

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
MAY 22, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Jarnigan. Board members present were Chairman Jarnigan, Vice Chairman Jim Vines, Judy Cavanah, Ralph Lowery, Anne Marie Potts and Randall Bradley. Board member Jonathan Rogers was absent. Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools and Secretary to the Board, was also present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 2015-2016 School Budget

Langdon Potts, County Finance Director, passed out a budget summary for the 2015-2016 school budget. He went over the revenue portion showing the difference in percentages between the 2014-2015 budget and the 2015-2016 budget. He stated there was an increase of \$377,591 on the revenue side. He then went over the expense side of the budget showing an increase of \$377,591 which balanced. Mr. Potts asked the board if they had any questions.

There was some discussion regarding the BEP instructional component. Sherry Finchum pointed out that the BEP instructional component was for certified salaries only. She stated that a total of \$748,000 had been received and had been put in the certified salaries as required by the instructional component of the BEP. Board member Potts referred to correspondence from Commissioner McQueen dated May 15, 2015 where she said that it was to improve teacher compensation. Ms. Potts pointed out that the state had changed how school systems were able to set their salary schedules in July 2013. She further pointed out that the board had not changed their formula. She stated that the reason the state had done that was because they knew that systems had different needs and it gave them more flexibility. Ms. Potts pointed out that the board had not approved a salary schedule. Ms. Potts commented that the board wanted a 2% raise at their May 19th meeting but now it was up to 2.33%. She also pointed out that the budget presented today included moving money out of the textbook line item. She stated that on April 21st the board approved the adoption of math textbooks. She also stated that in one budget, cuts were made for four teacher units and now those units had been put back in the budget. Ms. Potts was concerned over the motion approved for a zero balanced budget and non-classified personnel receiving the same percentage raise as the teachers. She pointed out that this budget had the teachers receiving a 2.33% raise and the non-classified receiving a 2% raise. She further pointed out that another motion had been made to freeze salaries for principals, assistant principals and administrators. She commented that she did not want to cut personnel but preferred to freeze salaries which was the intent of the motion.

Unfinished Business – Budget – continued

Ms. Potts commented that there had been a lot of debate on how BEP funds should be spent and whether it was strictly for salaries. She pointed out that the commissioner said that part of the BEP funds were to be used to cover the 11th month insurance for teachers. Ms. Potts stated that she did not feel comfortable with the information that had been presented.

Dr. Edmonds read a statement from Compensation Guides and Contracts and what it authorized the director of schools to do and the state law that reinforces it. The statement read was, "The board authorizes the superintendent to establish the salary of each person employed. Each teacher shall be awarded cumulative credit for allowable teaching experience and academy training established under the State Board of Education Rules and Regulations and Minimum Standards. Any current principal and assistant principal who may earn less than the proposed administrative formula will be held harmless and not penalized financially. In addition, any state and local raise shall be passed along to such individuals." Dr. Edmonds commented that they had to be careful pointing out that administrators did not have to have a big increase but whatever was established had to be equitable.

Board member Bradley was concerned over the 11th month insurance not being applied to that in the budget.

Board member Cavanah was concerned over taking money out of the textbook fund. After some discussion, Sherry Finchum pointed out that there was still \$150,582.00 in the fund to purchase consumable textbooks for grades K-5. Ms. Cavanah asked how they would be able to replenish the textbook fund next year. Ms. Finchum stated that CTE textbooks were to be purchased next year and there were very few of those.

Chairman Jarnigan commented that Mr. Potts and his staff had done the best they could. He recommended that the board move forward with what was presented to them.

Vice Chairman Vines agreed with Mr. Jarnigan. He commented that he didn't like taking money from the administrators but they needed to move on. He stated that textbooks were not an issue with him because they still could use the current textbooks for two more years.

Board member Potts commented that she was not comfortable with the textbook cuts and the teacher salaries being increased from one meeting to the next. She was concerned about the board giving directives and those directives not being carried out. She stated that in her opinion the board had not been respected nor the board's motions. She stated that she did not have any confidence in this budget.

Unfinished Business – Budget – continued

After the discussion, board member Potts made a recommendation for the board's consideration. She asked that the finance department take the operating budget where \$313,000 was deducted. Take the reductions from the non-salaried items, take the May 14th budget reduce it by the items that reduced from the May 19th budget - \$79,000 non-salaried items. She did not want to add the four teaching units back. She wanted to see the insurance covered for the 11th month and if more was needed to balance the budget then use it from textbooks.

Mr. Potts commented that it would take approximately \$134,000 from the textbook fund to balance the budget as stated above by Ms. Potts leaving approximately \$300,000 in the textbook fund. Ms. Potts stated that she did not want that money spent because the administration had stated that they didn't have to purchase textbooks for grades 6-12.

The board agreed by consent.

Chairman Jarnigan set a called meeting for Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the central office.

Approval of 2015-2016 Federal Budget #142 and Student Nutrition Budget #143

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Vines and second by Judy Cavanah, the board voted 5-0 to approve 2015-2016 Federal Budget #142 and Student Nutrition Budget #143 as presented. (see attached)

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Bill Jarnigan, Chairman

Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools &
Secretary to the Board

Date

Date

