

COUNTY OF HENDERSON  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AUGUST 28, 1989

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a special called meeting of the Commissioners with both School Boards for the purpose of discussing Capital Projects Funding. The meeting was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the County Office Building at 7:00 p.m.

Those present were: Chairman William T. Drake, Vice-Chairman F. Richard Baker, Commissioner Hugh H. Randall, Commissioner Troy L. Maybin, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, Finance Director David E. Nicholson, County Attorney Don H. Elkins, Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn, and the news media. Also present were Hendersonville Board of Education Board members in toto, Henderson County Board of Education Board members in toto, and both School Superintendents.

Chairman Drake called the meeting to order and congratulated both school boards on having all their members in attendance. Chairman Drake stated that he had sent a letter to both school boards requesting their attendance at this meeting. He first recognized Glenn Marlowe, Superintendent of Henderson County Schools.

GLENN MARLOWE, HENDERSON COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Marlowe stated that their list was in alphabetical order. Numbers 1 and 2 on the county's priority list are East and West High Schools. Additions are needed at both these High Schools immediately. The West side of the county is almost in a critical condition when it comes to housing students, they are extremely overcrowded and are utilizing stage areas and other areas for instruction purposes. Number 3 would be construction of a new High School in the Northeast section of the county. The financial needs of the County School System are \$42,000,000.00.

CHARLIE BYRD, HENDERSONVILLE CITY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Byrd presented the list of priorities for the city, stating that # 1 on the city's list would be phase I of # 3 on the list which is Hendersonville High School's main building, making it handicapp assessible including electrical work and the elevator work at this time. Answering a question as to the student capacity of Hendersonville High School, Mr. Byrd stated they could handle approximately 650 students with about 575 students enrolled there at the present time. The financial needs of the City School System are \$4,700,000.00.

Mr. Bennett questioned what the plans are for the present administration building. Mr. Byrd stated that the administration building is not included in these plans as this money cannot be spent for that. Work is definitely needed there though to make the building more comfortable.

Mr. Caldwell spoke on behalf of the County School System and stressed the overcrowded conditions again. He stated that \$11,200,000.00 is needed now and stated that the Board of Commissioners can expect a request for this money in the very near future.

Mr. Eubank spoke on behalf of the City School System and stated that \$13,000,000.00 is needed for the #1 priorities on both school system lists. He recommends floating a bond issue up to \$50,000,000.00 in bonds. Mr. Eubank stressed that the joint #1 need should be to provide adequate facilities to ALL students in our area.

Chairman Drake stated that he keeps hearing note of a bond issue needed to fund school projects. The last request that the Board of Commissioners of Henderson County had for a bond

issue for schools was in 1981. At that time a bond issue was passed for school construction. Mr. Drake said that The Board of Commissioners have never refused a request for a bond issue for the schools and further said that if they get a request from both school boards for a similar bond issue the Board would certainly give it consideration.

David Nicholson, Finance Director for Henderson County was recognized and gave a report on finances that are now available and will be available in the future for the schools. There is a Capital Reserve Fund or sales tax fund that is being held for school construction and the state projects that during this period through 1998 there will be almost \$18,500,000.00 available in the Capital Reserve Fund for school construction projects. There is a State Public School Capital Fund or corporate taxes and the state is holding those funds. With the Commissioners' approval the schools can draw upon those funds. For every \$3.00 that we get from the state, we must expend \$1.00 of local money (a 3 to 1 match). The State Public School Capital Fund will generate just short of \$5,600,000.00 during that same time period or through 1998.

The summary of funds expected to receive during that time period:

ADM for the county	\$21,400,000.00
ADM for the city	2,600,000.00

On hand now both in the Capital Reserve and the State Fund, we have \$7,254,000.00. With the funds that will be added during this fiscal year it will go up to \$9,847,000.00 and the coming fiscal year (1991) the total would be \$12,488,000. In this year's budget the county itself is putting away a little over \$2,100,000.00 which could go towards retirement of a school debt.

Should a bond issue be sold, those bonds would have to be issued and sold over a 7 year time period. Mr. Nicholson was asked about the county's bond indebtedness and he answered that the county has a very low bond indebtedness, last year it averaged to be \$110.00 per person in Henderson County, which is approx. \$7,000,000.00 outstanding indebtedness. The law states that you can have up to 7% of your assessed valuation outstanding in bonds, that to us would be \$150,000,000.00. He stated that we are fortunate that we have a pot of money to start off the process.

One Commissioner asked the question if both School Boards agreed that the three projects of Hendersonville, East, and West were priority projects and were assured that they all agree on these top priorities.

David was asked how long it takes to do a bond issue. Including the election, he stated about 120 days minimum.

In summary Chairman Drake asked David Nicholson if there was any particular information he needed. He stated that if the Commissioners like, he would be willing to work with the school systems when they get their numbers together, to help prepare their numbers and schedules so that we can present the Commissioners some kind of a plan that we can take to Raleigh.

Chairman Drake then asked for comments from the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Baker asked the School Board Chairmen where they stand on anything in regard to getting together again on a merger. The Chairmen of the School Boards stated that they had been working on the Facilities Plan since the Merger Plan had been dropped and hadn't worked on the Merger Plan.

Chairman Drake then asked if any School Board Members had any comments to make concerning the subject of Merger. There were none and Chairman Drake said it looks as if we are

talked out, nobody else has anything to say apparently.

Chairman Drake thanked all who had attended tonight and stated that the Commissioners will meet their obligations to the school systems and to the school children of Henderson County. At this time the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth W. Corn  
Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk

William T. Drake  
William T. Drake, Chairman