

**Jackson County Board of Education
Minutes of Special Called Meeting
Sylva, North Carolina
Central Office**

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

February 04, 2020

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in a Special Called Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 04, 2020, at the Board of Education Administrative Office, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Ali Laird-Large, Chairperson
Elizabeth Cooper, Vice-Chairperson
Margaret McRae
Wes Jamison
Abigail Clayton

Also present were Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent; Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent; John Henning, School Board Attorney; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

Ali Laird-Large, Chairperson, called the work session to order. She welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

WORK SESSION

1. **Work Session Item:** JCPS Education Funding Overview
Presenters: Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent; Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer; Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Elliott gave a presentation on Education Funding in Jackson County Public Schools that outlined the sources of revenue, unfunded mandates, dollar allotments, position allotments, charter school allocations, general fund budgets, operating revenues, capital funding, state, federal and local funding sources and restrictions for usage of the various funds.

2. **Work Session Item:** Middle School Discussion
Presenters: Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent; Cora Fields, Administrative Assistant; John Henning, Board Attorney

- A. Middle School Update - Dr. Elliott gave an overview of the Middle School planning process.
- B. Survey Summary - Cora Fields provided a summary of the two surveys that were conducted to determine interest in pursuing a Middle School Model in Jackson County. She said the Superintendent's office conducted the first survey in September and October 2018 using the online Survey Monkey. A total of 908 responses were received.

C. Referendum Update – John Henning gave an update on the process of having a Referendum on the ballot. He stated that it is up to the county to provide for the school districts capital needs. The local school district does not have the authority to tax or to enter into debt. The county is responsible for determining how to fund new buildings and improvements. He also stated that the Board of Education and County Commissioners have always had a productive working relationship.

3. **Work Session Item:** Current Capital Needs and Future Prioritization of 10-year Plan
Presenters: Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent; Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Elliott discussed the long term needs of the school system. She stated that 7 years ago the list included approximately 167 items. She said that she is proud to inform the board that many items have been taken care of and removed from the list including roofs and HVAC systems. Dr. Elliott said the remaining items have been refined to include a top priority list that includes:

- Smoky Mountain High School ADA Ramp Football Stadium
- Smoky Mountain High School ADA Compliant Visitor Bathrooms/Concession Stand
- Fairview Elementary School Cafeteria
- Bus Garage
- Smoky Mountain High School Track on Jones Street property
- Blue Ridge School Gymnasium with Performance Stage
- Smoky Mountain High School Auxiliary Gymnasium Air Conditioning

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Laura Dills spoke to the board about making the Fairview Cafeteria a top priority on the facility improvements list. She said that it is difficult to separate her roles as a JCPS Director and parent of a Fairview student, and feels that a new FES cafeteria is a real need. She encouraged the board members to visit Fairview during lunch.

Ms. Julie Sylvester said that she attended this meeting to hear what the next steps to developing a Middle School in Jackson County will be. She asked the board how parents can be involved and offered to help. She said that her children may not benefit from a middle school due to the time involved in the process. Ms. Sylvester stated that we need more input from parents and shared her frustration that more parents are not involved, and again offered her help and support.

CLOSED SESSION

The board unanimously approved a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11 for the following purposes: under subsection; (a) (1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-32 and (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Margaret McRae and seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Alison Laird Large adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Alison Laird Large, Chairperson

Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Secretary