

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Special Called Meeting
March 5, 2018

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a special called meeting on Monday, March 5, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Office Boardroom located at the Administrative Offices of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Gladys Garland, Vice Chairman Sylvia Johnson, Donna Hudson, Ross Gwynn, Gordon Satterfield and Tracy Stanley. Mel Battle was absent. Others present include Jeremy Teetor, Andrew Tyrrell, Jerry Hatchett and Board Attorney Ron Bradsher. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

Superintendent Dr. Carter shared that she and Finance Officer Jeremy Teetor met with County Manager Bryan Miller and reviewed information regarding school renovations. Upon meeting it was felt that the dollar amount was too high for the county to work with. It was suggested to contact the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to look at other options.

Mr. Teetor shared a spreadsheet listing several scenarios to pursue by working with the USDA. These options included a 40 year loan with a fixed interest rate. Based on local funding and the USDA it was agreed that the USDA was the better option to pursue. Dr. Carter suggested the board decide on which scenario they agreed upon and move forward with setting up a joint meeting with the county commissioners. Mr. Teetor shared that most recently Montgomery County used the USDA to pursue a 40 year loan for recent renovations to their high school. Mr. Teetor also made contact with representatives in Raleigh and noted that this would most likely be approved; however, a committee would be required to visit and conduct an overview.

Dr. Carter also shared that Dewberry & Davis has worked on a timeframe and will need aerial photos of the high school and would cost less to take them now while the leaves are off the trees. The cost will be near \$11,000.

The last scenario on the spreadsheet was suggested as the best scenario, noting the numbers reflect that N.L. Dillard is paid off. Mr. Satterfield questioned what the payoff is for N.L. Dillard. Mr. Teetor was not sure of the exact amount, but could get that information.

Mr. Satterfield expressed that taxpayers may not be in agreement with a 7.75% tax increase and that since there is not an urgency to get this on a general election ballot that it may be wise to wait until the results are back from the needs based grant or other state bond opportunities. It would be in our favor for the tax rate to be lower. There was discussion on why the rate is so high noting that there was not a tax rate increase when the new jail was built. The commissioners will most likely want to share this information with the community before they move forward with a vote and it may be more appealing to show a lower tax rate. The timeframe does not require us to move as quickly if we pursue the USDA. It would be better to have everything in place and have an account of what our reserve funds are.

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Sylvia Johnson questioned if there are any areas that could be cut back to offset the cost? Jerry Hatchett stated that the square footage was the main issue. Mrs. Johnson felt that the county manager and finance officer need to review this information and get their feedback first. Mr. Satterfield was in agreement with Mrs. Johnson and requested that Mr. Teetor provide an additional scenario (scenario # 2) which reflected receiving additional grant funds. Mr. Satterfield shared his concerns regarding a 40-year debt without knowing the will of the people. It would be better to have grant money to present if a tax increase is needed.

Dr. Carter and Mr. Teetor will move forward with meeting with Bryan Miller and Gwen Vaughn prior to the next board meeting.

Sylvia Johnson shared that the State is taking aials now and asked Dr. Carter to inform Dewberry & Davis.

Upon motion made by Sylvia Johnson and seconded by Tracy Stanley, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), (a)(6), and G.S. 115C-319 to consider confidential personnel matters and to confer with board attorney.

The board reentered open session by a motion from Ross Gwynn, seconded by Sylvia Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

II. ADJOURN

Ross Gwynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m., Sylvia Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 12, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the Central Office Administrative Building of Caswell County Schools.

Gladys Garland
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent