

A JOINT WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE SCHOOL BOARD WAS HELD ON THE 8TH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND FIVE OF OUR LORD IN THE COURTROOM OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE IN NEW KENT, VIRGINIA, AT 6:00 P.M.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

Mark E. Hill	Present
D. M. Sparks	Present
James H. Burrell	Present
Stran L. Trout	Present
W. R. "Ray" Davis, Jr.	Present

The School Board members who were present were Van N. McPherson, Joseph Yates, Teresa Lindsay and Gail Hardinge.

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to the School Board.

IN RE: CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HIGH SCHOOL

School Board Chairman McPherson reminded that, as previously reported, if approval of a new high school is not given this month, then completion of the school will be delayed another school year. He reported that the process will take three years and if it is put off until 2006, the new high school will not be completed until 2009. By that time, it is projected that the high school population will be 1,000, and if further projections hold true, the new facility will reach capacity within five years after completion.

Dr. Geiger reported that the current population at the high school is 780 (capacity is 768). However, because of an unusually large current 8th grade, the high school population is expected to increase by nearly 50 students next year, without any new growth in the County. The middle school is currently over capacity as well.

Mr. Burrell gave some suggestions on how to improve use of the cafeteria and better use other space in the high school. Mr. McPherson responded that those measures would not address the problems with the middle school.

Mr. McPherson reported that the schools have asked for four new trailers for next year: one each at the high school and middle school, and two at the elementary school. Each trailer provides two classrooms, and costs about \$65,000, including set up. He indicated that the Board's decision regarding construction of a new high school will guide the School Board's decision on whether to purchase these trailers, or to try to "squeeze in" the students for another three years, thereby saving that money. He stated that the School Board is still working on its budget and is not yet ready to review it with the Board of Supervisors, but did share that requests from the schools total \$2.5 million above what was budgeted last year. It was also reported that they were required to use \$79,000 of the money they had saved for a new roof at the high school, to replace the cooling tower that failed during a recent spell of bad weather.

It was reported that additional trailers at the middle school would result in the loss of a ball field. There is little if no room for additional trailers at the high school, and trailers would not address the problems with gym and cafeteria space.

The School Board members expressed their frustration that they have given the Board of Supervisors all of the information that has been requested, and the Board keeps asking them the same questions. The School Board has determined that a new school is needed and the longer the County waits, the more it will cost.

There were additional discussions about school population. Dr. Geiger reported that the current total student population is 2,565 (they had budgeted for 2,640 for next year).

Mr. Sparks stated that he wants the County to build a new school, but he has a responsibility to the taxpayers to make the right decision. He indicated that he needed more information and he was not prepared to make a decision tonight

The School Board members maintained that the Supervisors have had all of the information and that they had previously advised the Board of Supervisors that a decision would have to be made by February.

Several members of the Board of Supervisors insisted that they were not aware that a vote would be requested tonight. Mr. Trout suggested that the Board could make its decision during one of its other February meetings. Mr. Sparks agreed. Mr. Burrell explained that the Board needs to consider this in the context of the whole budget process and look at all the needs of the County before it makes a decision. He stated that it would be less than professional to make a decision tonight.

Mr. Hill disagreed, stating that a decision to build a new school is no different from the decision to build the sewer project.

There was general discussion regarding the estimated cost of building a new high school, the latest figure being \$37,829,760.

Mr. Davis reminded that a new high school, renovations at the elementary school, and the bus garage are in the proposed CIP plan which has not yet been adopted by the Board. He stated that 6¢ of the real estate tax rate was put aside for school capital needs in last year's budget, and the Board needs to look at all budget requests, not just the school's. They need to figure out how to pay for it.

Mr. Trout suggested that, like the sewer project, the County will have to build a budget around the high school project, rather than waiting to see what is left over.

There was discussion regarding the miscommunication about the reason for tonight's meeting.

There was also further discussion about the CIP. Mr. Hill stated that, for the record, he had received no phone calls from citizens about the proposed CIP plan, and pointed out that few had spoke at the Planning Commission's recent Public Hearing.

Mr. Sparks moved that the Board schedule a vote on this matter at its February 28 work session.

Mr. Davis concurred, stating that waiting until February 28 would give the Board a chance to have its financial advisors "crunch some numbers". He stated that he would like to avoid having to finance a new school over 27 years, as had been previously suggested.

Mr. Hill made a substitute motion, moving that the Board of Supervisors move forward with a verbal commitment to the School Board that the County will begin construction of a new school in the immediate future. Mr. Trout suggested that that the vote by the Board should be to obligate the County for a certain amount of money.

Mr. Burrell questioned why the Board should act without giving it more thought, and stated that the Board needs to use due diligence before taking a vote. He stated that he did not feel it would be wise to take a vote tonight, but should wait until February 28.

Mr. Hill stated that in previous meetings with the School Board, the Board of Supervisors had agreed that a new school was needed. He went on to state that this Board has known since it took office 13 – 14 months ago that a new school would have to be built and the cost is only going to keep increasing. He stated that the County has a responsibility to the children and grandchildren of New Kent’s citizens, and that putting it off will only cost the taxpayers more money.

There was discussion regarding the previous two failed school bond referenda, as well as architectural services.

Mr. Trout stated that although he is prepared to vote tonight, if some of his fellow Board members feel they need 20 more days to obtain and digest information, then he would recommend that the Board set February 28 as the date to vote. The School Board was reluctantly agreeable to that suggestion. Mr. Hill withdrew his substitute motion.

The members were polled on Mr. Sparks’ motion:

Mark E. Hill	Nay
D. M. Sparks	Aye
Stran L. Trout	Aye
W. R. "Ray" Davis, Jr.	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye

The motion passed.

IN RE: PRIMARY AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECTS

It was reported that the applications for the Primary School and Elementary School projects were numbers 27 and 28 respectively, on the Literary Loan waiting list. Dr. Geiger indicated that VPSA is another program that has attractive terms similar to the Literary Loan program.

It was reported that bids are due this month on the Elementary School project and that it is anticipated that the contractor working on the Primary School will bid on this project.

Dr. Geiger and Mr. Ellyson will work together to set a date for the two Boards to meet to review the School budget. Mr. McPherson reported that they have received requests for 48 new positions (some of which are mandated), but the School Board has not finished its review and is not yet ready with a recommendation.

The School Board adjourned its meeting at 7 p.m.

IN RE: CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Sparks moved to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to Section 2.2-3711A.1 of the Code of Virginia involving a candidate for employment, and for discussions relating to real property pursuant to Section 2.2-3711A.3 of the Code of Virginia involving acquisition of real property. The members were polled:

D. M. "Marty" Sparks	Aye
Stran L. Trout	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye
Mark E. Hill	Aye
W. R. "Ray" Davis, Jr.	Aye

The motion passed. The Board went into closed session.

Mr. Trout moved to emerge from closed session. The members were polled:

James H. Burrell	Aye
Stran L. Trout	Aye
Mark E. Hill	Aye
D. M. "Marty" Sparks	Aye
W. R. "Ray" Davis, Jr.	Aye

The motion carried. Mr. Sparks made the following certification:

Whereas, the New Kent County of Supervisors has convened a closed session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now, there, be it resolved that the Board hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open session requirements by Virginia law were discussed in closed session to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Chairman Davis inquired whether there was any member who believed that there was a departure from the motion. Hearing none, the members were polled on the certification:

Stran L Trout	Aye
Mark E. Hill	Aye
D. M. "Marty" Sparks	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye
W. R. "Ray" Davis, Jr.	Aye

The motion carried.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ellyson reported that he and Larry Gallaher will soon be meeting with the Chiefs of the three fire companies to discuss the request by a member of Company 2 (a non-resident) to add "volunteer" to the decals on the fire apparatus. Mr. Ellyson has asked each Chief to bring a list of inventory that currently has "volunteer" on it. He thinks it best that no members from the Board be at this meeting.

Chairman Davis reported on the problems finding a location for the joint retreat with the EDA scheduled for March 19. It was agreed that the Retreat be held in the County Admin building, in either the Boardroom or the Kitchen.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Burrell moved to adjourn the meeting. The members were polled:

Mark E. Hill	Aye
D. M. Sparks	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye
Stran L. Trout	Aye
W. R. "Ray" Davis, Jr.	Aye

The Board of Supervisors was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.