

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
MAY 19, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE**

CALL TO ORDER

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

The purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed 2015-2016 School Budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Jarnigan turned the floor over to Langdon Potts, County Finance Director, who then updated the board on the proposed 2015-2016 school budget. Each board member was given two different proposed budgets both showing zero deficit for their consideration. Mr. Potts went over the first budget stating that the revenue side stayed the same at \$51,443,622. He pointed out that specified changes as directed by the board at their May 14, 2015 were included in the first budget and the budget balanced. Mr. Potts pointed out that there was still a question about whether or not \$125,000 could be taken out of instructional, therefore, Dr. Edmonds and his staff had prepared a second budget with another option to balance the budget. Mr. Potts commented that he had not been able to find an answer to the question but it was reported that Maryanne Durski, from the State Department, said that it was not possible for principals and administrators not to receive a raise the same as teachers.

Dr. Edmonds went over the second proposed budget document. He stated that he had received information from Maryanne Durski, Chief Financial Officer from the Office of Local Finance with the State Department, regarding BEP allocation being spent only in instructional component compensation. Dr. Edmonds pointed out that he knew there was a problem with not giving an increase to principals, assistant principals and supervisors in the 2015-2016 budget as directed by the board. He commented that he had talked to Ms. Durski by phone and she said the principals and supervisors could not be pulled out and not given the same raise as the teachers. Dr. Edmonds stated that after receiving the information he started looking for other ways to balance the budget. He suggested looking at not buying all new textbooks for next year in grades 6-12. He pointed out that textbook adoption is for six years and the current books have only been in use for four years. He further pointed out that in two years the state mandates are to be re-written which will probably change the textbook materials. He stated that he felt this was a good option to look at in balancing the budget. He pointed out that the \$223,073.35 taken out of the budget for the reduction in the four teacher units was put back in the budget. He stated that \$313,614.00 in cuts was achieved by reducing

Unfinished Business – Budget - continued

the textbook line.

Board member Cavanah was concerned about a shortage of textbooks. Sherry Finchum commented that there was still money in the account for additional needed textbooks. Board member Potts was concerned over having to go back next year and place textbooks back in the line item. She stated that she felt they were passing this year's problem on to next year's problem. Board member Potts commented that there were two components in the salary increase which included a step increase and a raise. She went on to comment that Dr. Edmonds had said that there could not be a separate salary schedule for teachers and administrators. She stated that she had found information that said they could. She questioned when the board requested that cuts be made totaling \$5,739.00 in the principal line item did that include a step increase and the other increase that was built into the salary schedule. Langdon Potts commented that he wasn't for sure but thought it took all raises out. Dr. Edmonds commented that he did not mean to insinuate that the board could not develop a separate salary schedule for administrators and teachers if they chose to do so. He stated that he meant they did not have one at this time.

Chairman Jarnigan commented that he would not support not giving principals, assistant principals and administrators a raise. He reiterated again that he was against giving the non-instructional hourly wage personnel two raises.

Vice Chairman Vines was also concerned over cutting textbooks and having to put it back in next year's budget. Board member Cavanah commented that as long as students had a book to take home she would be fine with it.

Board member Potts commented that she would like to see a budget passed and sent on to the budget committee.

After some discussion, Bill Jarnigan stepped down from his position as chairman and turned his position over to Vice Chairman Jim Vines. Mr. Jarnigan then made the motion to rescind the motion made at the May 14, 2015 called meeting that the board not increase line items 104, 105, 132, 139, 499, 599, 524, 338, and 410 from the 2014-2015 budget, technology equipment be reduced by \$63,000 and line item 189 – Other Salaries and Wages be reduced by \$35,684 with related benefits for a total amount of approximately \$313,553 with the understanding that if the BEP comes in at a higher amount, the board will re-evaluate that at Tuesday's called meeting. Jim Vines seconded the motion.

Unfinished Business – Budget – continued

Mr. Vines opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Jarnigan responded that he had voted for the motion and he did regret it. He commented that it showed partiality in not giving the administration a raise. Board member Potts commented that teachers in Jefferson County were 39th from the bottom of salary pay in Tennessee.

Bill Jarnigan resumed his seat as Chairman.

The motion as stated above failed 3-3 with board members Ralph Lowery, Jim Vines and Bill Jarnigan voting for the motion and board members Anne Marie Potts, Randall Bradley and Judy Cavanah voting against.

There was discussion regarding submitting the proposed budget designating cuts by the board. Board member Cavanah commented that if there was a problem not giving the administrators a raise why would they want to send this budget. Mr. Potts, County Finance Director, commented that they need verification of that. Vice Chairman Vines pointed out that they would be sending a zero balanced budget at this time.

Board member Potts made the motion to send budget number 1 (with cuts as directed by the board) to the county commission budget committee with the understanding that the budget document be evaluated at the next meeting with new BEP numbers and some further clarification on the salary structure. Board member Bradley seconded the motion and the motion failed 2-3-1. Board members Potts and Bradley voted for the motion, board members Jarnigan, Cavanah and Vines voted against. Board member Lowery abstained.

Langdon Potts suggested allowing him to go to the budget committee and communicate to them that the board did have a zero balanced budget but there were two outstanding issues. He stated that he would tell them that once those issues were resolved he would come back with a budget.

After further discussion, Vice Chairman Vines made the motion to send a zero deficit budget with two outstanding issues which included the BEP and how it could be spent. Board member Bradley seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-1-1. Board members Vines, Bradley, Cavanah and Lowery voted for the motion, board member Potts voted against and Chairman Jarnigan abstained.

JCBSC
May 19, 2015
Page Four

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Bill Jarnigan, Chairman

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

Date

Date