

A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE NEW KENT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND NEW KENT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD WAS HELD ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWELVE IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN NEW KENT, VIRGINIA, AT 5:00 P.M.

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IN RE: CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Davis called the meeting to order.

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IN RE: ROLL CALL

Thomas W. Evelyn	Present
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Present
James H. Burrell	Absent
Ron Stiers	Present
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Present

Dr. Gail Hardinge, School Board Chair, called the School Board meeting to order. Other School Board members present were District 1 member Brett Marshall, District 2 member Dean Simmons, District 3 member Leigh Quick, and District 4 member Sarah Barber.

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IN RE: NEW OFFICE SPACE FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD

Dr. Hardinge thanked the Board of Supervisors for meeting with the School Board to address some issues relating to School Board Office space.

The first topic concerned current plans to renovate the South Building located on the Historic School campus to use for School Board office space. Members of both Boards were provided with copies of the architectural plan submitted by Marengo Management Corporation, as well as the drawing that had been prepared by former General Services Director Jim Tacosa. Dr. Hardinge spoke about how there might have been some misunderstanding when, because of the looming November 30 expiration of the lease on its current space, the School Board had explored some other options, and she wanted to clarify that their actions consisted only of some inquiries and she apologized for any misperceptions as to their intent. Mr. Evelyn responded that he had "cleared up his issues" with his School Board counterpart and the Superintendent.

The next issue centered around the timeline for completion of the renovations of the South Building under the pending unsolicited Public Private Education Act (PPEA) proposal made by Marengo Management Corporation. Board members reviewed that they had originally intended to renovate both buildings but then decided to narrow down the scope to just the South Building and Courtyard, at which time all bids were "thrown out" because of some inconsistencies in the bid process; however, just a few days later, another unsolicited PPEA proposal was received from Marengo Management and no competing proposals had been received during the required 45-day advertising period. It was explained that the Board would hold a public hearing at its business meeting later in the evening, after which time it would have to wait 30 days before entering into any comprehensive agreement. They indicated that the contractor had represented that the project could be completed within nine months (after execution of the contract) and that the space should be ready for occupancy before the beginning of the next school year.

School Boards members asked about having three members from the Schools (School Maintenance Director Tim Pollock, a School Board member, and someone from School Administration) involved in the planning meetings with the contractor. It was explained that the plan drawn up by Mr. Tacosa was the result of four months of collaborative work and they were concerned that input might not have carried over into the plan proposed by Marengo Management.

Mr. Hathaway confirmed that he had reviewed that plan with the School Board and with Mr. Moore of Marengo Management and was expecting to get some plans from Mr. Moore and his architect at an upcoming meeting but it was not yet the time for participation and input from the School Board.

Ms. Hardinge noted that because of some "strong sentiment in the community" that the historic school buildings needed to be renovated and used respectfully, it was inherent to make sure that they were renovated in a quality manner and respected as an historic landmark, and the School Board was requesting to be allowed to participate in the planning process. She commented that when the School Board moved into the space, it would "be there for a long time" and they wanted to make sure that there was flexibility to meet future needs.

Ms. Quick spoke about how the two Boards had always worked well together in the past and did the best they could with the money available, and how past school construction and renovation projects, as well as the Bridging Communities Regional Technical Center, represented New Kent in a positive way, and the School Board wanted the same standards for this facility, along with safety and efficiency, and the opportunity for those who would be working in the space to be a part of the planning process.

Ms. Barber also spoke about being good stewards of County resources, how she was familiar with good planning processes and working within budgets, and the importance of making the "right decisions at the right time". She remarked that the School's participation throughout the process did not mean that it would want to change anything, noting that "decisions made early cost less than ones made later".

Mr. Marshall spoke about what he admitted might have been a misunderstanding on his part that once the construction process began, School representatives would not have access to the building to make sure it was "meeting the needs of the School Board". Mr. Hathaway responded that was not the case and that there should not be any problem with that at all, as long as proper safety procedures were followed.

Mr. Marshall asked about the possibility of burying the power lines to the building. Mr. Hathaway indicated that those costs had been obtained and burying the lines did not appear to be feasible.

Ms. Gowdy reminded that the plans could change after the contract was signed, but there needed to be a base level from which there was room for flexibility.

There was discussion regarding load-bearing walls and restroom facilities.

Ms. Barber brought up the fact that this would become a mixed use building and there was a need to define a fire separation between the business and education uses.

There was also discussion regarding parking. Mr. Hathaway confirmed that parking would meet the requirements in the County's ordinance but would likely be an issue and a challenge when Parks and Recreation activities were underway. Dr. Richardson advised that students attending the Regional Technical Center this year were being bused in and not allowed to drive, but next year the full-day program and adult education classes would likely be competing for parking with the Parks and Recreation and sports activities.

School Board members also brought up concerns about exterior stabilization work needed, including roof, masonry, and window replacement, which might have been considered as "alternatives" rather than base bid items. Mr. Hathaway confirmed that the contractor had proposed those as alternatives but had been advised that all windows needed to be replaced and brick work renovated. Mr. Simmons asked if an increase in the cost of the project for those items would affect the Board's willingness to move forward. Board members indicated that should not be a problem as long as the cost "comes back within reason". School Board members also voiced their concerns about aesthetics and "continuity" between the two buildings. It was confirmed that although the Board would like to renovate both buildings at the same time, the only work planned for the other building at this time was roof work.

Board members assured the School Board that they would be happy with the results and were welcome to participate in the planning process once it began.

Dr. Hardinge advised that the School Board was considering a "Plan B" for School Board office space after its current lease expired on November 30 and asked Dr. Richardson to elaborate on that.

Dr. Richardson advised that because of degradation of conditions in their current space, as well as some inefficiencies and maintenance issues, they were looking at moving into four empty classrooms at the high school on an interim basis. He indicated that they would save the money normally spent on rent to furnish the new space once it was renovated, and they were not looking for any funds from the County for this interim move. It was reported that the School Board staff were unanimous in their willingness to move into this short-term space.

The Board of Supervisors voiced no objections and the School Board indicated that it would move forward with Plan B.

Mr. Hathaway represented that he would contact Dr. Richardson once he had copies of the as-built plans from Mr. Moore in order to coordinate participation in the planning process.

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IN RE: BRIDGING COMMUNITIES REGIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER

Dr. Richardson provided an update on the Regional Technical Center. He announced that a grand opening was scheduled for October 14, 2012, and he was hopeful that Governor McDonnell would be the keynote speaker. He indicated that the Center opened on schedule, at capacity, and they had been able to fill all faculty positions, despite the fact that it was only a half-day program this year, and that next year they would be able to offer full-day contracts.

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IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Hardinge adjourned the School Board meeting.

Mr. Evelyn moved to adjourn the Board's meeting. The members were polled:

Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Ron Stiers	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
James H. Burrell	Absent

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.