

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 15, 1998

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a special called meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Henderson County Office Building.

Those present were: Chairman Bob Eklund, Vice-Chair Grady Hawkins, Commissioner Vollie G. Good, Commissioner Renee Kumor, Commissioner Don Ward, County Manager David E. Nicholson, Finance Director J. Carey McLelland, and Budget Analyst Selena Coffey.

Also present were: Chairman Linda Hawk, Jackie Hornsby, Allen Combs, Bill Barnwell, and Brenda Brock (members of the Henderson County Board of Public Education).

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Eklund called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance, especially welcoming the School Board and thanking them for coming. He introduced Bill Barnwell, the new school board member. Chairman Eklund turned the meeting over to Chairman Hawk to make a budget presentation.

FY 1998-1999 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Chairman Hawk first reviewed their capital outlay requests. They have requested \$2.4 million in recurring capital expenses. Bill Barnwell explained the needs such as roof repairs and the Mills River Elementary School's septic system problems. He also reviewed the needs at Balfour, Etowah and Fletcher Elementary Schools. If the Board of Commissioners considers the replacement of these schools, some of the funding from the ADM Fund would not be needed.

Chairman Hawk provided the Commissioners with a new application for ADM and Capital Reserve Funding. The Board of Commissioners questioned the status and cost of the air conditioning system for Edneyville Elementary School. This project is now being funded by \$200,000 for the ADM application from May of 1997 and a current request for an additional \$150,000.

The Commissioners also questioned the requested funding for the Tuxedo Extended Day School. This facility is also used by Polk County. The staff to teacher ratio is 8 to 1. The Boards discussed the possibility of moving this school to the Balfour campus if the Balfour School is replaced.

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Chairman Hawk explained that the Balfour, Etowah, and Fletcher projects are their short term needs and that they will present to the Commissioners a long term plan by January 1999. Bill Barnwell told the Commissioners that there was an air quality problem in two classrooms at Fletcher Elementary. This will cause the need for two additional portable classrooms.

The Boards discussed possible changes in legislation such as an additional sales tax, state assistance with school utilities, and the possibility of the schools receiving a refund for sales tax.

Terry Anderson, CPA of Carland & Carland presented the Board with a report on the School Board's fund balance for FY 1996-1997 and the projected fund balance for this year. He also supplied the Commissioners with a report of funds accumulated by the schools for major capital projects.

Bill Barnwell informed the Commissioners that there was not enough funding in the current expense recommendation to cover the projected 7% increase in teacher salaries. They would need an additional \$137,000 to meet this request. The Commissioners were informed that there are 70 locally paid teachers. Funds are included in their budget for the ABC program in the bonus line item.

The Boards discussed the need for the additional 17 custodian positions and the school use of contracted maintenance. It was also noted that the total request for new positions was 48 and the State of North Carolina will be providing an additional 4.5 teaching positions this year.

Following a general discussion on capital needs the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Attest:


Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk


Robert D. Eklund, Chairman

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