

THE HALIFAX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
9525 Hwy 301 South
Halifax, NC 27839

CALL MEETING
Budget Resolution
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
Monday, October 27, 2014

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, October 27, 2014. The meeting was held at the Central Office Administration Building, located at 9525 Hwy 301 South, Halifax, North Carolina 27839.

Present: Ms. Carolyn Hawkins, Chair, Mrs. Debbie Hardy, Vice-Chair, Mr. Charles Hedgepeth, Dr. Donna Hunter, Mrs. Susie L. Evans, Mr. Claude Cooper and Mrs. Joyce Lashley.

Others present: Superintendent, Dr. Elease Frederick, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Personnel, Mrs. Linda Bulluck, Finance Officer, Ms. Charlene Jones, Representatives from DPI: Dr. Pascal Mubenga, Ms. Catherine Brooks, and Board Attorney Larry Armstrong.

Ms. C. Hawkins greeted the audience with words of welcome. Ms. C. Hawkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. She asked that all board members adhere to the agenda.

Ms. C. Jones stated that the General Statute 115-425 Annual Balance Budget Resolution states each local school administrative unit shall operate under an annual balanced budget resolution adopted and administered in accordance with this Article. The Finance Officer is required to submit a Budget Resolution by October 31, 2014. Ms. Jones presented the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, for approval.

Dr. D. Hunter moved to approve the Budget Resolution for 2014-2015 as presented by Ms. C. Jones. Mrs. D. Hardy moved in second.

Discussion:

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that he asked for a breakdown of the budgets. He would like to know why we go into the fund balance to get \$400,000.00.

Ms. Jones stated to balance the budget.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that when we met in small groups, she included questions in the back of the folder. We don't know what the winter months are going to be.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that he is tied of this show. He has tried to get \$100,000.00 to save the teacher assistants.

Ms. C. Jones stated that revenues and expenses must balance in order to balance the budget. We had to get money out of the fund balance.

Mrs. J. Lashley asked if the state allots money to the charter schools.

Ms. C. Jones stated that the State takes funds from the top.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated we are not getting enough money from the state and local to pay charter schools for each individual student.

Attorney Armstrong stated that we had to sue the county commissioners because they don't give us enough money.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that we get way more money than Roanoke Rapids and Weldon Schools. He can't get the total number students we lost. You did not pre-audit the contracts.

Mrs. D. Hardy asked if that statement is true.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that the contracts have not changed in local.

Mrs. D. Hardy asked is there anything in this Budget Resolution that will affect the audit for exceptions.

Ms. C. Jones answered, No.

Mrs. J. Lashley asked if the contracts are preaudited before they are approved, a yes or no answer.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that the contracts are reviewed.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated that we are getting more out of the fund balance. Are we at the point we don't have enough money, but we can hire someone to train?

Ms. C. Jones stated that she is paid out of 003, non-instructional support.

Mrs. J. Lashley asked if she is still getting paid.

Ms. C. Jones stated that this is the last month.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth asked if there was anything on this resolution where we are paying the retired finance officers.

Ms. C. Jones answered, No.

Ms. C. Hawkins stated that the fund balance is more than it has ever been. Ms. Jones, apparently you did not do an immaculate job in your small meetings. You did not go over it sufficiently.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated that it is ok to ask questions.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that he can't get any response to the \$400,000.00; he is still waiting for an answer.

Ms. C. Hawkins stated that the money is used to balance the budget.

Mrs. J. Lashley asked why? That's what she wants to know. An amount of \$900,000 for the telephones was sent to the County Commissioners.

Ms. C. Jones stated that was not just for telephones. We are trying to get a supplement.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated putting people on the right salary scale and child nutrition need to go back to 100%.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that we may not use it all, it depends on the expenditures.

Mrs. J. Lashley asked if we have to keep a certain amount in the fund balance.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that there is no certain amount. The school system should be able to operate two to three months if needed. It's not a law.

Attorney stated that it is an accounting principle.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that the board set here and don't ask any questions. He was told that this was a personnel and budget meeting.

Dr. E. Frederick said that things didn't work out for the Personnel.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that he is not only blaming Halifax County Schools, also DPI for putting us in this predicament.

Ms. C. Hawkins asked for the Vote: (*In Favor*: Cooper-Hardy-Hunter-Evans) *Oppose*: (Hedgepeth-Lashley)

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that his reason has already been stated.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated that her reason for opposing was that it has not been explained why we have to pull \$400,000 from the fund balance to balance the budget.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that she had two announcements: 1) Parents have requested hearings before the board for a long term suspensions. The board scheduled the hearings for two students on November 3, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. 2) An Administrative Transfer within; (For Your Information) effective November 3, the transfer of Mark Barfield to Northwest Halifax High.

Mrs. D. Hardy asked if there was a change in salary. Dr. Frederick has the right to transfer, if it is within.

Dr. D. Hunter stated that his salary is paid by the number of certified teachers at the school.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated the Agenda says Budget.

Attorney Armstrong stated that she has the right to transfer from one school to another.

Mrs. J. Lashley says you are talking about an elementary principal going to be a high school principal; What's the rush?

Dr. Frederick stated that she hope to have the names on Monday night of additional personnel. Interviews will be held this week.

Dr. Donna Hunter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Mr. Claude Cooper moved in second. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

December 1, 2014