

March 6, 2017

A special joint meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners and Bladen County Board of Education was held at 5:00 pm on Monday, March 6, 2017 in the Bladen County Health Department Conference Room, 300 Mercer Mill Road, Elizabethtown, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss school facility needs and other capital requests.

The following Board of Commission members were present:

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Ray Britt, Vice Chairman
Russell Priest
Arthur Bullock
Daniel Dowless
Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins
Ashley S. Trivette
David R. Gooden

Excused: G. Michael Cogdell

The following Board of Education members were present:

Vinston Rozier, Chairman
Chris Clark
Allen West
Glenn McKoy
Roger Carroll
Dennis Edwards
Tim Benton

Excused: Gary Rhoda
Berry Lewis

ITEM 1. Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

- A. Chairman Peterson provided an invocation.
- B. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Bladen County Board of Education: (Dr. Robert Taylor, Superintendent)

- A. Dr. Taylor expressed appreciation to the Board for the opportunity to discuss facility needs and capital requests. Dr. Taylor stated that the Board of Education does not wish to close schools in communities and is mindful of towns and communities.
Current enrollment figures were presented. Following discussion, a loss of approximately 100 students to various local charter schools is anticipated. Additional facility needs were discussed as well, including proposed multi-purpose facilities being constructed on various campuses, an addition, a field house, a cafeteria expansion and a new school building.
A number of consolidation scenarios were discussed, with supporting enrollment documentation and anticipated savings for each proposal. Transportation challenges were discussed. Proposed consolidation scenarios do not support a significant savings in transportation costs.
Following discussion, Dr. Taylor stated that he would research the feasibility of a leasing option for facilities.
Following discussion regarding public schools' influence on Economic Development, Chairman Peterson stated that not only do test scores affect location decisions of potential industry, but the availability of industrial facilities and crime rate do as well.
In closing, Dr. Taylor stated that Bladen County's graduation rate was the highest it has been in recent history.

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ITEM 3. Other Matters:

No other matters were brought to the floor for discussion.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners