



Pitt County Schools
Operations Committee Meeting
5:00 p.m., Thursday May 14, 2015
3rd Floor Board Room

The Operations Committee met on Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. in the Central Office 3rd Floor Boardroom. In attendance were: Walter Gaskins, Billy Peaden, Sean Kenny, Caroline Doherty, Dr. Ethan Lenker and Matt Johnson.

Mr. Gaskins called the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum. With no one present for public comment, Mr. Gaskins began the discussion of agenda items.

The first item for discussion was the approval of the April 16, 2015 minutes. Mr. Peaden made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Mr. Gaskins. The vote to approve the April 16th committee meeting minutes was unanimous.

The second item for discussion was Cenergistic Data Release. Mr. Fred Collard and Mr. Grant Anderson presented current data on our savings. Pitt County Schools has saved \$256,569 from August 2014 to March 2015 and is considered an Energy Star Partner. Mr. Anderson compared the savings to what it would cost to power a school the size of Ayden Grifton High School for an entire year. He also noted the great support seen from the employees to help maximize savings. Mr. Kenny wanted to share that of the \$256, 569 savings, Pitt County Schools did not have to use funds out of pocket for anything. Mr. Johnson added PCS received first billing for shared energy savings in February 2015.

The third item Mr. Johnson brought to the committee was concerning Stokes Old Gym. Mr. Johnson updated the committee on the recommendation from Brian Gatchel on leasing the gym to We Are One Premier. Mr. Gatchel advised the committee to pass on the opportunity to lease or donate the property to any organization due to the liability or responsibility that may occur from the unsafe conditions of the building. He also recommended continuation of the demolition plans for the property.

Sean Kenny made a motion to deny the request from the We Are One Premier Group, with a second from Billy Peaden. With no discussion needed, the motion passed unanimously.

The fourth item Mr. Johnson brought to the committee was a Bus Garage Property Easement. He reviewed the request by Piedmont Natural Gas(PNG) to purchase a 50 feet by 800 feet easement (8 tenths of an acre) of the bus garage property for \$132,000 dollars. Mr. Johnson talked with Brian Gatchel and Paul Cuomo, to find out if the sell would affect the value of the property. Mr. Gatchel did not see a problem and would be glad to help throughout the process. Mr. Cuomo stated, in his opinion, this would be a “Christmas Gift” to Pitt County Schools and granting the easement would not affect the value of the property. Mr. Johnson made the suggestion to ask Piedmont to include an adjustment to their easement to include plans for adding a future driveway and also a hub for a tap on natural gas. Sean Kenny made a motion to take the proposal to the entire Board for their approval, with a second from Billy Peaden. The motion passed unanimously.

The fifth item for discussion was Bus Garage Land. Mr. Johnson stated Mr. Greer of Greenville Nissan, is requesting a purchase or long term lease of the 3 acres frontage property of the Bus Garage. Mr. Johnson talked with Mr. Gatchel and Mr. Cuomo and both agreed dividing the property for sale or lease would not be a good idea. Sean Kenny made a motion to deny the request to divide the property, with a second from Billy Peaden. The motion passed unanimously.

The sixth item for discussion was American Tower Lease Buy Out. Mr. Johnson discussed the interest from American Tower to buy out the 25 year lease for \$260,000 and extend the lease out to 50 years. After discussion, Sean Kenny made a motion to deny the request made by American Towers, with a second from Walter Gaskins. The motion passed unanimously.

The seventh item for discussion was John W. Maye’s request to place a landscaping stone in memory of a former principal at W.H. Robinson. After further discussion, the group decided to put a bench at the school instead of the stone. Sean Kenny made a motion, seconded by Walter Gaskins, to approve the request of the bench. Motion passed unanimously.

“Other Items” discussed included:

- Working with Boys and Girls Club on Fire Tower Road to accommodate the middle and high school students in Pitt Academy. We would like to keep the lease agreement with the Hwy. 33 location for the Structured Day Program.
- Mr. Johnson informed the committee that PCS is on the agenda at the May 18th County Commissioner’s meeting to discuss Capital Funding.

Upon a motion from Mr. Kenny and a second by Mr. Peaden, the meeting was adjourned. Time was 5:45 P.M.