

A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE NEW KENT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND NEW KENT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD WAS HELD ON THE 8th DAY OF AUGUST IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN OF OUR LORD IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN NEW KENT, VIRGINIA, AT 5:00 P.M.

IN RE: CALL BACK TO ORDER

Chairman Evelyn called the meeting, which had been continued from July 27, 2011, back to order.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

Thomas W. Evelyn	Present
David M. Sparks	Present
James H. Burrell	Present
Stran L. Trout	Present
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Present

School Board Chair Leigh Quick called the School Board meeting to order. School Board members present were Mrs. Quick, Joe Yates, Terri Lindsay and Jim Noctor, with Gail Hardinge observing remotely from out of town. Also in attendance was School Superintendent Robert Richardson, Jr.

IN RE: REGIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER

Dr. Richardson indicated that he had recently met with the Bridging Communities Consortium members and conveyed to them the Board of Supervisors' interest in obtaining a long-term commitment to the Center and its request for a meeting of members from each of the local governing boards to confirm support of the project. He advised that he would provide contact information from all of the localities to County Administrator Cabell Lawton so that the meeting could be coordinated and scheduled.

There was discussion regarding the lease agreement for the building. It was explained that New Kent would lease the premises directly to the Consortium, who would then deal with the jurisdictions. Dr. Richardson explained that the Consortium was an established body with bylaws and a board of control, and was a 501c3 corporation. He indicated that he would work with the County's and School Board's attorneys regarding requirements of the Department of Education. County Attorney Michele Gowdy advised that the County could enter into a lease with the Consortium as long as the New Kent County school system was a member.

There was discussion regarding the deadline for a decision by the Board to move forward with renovations of the Science Wing for the Center. It was reported that a decision would be needed within the next sixty days in order to accommodate construction and be able to start equipping the building by March 2012. Mr. Davis indicated that the requested meeting with Board members from the other localities was needed first, and Mr. Sparks added that he wanted an accurate budget that included operating costs. Dr. Richardson advised that a projected operating budget for the first year should be ready within 30 days that included a base commitment from each locality, computed on percentage of enrollment, whether that locality's allocated slots were filled or not. He confirmed that every school division was required to provide career and technical education; however, there was a lot of variability in the programs that were offered.

Mr. Lawton advised that there was a possible grant funding opportunity recently announced by the Governor that would help pay for the renovations; however, he cautioned that the funds seemed to be targeted for local government-owned vacant buildings in urban areas. Dr. Richardson advised that one of the advantages of having a regional center was that it might be eligible for some stand-alone federal grant funds through the Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Educational Act of 1998, which would support operations.

Mr. Trout asked if the County had funds available to cover the needed renovations. Mr. Lawton advised that there were funds "in several pots" that the Board could pull from without hurting the Fund Balance, and suggested that the cost of the project might be less than the \$700,000 estimate. Dr. Richardson reminded that the renovations to the old bus garage would be paid for by the Consortium.

Mr. Evelyn remarked that renovations to other parts of the Historic School campus were under consideration, all of which would be paid for with taxpayer funds.

Mr. Sparks repeated that he wanted details on "who was buying in" and how much was needed. He added that he could not think of a "more important" project and he spoke about how the space could eventually be used for adult evening programs as well.

Ms. Lindsay remarked that the "return" on the County's investment would be more than the reimbursement of the funds it spent to renovate the space. She indicated that the other localities participating in the project needed these services as well but were "not in a position to have a place to do it".

Mr. Davis asked about the possibility that the student surveys would reflect interest in a program that was not offered, like Fire & EMS. Dr. Richardson explained that the Public Safety Program could be extended to include Fire & EMS, although that program was available through RCC; however, he indicated that it would be the Consortium's responsibility to "sell" the importance of looking at the proposed programs because they were tied to jobs that were "out there" and provided an opportunity for students to earn something more than minimum wage. He explained that the Center's goal was to be a selective program that students wanted to enroll in and would never be able to accommodate all who were interested but would take those who were most committed and most dedicated. He emphasized that students enrolled in the programs would get both high school and community college credit and all programs would carry industry certifications required to get jobs in the market.

Ms. Lindsey commented that too many children were pushed into college when not everyone should go to college and that training was needed for individuals to fill these kinds of jobs.

Ms. Quick added that there was also a need for qualified instructors and they were pleased at the interest expressed from the community college instructors.

IN RE: COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Parks & Recreation Manager Kim Turner was present to participate in discussions regarding community use of school facilities. Mr. Lawton reviewed that a few years back, the responsibility for taking community reservations for the school facilities was given to Parks & Recreation, and there had been a proposal to transfer this responsibility back to the Schools. He indicated that there had been no objection from the School Board when this

topic had been discussed at its recent retreat but he wanted to make sure that there were no objections from the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Turner explained the principals at each school had been ready for the transition for quite some time and this would "take out the middle man". She indicated that Parks & Recreation groups mostly used the gymnasiums in the evenings and would be willing to continue to schedule those facilities, but that reservations for the other parts of the schools should be handled by the school staff.

It was noted that the current Facility Use Agreement would need to be updated and approved by both Boards.

There were no objections expressed by any of the Board members.

IN RE: ROUNDTABLE

There was discussion regarding the status of the renovation project for the Historic School, specifically renovation of the South Building for the School Board Offices. Mr. Noctor reminded that the School Board's lease on its current office space would soon be expiring and it would "cost the County a lot more" if the new office space was not ready in time. Dr. Richardson advised that the current monthly rent was \$3,500, an amount that would triple if the School Board rented the space on a month-to-month basis after the current lease expired. There were comments about how the current space was not built to support office equipment and about how the School Board was responsible for more maintenance than expected.

Mr. Trout indicated that the Board would be discussing the proposals for the Historic School renovations later in the evening during its regular business meeting. Ms. Gowdy confirmed that all proposals met the deadlines created by the lease expiration dates for both the School Board and Library, and she indicated that the public copies of the proposals were available for review in her office.

In other updates, Ms. Quick advised that that School Board staff was pleased with the 2% pay increases included in the approved budget. She reported on the renovations at the elementary school and the new 4x4 schedule at the high school that would allow students to take more classes and permit dual enrollment. She noted that 60% of the 2011 graduates had earned advanced diploma and \$1.2 million in scholarships had been awarded. She provided updates on the Governor's School, new software, district and regional titles, and the upcoming joint theatrical production with students from Kent, England.

Dr. Richardson advised that with the new 4x4 schedule, they would be negotiating to establish an ROTC program at the high school.

Members of both Boards thanked the others for the opportunity to meet jointly and expressed the importance of holding such meetings on a regular basis.

The School Board recessed its meeting to return to the School Board Office for a work session.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

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

David M. Sparks	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye
Stran L. Trout	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye

The motion carried. The Board of Supervisors' meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.