

NORTH CAROLINA

WAYNE COUNTY

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners met with the Wayne County Board of Education on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 8:45 a.m. at the administrative office of the Wayne County Public Schools, 2001 E. Royall Avenue, Goldsboro, North Carolina, after due notice thereof had been given.

Wayne County Board of Commissioners members present: Roland M. Gray, Chairman; Atlas Price, Jr., Vice-Chairman; Wilbur E. Anderson; John M. Bell; C. Munroe Best, Jr.; J. D. Evans and Efton M. Sager.

Wayne County Board of Education members present: Thelma Smith, Chairman; George Moye, Vice-Chairman; John P. Grantham; Pete Gurley; Rick Pridgen; Shirley Sims and Dave Thomas.

Welcome

Wayne County Board of Commissioners Chairman Roland M. Gray and Wayne County Board of Education Chairman Thelma Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

County of Wayne Budget Update

Wayne County Manager W. Lee Smith, III stated the 2008-2009 County of Wayne budget had been adopted by the Board of Commissioners. The budget is 2.5% less than the 2007-2008 budget and eliminated 20 positions. The county has eliminated 145 positions over the past three years for a cost savings of \$3.7 million.

At 8:50 a.m., Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr. arrived at the meeting.

Wayne County Manager W. Lee Smith, III stated 70% of the County of Wayne workforce would be moving to a four-day work week in an effort to save energy costs and reduce employee commuting costs. This will be a change in the way the county conducts business.

Wayne County Manager W. Lee Smith, III stated the Board of Commissioners approved the current expense budget of the Wayne County Public Schools, which represented an increase of 1.5% for a total of \$18.8 million. The county funded \$665,000 in additional funds for the Wayne County Public Schools in 2008-2009.

In addition, the Board of Commissioners approved funding for the expansion budget items for the Wayne County Public Schools, which included the K-2 Summer Focused Intervention Program, one mobile pre-kindergarten bus and additional security for schools. The expansion budget will be funded for two fiscal years with the Board of Commissioners receiving quarterly progress reports. This will bring the funding total to \$500,000 for security with \$250,000 for security in the expansion budget and \$250,000 for security in the capital budget.

The Board of Commissioners approved the Phase II performance contract, which was for energy savings measures. The Board of Commissioners will consider a refund resolution at its next meeting for the school construction initial costs.

Wayne County Public Schools Expansion Budget

Wayne County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Steven D. Taylor thanked the Board of Commissioners for approving the budget. The expansion budget will solve some academic problems. The school system is waiting for the finalization of the state budget funding and is concerned about rising fuel costs. He was excited about the facilities and renovation projects. He commended the staff of the Wayne County Public Schools for their work in implementing the K-2 Summer Focused Intervention Program by July 1st. The second mobile pre-

kindergarten bus will replicate the first bus. The communication between the county and schools is improved and he wanted the positive dialogue to continue.

Wayne County Public Schools Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Sandra McCullen stated the goal of the K-2 Summer Focused Intervention Program is to provide a high quality early intervention curriculum that focuses on literacy, mathematics and writing. There are 211 students enrolled in the program this summer at North Drive Elementary School, Carver Elementary School and Tommy's Road Elementary School. Certified K-2 teachers (30) facilitate the program with support from instructional assistants (15). She reviewed the Fast ForWord Program, which uses the computer to develop brain processing; small group instruction for high risk students; and the program effectiveness. The effectiveness of the program will be determined by the end of the year and beginning of the year K-2 assessment scores.

Wayne County Public Schools Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Sandra McCullen stated the goal of the mobile pre-kindergarten bus is to increase the academic readiness for the pre-kindergarten students participating in the program. The expected outcome is the at-risk students participating in the program will have a higher academic readiness upon entering kindergarten in 2009-2010 than similar non-participating students as measured by the K-2 assessment instruments (a standardized statewide assessment). The bus will extend the school curriculum into the communities of Wayne County.

Wayne County Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Sprunt Hill stated the mobile pre-kindergarten bus has been purchased and painted. Work will begin on the decals, carpentry and electrical system. He thanked the Board of Education, Board of Commissioners and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base for assistance.

Wayne County Public Schools Security Director Chris Barnes stated it was determined security cameras in the schools were a top priority, followed by metal detectors in the middle schools. The security camera video is recorded. The goal is to provide the optimum safe school environment for students, staff and stakeholders. The funding will be used for camera systems at Spring Creek High School, Southern Wayne High School, Rosewood High School and Dillard Middle School; system wide network equipment upgrade; walk-through metal detectors at Dillard Middle School, Eastern Wayne Middle School and Norwayne Middle School and a contingency fund.

Wayne County Public Schools Facilities Update

Katherine Peele with LS3P Associates updated the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education on the progress of the school facilities plan. R. N. Rouse & Company will be in charge of the construction management. Work continues on the pre-design and management. The construction budget, design and bid package will be finalized. School projects will be put out for bid three weeks apart in the following manner: Eastern Wayne Middle School and Greenwood Middle School, Brogden Primary School and Mount Olive Middle School, and Norwayne Middle School. The Local Government Commission must approve bids on the projects.

Initially, a survey was done of the existing Wayne County Public Schools facilities. The short-term and long-term goals were established for each campus. Katherine Peele with LS3P Associates met with the principals and staff and discussed multiple approaches for the design. The goal is to minimize disruptions to the schools during the school year and provide more cohesive campus layouts. Construction should be completed by August 2010. A synopsis of the facilities plan includes the following:

Eastern Wayne Middle School

- 2 story classroom addition
- Improve parent drop-off area
- Increase parking
- Create front door

Greenwood Middle School

- 4 new classrooms for the arts and Spanish
- Air condition the gymnasium
- Demolish the connector building
- Add staff restrooms

Brogden Primary School

- Stand alone cafetorium
- Move parent drop-off area to rear of site
- Improve car stacking area

Mount Olive Middle School

- Renovate cafeteria
- Update restrooms
- Air condition kitchen and gymnasium
- Redesign front parking area

Norwayne Middle School

- 2 story addition with 24 classrooms
- Demolish 2 separate existing buildings
- Air condition gymnasium
- Upgrade cafeteria

Danny Langston, R. N. Rouse & Company Vice-President for Construction Management, stated he was looking forward to working on the projects.

Wayne County Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Sprunt Hill stated water issues at Brogden Primary School would be addressed internally.

Phase II Performance Contract

Tim Gasper with Brady Services, Inc. reviewed the Phase II performance contract with the Wayne County Public Schools. The total square footage of facilities included is 1,166,327, which will have an affect on 12,930 students. The project will cost \$8.3 million with a guaranteed energy cost savings of 27%. The contract has a 20-year term. Currently, the Phase II performance contract package is being prepared to submit to the Local Government Commission. Construction is expected to begin August 14, 2008 and end on December 16, 2009.

The scope of work for the Phase II performance contract is:

Carver Heights Elementary School

- 1 total DDC controls upgrade
- 824 retrofitted lighting fixtures

Charles B. Aycock High School

- 1 boiler for main building
- 1 domestic water boiler
- 4 rooftop units
- 2 base mounted pumps
- 4 in-line pumps
- 1 total DDC controls upgrade
- 5 air handling units for 500 wing
- 1,259 retrofitted lighting fixtures
- 123 retrofitted plumbing fixtures

Dillard Middle School

- 1 air cooled chiller
- DDC controls upgrade
- 949 retrofitted lighting fixtures
- 137 retrofitted plumbing fixtures

Eastern Wayne Elementary School

- 1 air cooled chiller
- 1 base mounted pump
- 6 transformers
- 1 total DDC controls upgrade
- 584 retrofitted light fixtures
- 101 retrofitted plumbing fixtures

Grantham Elementary School

- 15 rooftop units
- 1 DDC controls upgrade
- 797 retrofitted lighting fixtures
- 1 boiler tune-up

Goldsboro High School

- 39 through the wall units

Greenwood Middle School

- 1 transformer
- Total DDC controls upgrade
- 978 retrofitted lighting fixtures
- 92 retrofitted plumbing fixtures

Mobile Units

- 99 total DDC controls upgrade
- 590 retrofitted lighting fixtures

Mount Olive Middle School

- 1 boiler for main building
- 12 rooftop units
- 8 in-line pumps
- 1 total DDC controls upgrade
- 574 retrofitted lighting fixtures
- 78 retrofitted plumbing fixtures
- 1 natural gas conversion

Northeast Elementary School

- 1 air cooled chiller
- 1 base mounted pump
- 2 total DDC controls upgrade
- 914 retrofitted lighting fixtures

Northwest Elementary School

- 1 air cooled chiller
- 1 base mounted pump
- 1 total DDC controls upgrade
- 961 retrofitted lighting fixtures

Rosewood High School

- 30 air handlers
- 9 outside air handlers
- 2 hot water boilers
- 1 domestic water boiler
- 2 air cooled chillers
- 7 in-line pumps
- 1 total DDC controls upgrade
- 985 retrofitted lighting fixtures
- 119 retrofitted plumbing fixtures
- 1 natural gas conversion

Rosewood Middle School

- Conversion to natural gas with the gas company installing the gas line to Rosewood Middle School and Rosewood High School with over 7,000 feet of buried pipe

Spring Creek High School

- Modify hot water piping and plumbing for a more efficient design

School Street School

- 1 hot water boiler
- 1 natural gas conversion

Business Community Recommendations from Committee Workgroups

Jimmie Edmundson, representing the business community, stated the business community committee workgroups have visited the schools and met with the principals. He reviewed a recent article entitled “Fixing Our Schools” in which former United States Secretary of Labor William Brock stated we must first agree there is a problem in the school system. School spending has increased 24% while student performance levels have remained flat. It has been shown early childhood intervention has the best results. Good teachers are essential in fixing our schools. Education has not been a high political priority because there is no quick fix.

Jimmie Edmundson stated the school problem is not just a Wayne County or North Carolina issue; it is a national issue. The student performance trends need to be reversed. The Wayne County business community is ready to assist the Wayne County Public Schools in improving student performance. Wayne County employers cannot find enough workers for skilled positions. A recent telephone poll showed a sample of Wayne County voters opposed a bond referendum for school facilities, but would support a bond referendum for improving the quality of education and skill level in Wayne County.

The business community has met and learned about school plans, County of Wayne finances and issues faced by the schools. The members of the business community requested the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education address the following priorities:

1. Workforce preparedness and graduation rate
2. Public perception of the Wayne County Public Schools
3. Teacher recruitment and retention
4. Communications between the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education

Jimmie Edmundson stated Wayne Community College and the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce want to work collaboratively to improve the school problems in order to strengthen the workforce. He thanked the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education for their efforts. Jimmie Edmundson offered the assistance of the business community.

Kitchen Table Conversations: A Successful Recipe for Parent and Community Engagement

Minnie M. Forte-Brown, Chairman of the Durham Public Schools Board of Education, and Kay M. Williams, Executive Director of the Office of Public Affairs at the Durham Public Schools, explained the Kitchen Table Conversations used by the Durham Public Schools. The purpose of the Kitchen Table Conversations is to have a practical, comfortable way for the public to share their thoughts and concerns and have input in areas of importance. Thus, the lines of communication between the Board of Education, school system staff, parents and community members were strengthened. Specific topics were addressed at the Kitchen Table Conversations. The process is a structured conversation communication strategy.

The Durham Public Schools learned the following lessons:

- People will come-given a welcoming and non-threatening environment with refreshments being served
- Trained facilitators are critical
- Board of Education and Superintendent must be visible
- Keep presentations to a minimum
- Participants must know their input will be used meaningfully

After reviewing the logistics of the process, the Board of Commissioners, Board of Education and staff experienced the Kitchen Table Conversation process firsthand.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Marcia R. Wilson
Clerk to the Board