

A JOINT WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE SCHOOL BOARD WAS HELD ON THE 7th DAY OF JANUARY THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND THREE OF OUR LORD IN THE COURTROOM IN THE OLD COURTHOUSE AT 7:00 P.M.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

Julian T. Lipscomb	Present
Rebecca M. Ringley	Present
James H. Burrell	Present
Dean E. Raynes	Absent
W. R. "Ray" Davis Jr.	Present

The School Board members present were Van N. McPherson, Terry Lawler, Cynthia Gaines, and Terri Lindsay.

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

IN RE: SCHOOL FACILITIES NEEDS

School Board Chairman Cynthia Gaines enumerated the needs of the schools which included additional space and new core facilities at the middle school; additional space at the high school; additional space and a multipurpose room at the primary school; and repairs and additional space at the elementary school. She suggested that it be determined whether it would be less expensive and in the best interests of the students to renovate or build. The middle school is their Board's top priority - it needs expansion as well as renovations.

Dr. Geiger distributed a handout which outlined general needs at the middle school, broken down by building. There was discussion about converting the older parts of the building into county office space. Needs at the middle school include replacing those classrooms and offices lost in any conversion; an increase in classrooms to serve a student body of 750; new library, cafeteria, kitchen, clinic, music/band rooms and vocational labs; technology upgrades (computers and labs - no internet connection at present); additional student lockers; upgrade of gym showers; addition of a teacher work room and conference room; improvement in the bus loading/unloading zones; installation of an intercom system with two-way communication; an upgrade of the fire alarm; elevator in N-building (to comply with ADA); and addressing safety issues (outside lighting, surveillance cameras and securing entranceways). The School Board has funds of \$184,000 in its budget for technology at the middle school, which it can carry over until next year.

Proposed work at the primary and elementary schools was also discussed. The School Board presented an estimate of \$2,380,500 in February of 2002 to renovate the elementary school, which needs a new roof, new windows and heating/air conditioning work. Also in February 2002, an estimate for building an addition (indoor activity room and 3 classrooms) to the primary school in the sum of \$1,493,964 was presented. Those estimates are nearly a year old, and the principal at the primary school has reported that he now needs 5 new classrooms. According to

principals at all four schools, each will need 2 - 3 trailers (\$55,000 each). There was discussion about the feasibility of using trailers, as well as the advantages of leasing v. purchasing.

Mr. Burrell asked about the projected number of classrooms needed over the next five years. Dr. Geiger provided projected enrollment figures, and reported that New Kent is currently below the state maximum in teacher/student ratio. There was an increase of 80 students this year.

Mr. Burrell stated that he did not think it was a good idea to have county offices at the middle school. Mrs. Ringley agreed, based on predicted security and traffic problems.

Mr. Davis wants to consider the renovation of part of the middle school for county office space. He suggested that the driveways at the middle school can be reconfigured to load and unload buses in the back of the schools, and relocate the main entrance at the side.

There was discussion on what to do with the students during renovations. One of the recommendations was to add classrooms to the high school, and move the 8th grade students there during renovation at the middle school, but there were questions raised about whether the core facilities at the high school would accommodate an additional grade.

Mrs. Ringley stated it was her feeling that the County will need to spend some money on a professional study to determine if renovations can be done and what they will cost. Mr. Burrell indicated that he would not be in support of using Moseley Architects as a consultant for this study.

Mr. McPherson asked if the Board of Supervisors would pay for the study, and when it could be done. After discussion, Mrs. Ringley moved that the Board of Supervisors issue an RFP for a professional study of renovations at the middle school, using information to be provided by the School Board. The members were polled:

Julian T. Lipscomb	Aye
Rebecca M. Ringley	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye
Dean E. Raynes	Absent
W. R. "Ray" Davis, Jr.	Aye

The motion carried. Dr. Geiger and Mr. Christie will work together on getting the RFP ready to go out. Selection of the consultant will be made by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. McPherson asked where the funds will come from to pay for any of this work., in light of the failure of the bond referendum. There was discussion about the reason for the failure, and whether voters were against building a new school or against any tax increase. Discussion was held on various ways to fund the repairs and renovations needed at the elementary and primary schools, including a blend of capital funds and loans. There was also discussion about how much of the repairs could be performed during the school year and/or summer break, as well as the extent of repairs and/or renovations that can be performed on a designated historical landmark.

Mr. McPherson moved that the School Board send out an RFP for architectural and engineering services to determine the need and cost projections for the proposed renovations and repairs at the elementary school and primary school. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lindsey and carried unanimously.

Mr. Burrell moved that the meeting be adjourned. There being no further business, Chairman Davis adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.