

Board Work Session Minutes

DATE: October 19, 2020

PRESENT: Chair Betsy Flanagan, Vice Chair Melinda Fagundus, Amy Cole, Anna Barrett Smith, Caroline W. Doherty, Benjie Forrest, Worth Forbes

PRESENT REMOTELY: Mary Blount Williams, Tracy Everette-Lenz

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Ethan Lenker, Jennifer L. Johnson, Debra Baggett, Matt Johnson, Dr. Kristi Rhone, Dr. Steve Lassiter, Karen Harrington, Aaron Errickson, Jeff Smith, Karen Thompson, Jennifer Johnson, Helen Vines, Amy Hilliard, Marie Lee, Megan Newman

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL: Emma J. Hodson

TIME: 12:36 p.m.

PLACE: Carolina Room, The Kathy Taft Center, 2010 Allen Road, Greenville, NC 27834

The Board Work Session was held at the Kathy Taft Center and called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Chair Betsy Flanagan and began with a Closed Session. Closed Session ended at 12:36 p.m. and the Board Work Session continued at 12:40 p.m.

EPS Updates

Dr. Steve Lassiter, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services, introduced 3 virtual and/or hybrid teachers to share a Teaching in a Virtual Environment presentation with the Board members. The teachers presenting included;

- Karen Thompson, 6th grade Language Arts teacher from Hope Middle School
- Helen Vines, 5th grade teacher from Ayden Middle School
- Marie Lee, 2nd grade teacher from Stokes School

Each teacher shared excellent strategies and lessons they use to ensure virtual learners stay engaged and continue to learn during the COVID pandemic. Much discussion occurred between the teachers and the Board members.

Finance Updates

1. 1st Quarter Budget to Actual

Debra Baggett, Chief Finance Officer, shared the 1st Quarter Budget to Actual Comparison for Fiscal Year 2020-21 as of September 30, 2020, including seven

budget codes, year-to-date expenditures, outstanding encumbrances, percent spent and remaining balances with the Board members.

2. Proposed Changes to Method of Payment for Teacher Assistants

Ms. Baggett discussed the following proposed changes to the teacher assistant pay method with the Board members.

Currently Teacher Assistants are:

- Paid 215 days a year, which will not change
- 1st Check issued in August
- Prepaid, increasing the likelihood of overpayment
- Receive their 1st check in August covering mid-August through mid-September
- This method causes docking TAs for 10 days each year for days that TAs do not have to report to work

Proposed Change include:

- No Longer Prepaying
- 1st Check issued in September
- Paid Hourly after Work has been done, which is similar to Bus and School Nutrition Staff
- Possibly offering a one-time advance during the transitional year only and allowing TAs to pay back through-out the school year

Ms. Baggett shared that her department, understanding the difficulties the change would cause TAs, has discussed the proposed changes with the Teacher Assistant Association's contact for Pitt County Schools. Ms. Baggett stated this method will not work with the upcoming district software and she would like to see this change begin in August 2021.

3. Request for Approval of iPads Purchase for K-2

Ms. Baggett shared a quote from the Apple Store for Education for 664 iPads to be purchased for K-2 students using PRC 085, State Early Grade Proficiency Funds and requested this purchase be allowed on the November 2, 2020, Board Consent Agenda.

After some discussion between Ms. Baggett and the Board members, consensus of the Board was to allow this item on the November 2, 2020, Consent Agenda.

Operations Update

1. A.G. Cox Middle School Bids

Matt Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Operations shared a tabulated bid for the A.G. Cox Middle School Addition and Renovations with the Board members. Mr. Johnson shared that Group III Management Inc. was the low bid at \$11,046,800.00. Mr. Johnson also shared an Overview of the Floor Plan for the project. Mr. Johnson asked the Board to allow Group III Management Inc. for the A.G. Cox Middle School Project using County LOBS 2020 funding to be placed on the November 2, 2020, Consent Agenda. After some discussion, consensus of the Board was to allow this item on the November 2, 2020, Consent Agenda.

2. Restricted Use Sales Tax Funding Update

Mr. Johnson shared that \$4,847,574.00 restricted use sales tax funds was received in September 2020, from the County for the following CIP projects:

- Ayden Middle Paving- \$ 275,000
- Camera System Upgrade - \$ 1,266,074
- School Bus Cameras - \$ 1,519,000 - internal activity only on 220 yellow buses and 60 activity busses
- Wahl Coates Elementary HVAC & Electrical - \$ 637,000
- Fire Alarm Replacements - \$ 725,500 – replacement for Bethel School, Wellcome Middle, Wahl-Coates Elementary, and Falkland Elementary.
- Fire Alarm System Upgrades - \$ 425,000 – for all Conventional Field Devices for Ayden Grifton High, Farmville Central High, J.H. Rose High, & Wintergreen Intermediate.

Mr. Johnson also shared the bids for the C.M. Eppes Middle School repairs will be in on Thursday, October 22, 2020.

3. 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Plans

Aaron Errickson, Director of Facilities, shared that every October Facilities presents a capital improvement requests list to the County Commissioners for next year's budget with the Board members. Mr. Errickson explained the list was produced by using the facilities list provided by DPI in alphabetical order and divided over multiple years with the priority items listed first. The list included the following:

The 2021-2022 Project List is proposed to include:

- A.G. Cox Middle – \$ 12,254,076
- Chiller System Overhauls at 3 Schools - \$ 135,000, not on DPI List
- Creekside Elementary - \$ 4,945,483

The 2022-2023 Project List is proposed to include:

- D.H Conley High School - \$ 17,951,195
- Eastern Elementary - \$ 3,300,290
- Elmhurst Elementary - \$ 2,648,407
- Generators - \$ 475,000, not on DPI List

The 2022-2023 Project List is proposed to include:

- Grifton K-8 School – \$ 5,419,251
- Hope Middle School - \$ 3,966,931
- North Pitt High School – \$ 12,463,697

The 2024-2025 Project List is proposed to include:

- Pactolus K-8 School – \$ 3,611,408
- Ridgewood Elementary - \$ 5,039,955

The 2025-2026 Project List is proposed to include:

- W.H. Robinson Elementary - \$ 3,378,533
- Wintergreen Primary - \$ 5,039,955

The 2026-2027 Project List is proposed to include:

- Outdoor Athletic Upgrades at all 6 Traditional High Schools - \$ 14,050,000
- Ayden Middle Electrical- \$ 1,116,995
- Chicod School - \$ 15,147,111
- EB Aycock Middle - \$ 8,370,521
- Sam D. Bundy - \$ 3,199,860

The 2027-2028 Project List is proposed to include:

- Wellcome Middle School - \$ 8,840,835
- Ayden Elementary - \$ 5,037,571
- Ayden Grifton High School - \$ 21,570,120

The 2028-2029 Project List is proposed to include:

- Bethel K-8 School – \$ 5,575,515
- C.M. Eppes Middle School – \$ 1,059,382
- Falkland Elementary School - \$ 3,201,889

The 2029-2030 Project List is proposed to include:

- Farmville Central High School - \$ 12,981,680
- G.R. Whitfield School - \$ 2,926,603
- Grifton Auditorium - \$ 1,757,525
- North Pitt High School – \$ 4,508,951
- Belvoir Elementary - \$ 5,920,137

The 2030-2031 Project List is proposed to include:

- Pactolus K-8 School – \$ 2,124,933
- South Greenville - \$ 6,722,180
- Wintergreen Intermediate – \$ 754,175
- Facilities & Operations Center - \$ 12,500,000, not on DPI List

Mr. Errickson asked the Board members if they would like to add other projects to the list. Mr. Errickson suggested that the House Bill 90 requirement at several schools for smaller class sizes be added as a priority.

Mr. Johnson added that after the first of the year, they would bring the priority list back to the Board for them to determine the order which to place the projects.

After much discussion between Mr. Errickson, Mr. Johnson and the Board members, Mr. Errickson requested that the items listed for the 2021-2022 school year be listed on the November 2, 2020, Consent Agenda. Consensus of the Board members was to allow this item on the November 2, 2020, Consent Agenda.

Student Services Update

Karen Harrington, Director of Student Services, shared updates to COVID guidance documents provided by the State. Some of the items shared included the following:

- Type of Tests
- Symptomatic Individuals
- Broader List of Symptoms
- Infrared Thermometers
- Important Parent/Staff Reminders

Some discussion occurred between Ms. Harrington and the board members.

HR Updates

This update was not shared due to time and will be shared at a later date.

School Nutrition Updates

This update was not shared due to time and will be shared at a later date.

Adjourn

Chair Flanagan concluded the Board Work Session. Time adjourned was 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth M. Flanagan, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary