in the 2014-15 budget and funds spent totaled \$671,645. Four projects were rolled over into the current year, which totaled \$783,401.

The board's discussed the benefits and process for putting a ¼ cent sales tax referendum on the ballot. They also discussed the benefits of bringing businesses to our area.

Vice-Chairman Perry thanked the Superintendent and the Board of Education for the information provided today.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by William Sterritt to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD