

CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
March 2, 2010 Joint Budget Work Session
Meeting Room AB

7:00 p.m.

At a joint budget work session of the Clarke County Board of Supervisors and the Clarke County School Board held in the Main Meeting Room, 2nd Floor Berryville Clarke County Joint Government Center, 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, Virginia on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Board of Supervisors Members Present

A. R. Dunning, Jr.; J. Michael Hobert; John Staelin; David Weiss

Board of Supervisors Members Absent

Barbara Byrd

School Board Members Present

Janet Alger; Barbara Lee; Emily Rhodes; Jennifer Welliver

School Board Members Absent

Robina Rich Bouffault

Staff Present

Dr. Michael Murphy, Rick Catlett, David Ash, Tom Judge, Lora Walburn

Others Present

Ed Leonard, Becky Layne

Call to Order

Chairman Hobert called the Board of Supervisors meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Vice Chairwoman Lee called the School Board meeting to order immediately thereafter.

FY 11 School Board Budget Presentation

School Board Vice Chair Barbara Lee summarized the Schools budget process. She expressed appreciation to the Supervisor for joining with them in sending to Richmond a joint resolution opposing the Composite Index freeze. She expressed her belief that the School Board had developed a good, level-funded budget without making significant cuts to core academics.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Murphy presented the Clarke County School Board's Approved FY11 Budget. Highlights of his presentation include:

- School Board unanimously approved the FY11 budget during their February 22, 2010 Special Meeting.
- The Schools are the second largest employer in Clarke County.
- FY11 budget is set at 2007/2008 levels.
- Budget was built using the Kaine budget.
- Requesting a level-funded budget of \$19,406,842.
- Average Daily Membership: 2,157 students.
- Approximately 335 employees.
- Cost per student approximately \$11,369.
- Proposed transitioning to a cyclical budget process.
- Projecting a 43-student decrease for FY11.
- Class sizes may be increased but it is noted that this community values lower class sizes.
- Staffing technology continues to present challenges.
- Principal staffing levels meet standards.
- Created tracking system for administrative staff that does not teach full time.
- Exploring options to out-source food service.
- Recommended cuts by the governor would take most of the restored Composite Index funding.
- Schools must be economical and frugal.
- Funding sources continue to change and resources must be maximized.
- Equipment replacement has been deferred.
- No sports programs have been cut. However, it was noted that Frederick County may eliminate all 9th grade athletics.
- Have increased various school fees.
- Looking at enhanced fees for school facility use.
- Partial reduction of work force is anticipated.
- No supplementals will be included in contracts this year.
- No pay raises have been included in the proposed budget.
- Cut \$160,000 in buildings and programs.
- Reduced by 50% contingency fund for Special Ed staffing.
- Reduced \$224,000 in licensed staff cuts.

- Reduced \$15,000 in clerical staff cuts.
- Lunch aides and some maintenance personnel will be restored.
- EMT and Firefighter training programs are being developed with Lord Fairfax Community College.
- If Composite Index is fully restored, FY11 budget will remain level.

Dr. Murphy and Tom Judge answered budget questions posed by the Supervisors.

Chairman Hobert expressed appreciation for the conscientious effort put forth by the Schools in developing the proposed budget. He pointed out that approximately \$500,000 in new local funding would be required to fully fund the proposed School budget given the reduction proposed by the Commonwealth.

Supervisor Staelin put forth that virtually all the proposed tax rate increase would go to School funding.

Supervisor Weiss stated that he appreciated the Schools' tenor and the cooperative effort over the past two years.

Tom Judge also provided a summarization of the proposed School budget. Highlights include:

- Additional \$305,086 funding for School Operating Fund.
- Additional \$388,981 in funding for Debt Service.
- Additional \$197,815 in funding for School Capital Fund.
- Salary and wages down \$153,000 by reduced instructional positions and hours.
- Employee benefits up \$381,400.
- Purchased services up \$62,624.
- Contingency down \$69,625.
- Material and supplies down \$137,740.
- Mountain Vista Governors School reduced \$51,439.
- Minor Capital down \$10,616
- Food Service is expected to run at a deficit this year and additional funding of \$28,000 has been budgeted to cover the shortfall.
- Reviewed cyclical narrative of maintenance, repairs and replacements.
- While some smaller Debt Service items will be eliminated, the larger debt service payments for the new high school will be increasing.

Chairman Hobert clarified that next year an additional \$500,000 in debt service is anticipated.

Supervisor Dunning commended Dr. Murphy's frugality and long-term planning.

Vice Chair Lee thanked the Supervisors for joining the School Board in joint session for the presentation of the FY11 budget. She commended Dr. Murphy and his staff for their diligence and effort during this difficult budget year.

Dr. Murphy apologized for the technical inability to provide his prepared PowerPoint presentation and promised to provide a copy.

Janet Alger also noted the cooperative spirit between the Boards and extended appreciation to Dr. Murphy and staff for their efforts.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Boards at 8:09 pm Chairman Hobert adjourned the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Jennifer Welliver, seconded by Emily Rhodes, moved to adjourn the meeting of the Clarke County School Board.

The motion was approved as follows:

Janet Alger	-	Aye
Robina Rich Bouffault, Chair	-	Absent
Barbara Lee, Vice Chair	-	Aye
Emily Rhodes	-	Aye
Jennifer Welliver	-	Aye

Next Regular Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors is set for Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room, 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, Virginia.

ATTEST: March 2, 2010

J. Michael Hobert, Chair

David L. Ash, County Administrator

Minutes Recorded and Transcribed by:
Lora B. Walburn
Deputy Clerk, Board of Supervisors