

JOINT MEETING OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

DATE: April 16, 2018

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mildred A. Council, Vice Chair Anna Barrett Smith, Caroline W. Doherty, Melinda Fagundus, Betsy Flanagan, Worth Forbes, Benjie Forrest, Robert Moore, and Mary Blount Williams

PITT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairman Mark W. Owens Jr., Tom Coulson, Charles Farley, Jimmy Garris, Ann Floyd Huggins, Melvin C. McLawhorn, Mary Perkins-Williams, and Beth B. Ward

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Ethan Lenker, In-House Counsel Emma J. Hodson, Chief Finance Officer Debra Baggett, Executive Director of Operations Matt Johnson, Director of Student and Community Services Dr. Travis Lewis, County Manager Scott Elliott, Legal Counsel Janis Gallagher, and Deputy Board Clerk Janna Singleton

ABSENT: County Commissioner Vice Chairman Glen Webb

TIME: 4:03 P.M.

PLACE: Pitt County Ag Center Conference Room, 403 Government Circle, Greenville, NC 27834

Chairman Mark W. Owens Jr. called the Joint meeting of the Pitt County Commissioners and the Pitt County Board of Education members to order at 4:03 P.M. in the Pitt County Ag Center Conference Room.

In Glen Webb's absence, County Commissioner Jimmy Garris gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Board of Education's Vice Chair Anna Barrett Smith.

Dr. Lenker, Pitt County Schools Superintendent, shared a presentation titled "School Safety and Security" to the members of both Boards. The presentation included school security measures Pitt County Schools has in place now and security measures that are planned in the near future. Dr. Lenker shared lessons learned from national school attacks as well as information related to the creation of Threat Assessment Management Teams.

Dr. Travis Lewis, Director of Community and Student Services, shared steps PCS is taking to implement the new Threat Assessment Teams. The Threat Assessment Team will assist students and staff with the increasing issues that schools are forced to deal with in today's society.

Board of Education's Chair Council opened the floor for both Boards to give comments and concerns related to school security.

Each Pitt County School Board member shared comments concerning school security with the Board of County Commissioners. Following comments from the Board of Education members, each Pitt County Commissioner shared comments concerning school security with the Pitt County School Board members.

The next item on the agenda was a Resolution titled 'Joint Resolution Of The Pitt County Board Of Commissioners And The Pitt County Board Of Education Supporting Increased Funding Options For School Facility Capital Needs.'

Commissioner Jimmy Garris requested the resolution be read and voted on during the meeting. Scott Elliott, Pitt County Manager, read the resolution out loud to the Board members and suggested adding the following verbiage:

- "WHEREAS, the Public School Building Bond Act of 2017 (HB 866/SB542) would invest \$1.9 billion to begin addressing these critical needs all across the state; and"
- and also to add 'Pitt County Board of Education' to the following "NOW, *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners urge the North Carolina General Assembly increase funding options for school facility capital*

and security needs by passing Public School Building Bond Act of 2017 (HB 866/SB542) and placing a statewide referendum on the November 2018 ballot; and. Commissioner Beth Ward made a motion to approve the Resolution with the suggested additions, with a second from Commissioner Jimmy Garris.

Motion to approve the following resolution was unanimous by both Boards.
Time adjourned was 5:50 P.M.

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND
THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPORTING INCREASED
FUNDING OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL FACILITY CAPITAL NEEDS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Instruction reported in 2016 that North Carolina's public schools need about \$8.1 billion to pay for new school facilities, maintenance and renovations; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 report, also known as the Statewide Facility Needs Survey, found that 118 new schools are needed across North Carolina. Fifty are needed immediately, and sixty-eight are needed in three to five years; and

WHEREAS, besides new construction, 1,560 schools need renovations to comply with safety and building code requirements and to address deferred maintenance, 459 schools need additions for new classrooms; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2018, the General Assembly passed Part II of House Bill 90, which phased in class size reductions for kindergarten through third grade, which will necessitate significant additional classroom space over the next three years to meet the reduced class size mandates; and

WHEREAS, counties in both urban and rural areas are faced with high costs for renovations and repairs to update and make the older buildings safe; and

WHEREAS, deteriorating facilities, which distract from learning, impact achievement and it is critical to ensure public school facilities are conducive to study; and

WHEREAS, counties have limited options to raise revenue to pay for school construction and security improvements; and

WHEREAS, because counties lack sufficient sources of funding for school facilities, the state has responded in the past by approving statewide school construction bonds to address these critical needs; and

WHEREAS, a top priority goal of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is to support legislation to provide state assistance to meet school construction needs caused by increased enrollment and mandated reduction in class size, through a statewide referendum on a bond issue; and

WHEREAS, a statewide bond is urgently needed to help address the staggering shortfall in funding for construction, repairs, security improvements, and renovations at public school facilities throughout North Carolina because outstanding needs are estimated to exceed \$8.1 billion; and

WHEREAS, Pitt County has projected school capital needs of over \$90 million over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, the Public School Building Bond Act of 2017 (HB 866/SB542) would invest \$1.9 billion to begin addressing these critical needs all across the state; and

WHEREAS, bonds issued under the Public School Building Bond Act of 2017 would be paid from freed up capacity and not result in increased taxes for residents of North Carolina;

WHEREAS, in addition to statewide bonds, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners supports increased flexibility in the use of sales tax funds for educational purposes, as well as continued expansion of lottery funds for school capital.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners and Pitt County Board of Education urge the North Carolina General Assembly increase funding options for school facility capital and security needs by passing Public School Building Bond Act of 2017 (HB 866/SB542) and placing a statewide referendum on the November 2018 ballot; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners and Pitt County Board of Education support increased flexibility in the use of sales tax for school capital and security needs, as well as continued expansion of lottery funds for school capital and security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Pitt County and to all 100 counties in North Carolina.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mildred A. Council, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin