

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Joint Meeting with Caswell County Board of Commissioners
May 3, 2018

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a joint meeting with the Caswell County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the Professional Development Room located at the Administrative Offices of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Gladys Garland, Vice Chairman Sylvia Johnson, Donna Hudson, Gordon Satterfield, Ross Gwynn, and Tracy Stanley. Mel Battle was absent. Commissioners present: Vice Chairman Rick McVey, Kenneth Travis, Bill Carter, Sterling Carter. Chairman Nate Hall, Jeremiah Jeffries, and David Owen were absent.

Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter, Assistant Superintendent Andrew Tyrrell, Brian Bradner with Dewberry & Davis, County Manager Bryan Miller, Gwen Vaughn, Paula Seamster, Jerry Hatchett, Jeremy Teetor, Steve O'Striker, Vennie Beggarly, Wayne and Elin Claggett. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes for the Board of Education and Paula Seamster recorded the minutes for the Board of Commissioners.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gladys Garland.

Commissioner Rick McVey asked for a motion to call the Board of Commissioners meeting to order. Kenneth Travis moved, seconded by Bill Carter. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Dr. Carter shared a handout and read aloud the question and answer section. The questions were submitted by the county commissioners.

Commissioner Bill Carter questioned why information was not included for Oakwood. Dr. Sandra Carter responded that Oakwood cannot handle any additional capacity so therefore, it was not included.

Commissioner Kenneth Travis questioned what would happen to the teachers at Stoney Creek and expressed he did not see the need to close Stoney Creek and felt the issue did not need to be discussed any further. He stated he understood this was a question from one commissioner.

Vice Chair Rick McVey asked for clarity regarding if the grant is received and retiring the debt? Will this bring back what Caswell County Schools took out? Dr. Sandra Carter stated the grant is specific for new construction and will be used for Halls 1, 2 & 3. Gordon Satterfield stated this will reduce the amount of debt by \$6 million dollars.

Dr. Sandra Carter shared that the budget requests for Stoney Creek are only centered on safety needs.

Commissioner Kenneth Travis questioned the flyer that was shared and expressed concern with the Board of Education member's information (regarding emails and phone numbers) not being included on the flyer. Mr. Travis expressed concern with pictures on the flyer and questioned why repairs were not taken care of as they occur. Mr. Jerry Hatchett stated that budget restraints were an issue and the prior Superintendent chose to cut this out of the

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budget in 2015. Mr. Travis shared that if a new school is built and repairs are not corrected it will result in the same thing. Mr. Travis questioned who determined the numbers that are listed on the flyer noting the numbers are not correct.

Vice Chairman Rick McVey shared that he does not want this flyer passed out to the public until the numbers are correct. He wants the public to know and understand these are not the final figures. Dr. Sandra Carter stated the numbers are estimates and provide information to the public on how to calculate potential property taxes. Tracy Stanley shared that the school system is under new leadership as well as new board members that will make sure that repairs do not go unattended in the future. Donna Hudson shared that it is not the case that repairs are not needed; however, funding is limited and priorities come into play.

Commissioner Bill Carter discussed the status of the grant and timeframe noting 30 or 40 years. Vice Chairman Rick McVey stated he was not in favor of a 40 year loan. Mr. McVey noted that over the timeframe of a 40 year loan this would result in \$8 million dollars of interest. He would hope that the loan will be paid off earlier if possible if the money from the state is received. Commissioner Bill Carter suggested this being a stipulation upon receipt of the money.

County Manager Bryan Miller shared a handout with scenarios. Pages 5 and 16-20 were discussed. These showed scenarios for a \$36.5 million dollar loan with variations on tax increases to the county over 30 and 40 year comparisons. It was noted that N.L. Dillard Middle School will be paid off prior to entering into a loan for the high school. Other changes could occur based on lottery and grant money.

Vice Chairman Rick McVey asked a question on Chairman Nate Hall's behalf (who was absent); on what is the school system's "Plan B" if this is not approved? Dr. Sandra Carter shared that the Board of Education has looked at the needs of the school and made comparisons to other school systems and basically Plan B is to pursue Plan A.

Gordon Satterfield shared thoughts on tax values and noted rates may change over a period of time.

Chairman Gladys Garland shared that she felt the Board of Education has done due diligence and presented the needs of the school as well as scaled back. It was noted that if the grant is received, the items removed from the original \$42 million would be added back in.

Commissioner Sterling Carter asked for clarity on items that were discussed regarding paying the \$3 million dollars up front and paying less interest. Mr. Sterling Carter confirmed that the tax rate of 7.75% includes security. County Manager Bryan Miller stated it does. Mr. Sterling Carter questioned if the tax rate could be spread over a period of several years rather than the initial first and second year. Mr. Miller shared it could; however, you are limited to four years. Mr. Sterling Carter shared he felt this would be better for the community to spread the increases out over a period of several years. He also felt that the students would have pride in

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a new school. Mr. Sterling Carter shared that he felt the commissioners should have all their answers and clarity so a vote can be taken at their next meeting.

Gordon Satterfield questioned if the schedules included all of the safety requests. County Manager replied that they are included in some of them and will be included in the referendum noting that \$1.4 million is directly related to safety. Mr. Miller shared that the wording would need to be included on the ballot.

II. ADJOURN

Ross Gwynn made a motion to adjourn the Caswell County Board of Education meeting at 1:55 p.m., Sylvia Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Bill Carter made a motion to adjourn the Caswell County Board of Commissioners meeting at 1:55 p.m., Kenneth Travis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, May 14, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Central Office Administrative Building of Caswell County Schools.

Gladys Garland
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent