

CULPEPER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Minutes
October 27, 2014

A meeting of the School Board of Culpeper County was held October 27, 2014 at the School Board Office (Colin Owens Conference Room) at 450 Radio Lane at 6 p.m. Present were Sean Askew (Catalpa District); Robert Beard (East Fairfax District); Robert A. Houck (West Fairfax District); Elizabeth Hutchins (Stevensburg District); Anne C. Luckinbill (Salem District); Michelle North (Jefferson District); Elizabeth "Betsy" Smith (Cedar Mountain District); Superintendent Dr. Bobbi F. Johnson; Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Rob Hauman; Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Russell Houck; Executive Director of Special Education Angela Neely; Executive Director of Finance/Clerk Jeff Shomo; Executive Director of Human Resources Dr. Stacey Timmons and Deputy Clerk Pearl Jamison.

At 6 p.m., Mr. Houck called the meeting to order.

On motion of Ms. Hutchins seconded by Mr. Askew, the Board went into closed session at 6:01 p.m. regarding:

- [a] Discussion of Personnel Recommendations as permitted by the Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 (A) (1)
- [b] Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body as permitted by the Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 (A) (7)

Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

On motion of Ms. Hutchins seconded by Ms. Luckinbill, the Board ended the closed session at 6:13 p.m. and certified that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

YEAS: 7
Sean Askew
Robert Beard

Robert Houck
Elizabeth Hutchins
Anne Luckinbill
Michelle North
Betsy Smith

Those present observed a moment of silence. Mr. Houck led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Houck asked if there were changes to the agenda. Ms. Hutchins requested the Board have a brief discussion about the topics they hope to discuss with the legislators on Thursday.

On motion of Mr. Beard seconded by Ms. Luckinbill, the School Board approved the agenda. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

The board considered the following action items:

(a) Personnel Recommendations

On motion of Ms. Luckinbill seconded by Ms. Smith, the School Board approved the Personnel Recommendations. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

(b) Approval of Additional ESL Position

On motion of Ms. Hutchins seconded by Mr. Beard, the School Board considered approving the Additional ESL Position.

Dr. Johnson said we are out of SOQ compliance and .5 position would get us in compliance; however, we will have better luck finding a teacher if the position is full-time. Mr. Beard asked if this is a result of an increasing population. Dr. Johnson said yes.

Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

(c) Approval of Additional Special Education Paraeducator(s)

On motion of Ms. Hutchins seconded by Ms. Smith, the School Board considered approving the Additional Special Education Paraeducator(s).

Dr. Johnson said this request is to address specific student needs and they will be funded by Title VI-B.

Mr. Askew asked how long the funding will be needed. Ms. Neely said it will depend on student needs.

Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

(d) Appointment of Interim Finance Committee Member (November 2014 through January 2015 CCSB Reorganizational Meeting

Mr. Houck said he asked that this be put on the agenda because Ms. Luckinbill asked to be removed from the committee due to educational requirements. He recommended Ms. Smith be appointed to the Finance Committee.

On motion of Ms. Luckinbill seconded by Mr. Beard, the School Board appointed Betsy Smith to serve on the CCSB Finance Committee through the 2015 CCSB Reorganizational Meeting. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Work Session

Review of Educational Specialist Evaluation Instrument

Dr. Timmons said the Board passed the new teacher evaluation instrument three years ago. He said this document will be used to evaluate other non-teaching professionals. He noted that the staff affected have reviewed the document and feel it is a good document.

Dr. Johnson said this document will finalize all professional evaluation instruments.

Ms. North asked when the document would go into affect. Dr. Timmons said this school year.

The Board is requested to take formal action at the November 10th meeting.

Discussion of New School Recommendation

Dr. Johnson reminded members that they voted to accept the Educational Study Group's initial recommendation to allow conversations to begin with the Board of Supervisors. She shared with the Board four possible options:

- Option 1 - Study group recommendation of new middle school, repurpose FTB, central office remains (1,000 middle and 1,150 elementary)

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- Option 2 - Move central office and convert space to classrooms (1,025 middle)
- Option 3 - Build an elementary and middle on the same site (1,000 middle and 650 elementary)
- Option 4 - Build a new elementary school with central office space. Repurpose central office for additional middle school space (1,025 middle and 650 elementary)

Mr. Houck said the Board needs to create a plan before it can be explained to the public.

Mr. Spencer shared an estimate for each Option listed above based on figures from the Department of Education's historical data.

- Option 1 - \$33,376,000 hard/\$4.5M soft costs (does not include land acquisition – of approximately 20 acres)
- Option 2 - \$2,320,000 hard/\$330,800 soft costs (does not include land acquisition – of approximately 3 acres)
- Option 3 - \$48,741,000 hard/\$6,338,000 soft costs (does not include land acquisition – of approximately 30 acres)
- Option 4 - \$18,251,000 hard/\$2,403,000 soft costs (does not include land acquisition – of approximately 13.5 acres) – includes repurposing central office to middle school classrooms

Members felt Option 2 just prolongs the inevitable.

Dr. Johnson said another option would be to move some fifth graders to Floyd T. Binns. Ms. Smith stated the public would not be happy with that change.

Mr. Houck noted that all the facilities would need to be accessible to water/sewer.

Mr. Askew said if we build two schools on one campus we need to be mindful of traffic congestion.

Ms. North said she was very impressed with the Harrisonburg School that houses elementary and middle. She noted that research shows a combined middle and elementary school complex would provide for construction and operational efficiencies and cost savings. She further stated that the transition from elementary to middle would involve less angst because the children would remain in the same building. Ms. Hutchins said the schools are run as two separate schools so you don't save on personnel.

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Dr. Johnson reminded members that if we construct additional schools the Board will also have to deal with redistricting.

Ms. Hutchins expressed concern with adding more students to Floyd T. Binns because of the lunch shifts and the size of the cafeteria. Dr. Houck noted that the cafeteria at Floyd T. Binns could be enlarged.

Ms. Hutchins said Option 1 undoes what the Board used tax dollars to pay for.

Dr. Houck said another option is to build a middle school and reconfigure middle school to grades 5-8.

Mr. Spencer said to convert Floyd T. Binns to an elementary school would cost approximately \$600,000. Ms. Luckinbill asked if that could be done while school is in session. Mr. Spencer said he felt it could be done in phases.

Ms. North stated that the parents and community don't always understand and appreciate the need for new schools in the absence of modular classrooms, of which we have very few in the county.

Ms. Luckinbill reminded members that if we build a new school we have to add staff.

Dr. Johnson said we can't build a middle school and do nothing at the elementary level. She said there has to be additional elementary space in the plan.

Mr. Beard said Option 1 and 3 are the only viable options to get us where we want to go. Mr. Askew and Ms. Smith concurred.

Mr. Spencer said Culpeper Middle School was designed for 1,000 students; however, with the modifications over the years it can house 1,200 students.

Mr. Houck said he would like to give the staff better direction on which way to go.

Ms. Smith asked Dr. Johnson if there is a preference. Dr. Johnson said staff would be fine with any of the options. She said there are pros and cons for both.

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Mr. Askew said he is not a fan of Option 3 but we get two schools for less than what it costs to build one school. Ms. North concurred.

Ms. Hutchins said the school requests have been in the CIP for years but the requests kept getting pushed down the road.

Mr. Beard said he would like to look at Option 3 but expand the middle school to house 1,100 students and add athletic fields.

Members felt Option 3 is the most viable option to pursue. Staff will work on getting firmer figures.

Members observed a 5 minute break.

Mr. Beard left the meeting.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Dr. Johnson said the CIP is being reviewed because it has to be presented to the Board of Supervisors by December. She noted that the Capital Planning Committee reviewed the plan at their last meeting.

Mr. Shomo said the CIP is broken out into five sections: Renovations/New Construction, Maintenance, Transportation, Other facilities, and Athletics.

Mr. Shomo reviewed the proposed CIP.

Mr. Shomo noted that Item 14 and 26 may need to be adjusted if the Board goes with a combined middle/elementary school concept.

Ms. North asked if Item 12 included PA systems. Ms. Hutchins asked if it included press boxes and bathrooms. Dr. Johnson said we have estimates that can be included.

Ms. North asked if now would be the time to get the community involved with the athletic items on the CIP. Dr. Johnson said we could.

Luncheon with Legislators

Members were asked to share topics they would like to discuss with the legislators over lunch on Thursday. They agreed to discuss the following: funding in general, SOLs, unfunded mandates, appreciation for replacing SOLs, homeschoolers participating in VHSL activities, immigrant schooling - testing requirements and dropouts.

On motion of Ms. Smith seconded by Mr. Askew, the School Board voted to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried 6-0 by voice vote.

JEFFREY R. SHOMO, CLERK

ROBERT A. HOUCK, CHAIR