

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016 – 8:30 AM
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER–396 ELEMENTARY DRIVE–FAYETTEVILLE, NC
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

PRESENT: Commissioner Marshall Faircloth, Chairman
Commissioner Glenn Adams, Vice Chairman (departed 9:45 a.m.)
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe (departed 9:45 a.m.)
Commissioner Larry Lancaster
Amy Cannon, County Manager
Melissa Cardinali, Assistant County Manager
Sally Shutt, Governmental Affairs Officer
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

ABSENT: Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Charles Evans

CUMBERLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS

PRESENT: Susan Williams, Board of Education Chairman
Carrie Sutton, Board of Education Vice Chairman
Alicia Chisolm, Board of Education
Macky Hall, Board of Education
James McLaughlin, Board of Education
Judy Musgrave, Board of Education
Rudy Tatum, Board of Education
Donna Vann, Board of Education
Gregory West, Board of Education
Frank Till, Cumberland County Schools Superintendent
Mary Black, Associate Superintendent
Tim Kinlaw, Associate Superintendent
Clyde Locklear, Associate Superintendent
Betty Musselwhite, Associate Superintendent
Ron Phipps, Associate Superintendent
Ruben Reyes, Associate Superintendent
Allison Violette, Associate Superintendent
David Phillips, Board of Education Attorney
Pete Horne, Board of Education Clerk

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

PRESENT: Representative Billy Richardson, 44th District
Representative John Szoka, 45th District

ABSENT: Representative Elmer Floyd, 43rd District
Representative Marvin Lucas, 42nd District
Senator Wesley Meredith, 19th District
Senator Ben Clark, 21st District

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayors and Municipal Leaders

1. CALL TO ORDER

Susan Williams, Board of Education Chairman, welcomed everyone in attendance. Chairman Faircloth, Chairman Williams and Representative Szoka called the special meeting of their respective bodies to order. Roundtable introductions followed.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Gregory West, Board of Education Legislative Committee Chairman, presented Cumberland County Schools 2016 Legislative Goals - 2016 Priorities for Strengthening and Enhancing Cumberland County Schools as recorded below:

- A. Attract and Retain the Best Public School Teachers - Competitive Compensation:
- Re-establish a state-funded scholarship program to attract high-performing high school students into teacher preparation programs at colleges and universities across the state
 - Increase the pay of all teachers
 - Address an increase in teacher base pay before addressing pay for performance measures
 - Adjust teacher salaries in order to compete within our region and exceed the national average
 - Allow pay incentives for hard-to-staff subject areas and in high-needs schools
 - Provide supplements for master's degree and doctoral degree earned after July 1, 2014 on an ongoing basis
 - Layer merit-based pay on top of a well performing salary schedule to further incentivize outstanding performance in the classroom
 - Establish an initial probation period of less than a full year
- B. Provide Adequate Resources for North Carolina's Public Schools:
- Reinstate the low-wealth formula by putting a greater weight on property tax valuation as originally intended
 - Impact on Cumberland County Schools: \$6 million
 - Increase funds for capital improvements by allocating 40% of the lottery proceeds to capital construction as originally legislated
 - Impact on Cumberland County Schools: \$4 million
 - Fund technology improvement adequately
 - Restore flexibility to convert Teacher Assistant positions to teaching positions
 - Fully fund transportation
 - Maintain remediation funds
 - Allow a local option for additional sales tax for education
 - Allow 10th grade students to enroll in classes at the Community College
 - \$38 million non-recurring cut to classroom supplies in 2012-2013 not restored and exacerbated by a \$7 million recurring reduction in 2013-2014
 - Impact on Cumberland County Schools: \$1.6 million
 - Restore ability to transfer positions at state-wide average salary to allow for meaningful flexibility
 - Impact on Cumberland County Schools: \$6 million
 - Provide reoccurring revenue for Drivers Education
- C. Develop Accountability System that Nurtures Academic Improvement:
- Provide incentives, such as a letter grade increase, to lower-performing schools that make great strides in increasing student achievement
 - Provide flexibility to local school districts regarding details of, and adequate funding for, the summer reading camps
 - Treat traditional public schools and charter schools equitably with regards to the program's requirements
 - Clarify details regarding testing exceptional children
- D. Increase Local Control and Flexibility to Implement Reforms and Enhance Performance:
- Synchronize the public school calendar with those of community colleges and universities to facilitate enhanced learning opportunities for high school students and to better accommodate block schedule
 - Ensure that curriculum changes, such as the mandate to teach cursive writing and the multiplication table, are deemed essential by the instructional leaders of the school district before implementation
 - Provide flexibility to redirect funding and other resources to higher priority services and programs
 - Eliminate unnecessary or redundant reporting requirements by schools and school districts
 - Retain LEA authority over all aspects of public schools, including but not limited to, facility construction and operations, schedule, attendance zones, budget, curriculum content and delivery options, staffing levels, extracurricular activities and other core services

- Allow school counselors to administer tests to ensure adequate staffing and maintain the integrity and fidelity of all assessments mandated by the state and federal government
 - Reduce state-mandated tests and eliminate the mandate on scheduling them in the last 10 days of the school year for elementary and middle schools and the last 5 days of the course in high schools. The testing schedule should be subject to local control to account for inclement weather, retesting opportunities and adequate staffing levels as determined by the school district
- E. Increase Accountability in Taxpayer-Funded Education Provided Outside Public Schools:
- Eliminate state-funded voucher from the budget
 - Ensure the ongoing viability of LEA-operated schools in areas where charter schools are expanding by increasing the relevance of the LEA Impact Statement in the application process
 - Ensure that all virtual learning continues to have state oversight through the N.C. Virtual Public School and State Board of Education, is part of blended learning along with on-site enrollment and associated funding that the state provides to school districts.
 - Prohibit the expansion of a virtual charter school until sufficient accountability measures can be established to ensure only quality educational services are offered through an entity, ensure that its funding structure acknowledges the cost differences with brick and mortar schools, and does not detract needed resources from traditional public schools

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the legislative goals recorded above, staff concerns and funding needs. The following information was presented as part of the discussion.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS CAPITAL OUTLAY REVENUE

Year	Public School Building Fund (2006-2014)		Total
	Tax Revenue	Lottery	
2006-7	4,015,000	4,7789,000	8,804,000
229-10	0	8,707,000	8,707,000
204-15	0	3,700,000	3,700,000
2006-2014 – 58% Reduction			

Year	Sales Tax
2007-8	11,800,000
2014-15	9,800,000
2007 through 2014 – 17% Reduction	



	New Schools	Additions	Renovations	Furniture/ Equipment	Land	Total
Totals	72,464,231	72,932,991	62,396,189	12,858,107	75,000	220,726,518

District Budget

Funding Source	Budget
State Public School Fund	\$280,942,933
Current Expense Fund	\$82,526,144
Federal Programs	\$31,902,082
Capital Outlay	\$11,982,731
Child Nutrition	\$31,283,823

Grants	<u>\$16,698,402</u>
Total	\$455,336,115

How Cumberland County Schools Compare

	2010-2011 PPE	Rank in State	2014-2015 PPE	Rank in State
State	\$4,929	99	\$5,397	102
Federal	\$1,119	64	\$829	35
Local	\$1,788	36	\$1,689	67
Total	\$7,836	85	\$7,915	92

Cumberland County School Challenges

Employee Pay:

- Teachers: Raises in 2013 (1.2%) and 2015 (avg. 7%)
- Classified: Raises in 2013 (1.2%) and 2015 (1.86%)
- The Consumer Price Index has increased on average by 2.0% each year.

Other Challenges:

- Professional Development for Staff
- Change and Innovation
 - Technology funding
 - Innovative Programs
- Facility Maintenance
 - Local funding for Utilities,
 - Maintenance and upkeep
- Low Wealth Funding
 - 2010: \$8,000,000
 - 2016: \$1,800,000
- Funding Flexibility
 - Allows districts flexibility to customize programs
 - Meet the needs of their students and staff

There being no further business, Chairman Faircloth, Chairman Williams and Representative Szoka adjourned the meetings of their respective bodies at 10:25 a.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board