



MOORE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION
OCTOBER 20, 2015 AT 3:00 P.M.
RICK RHYNE PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER

Commissioners Present: Chairman Nick Picerno, Vice Chairman Otis Ritter, Jerry Daeke, Catherine Graham, Randy Saunders

Commissioners Absent: None

The Moore County Board of Commissioners convened for a special meeting jointly with the Moore County Board of Education on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center, 302 S. McNeill St., Carthage, NC.

Chairman Picerno called to order the Board of Commissioners and then gave the floor to Board of Education Chairman Bruce Cunningham to call the Board of Education to order and to begin discussion.

Mr. Cunningham said the last joint meeting of the two boards on September 10, 2015 was very productive and he relayed that in the time since, school officials had continued to be productive in gathering information regarding capital needs. Members of the Board of Education shared decisions recently made by the Board as a result of this research as follows:

- Ms. Pam Thompson discussed the concept high school and reported that the Board of Education had voted to name it the Advanced Career Center. The principals from North Moore, Pinecrest, and Union Pines High Schools provided information on the development of the curriculum for the Advanced Career Center. Discussion followed.
- Mr. Ed Dennison discussed project priorities as recently determined by the Board of Education: 1) Advanced Career Center; 2) Area I Elementary School; 3) Area 3 Elementary School; 4) New School to replace Southern Pines Primary and Southern Pines Elementary. Mr. Dennison said the Board had endorsed August 2019 as the target completion date for these first four projects. He said the need was great for all ten projects previously discussed, plus additional facility needs, but indicated the four he listed were deemed the most urgent by the Board of Education.
- Ms. Libby Carter shared the Board of Education's decision to increase the capacity from 650 students to 800 students for the new elementary schools discussed, and to make them

K-5 as this would be more unifying (than having both a primary and an elementary school).

- Mr. Charles Lambert reported that the Board of Education had expanded the scope to include a Phase I project for North Moore High School, the building of an auxiliary gymnasium.
- Ms. Helena Wallin-Miller shared the funding sources that the Board of Education had determined would be available for projects: lottery funds – *available* (for land acquisition); bonds – *not available* (planned to be used for “backlog” of modernization projects); unassigned school fund balance – *not available*; possible savings from scheduling modifications – *not available*; potential operational savings for replacement of facilities – *unknown*; proceeds from sale of facilities – *available* (but unknown).

The commissioners asked the Board of Education to reconsider using remaining bond funds towards the priority projects identified.

Chairman Picerno said the Board would consider an Article 46 sales tax referendum on its regular meeting agenda later in the evening, and shared that the commissioners did not feel comfortable approving start dates for the school projects until the vote on this tax was taken (in March). He asked the Board of Education to consider postponing the start date to April 1st.

Chairman Picerno said the Board of Commissioners was committed to make the school projects work and to look after the kids and the taxpayers of Moore County. He commented positively on the joint meetings of the two boards and said they should be a model for every county across the State.

Commissioner Saunders said he appreciated the narrowing of the scope of the projects and encouraged Schools representatives to continue to “sharpen the pencil” (to further diminish unnecessary costs). He congratulated them on doing a tremendous job and said he was excited to be a part of it.

Commissioner Graham said school officials had worked hard and the commissioners had, too. She said the hardest part moving forward would be educating the County’s taxpayers on why they should vote yes for the Article 46 sales tax. Regarding the capital projects, she said the boards were working together for the same outcome, better education and diligence in spending the taxpayers’ dollars wisely.

Vice Chairman Ritter said the commissioners wanted the Board of Education members to be as frugal as them.

Commissioner Daeke said he questioned some of the figures provided and hoped school officials would, too. Mr. John Birath, Executive Director for Operations for the Schools, said the figures were just budgets as designs, etc. had not yet been completed, and that school officials would be diligent to save where possible. Dr. Bob Grimesey, Superintendent, concurred that school officials would not know how to cut costs until they actually started the design process, but said he would like to be able to surprise everyone with lower rather than higher numbers.

Members of each board continued to discuss whether to delay the projects until after the sales tax referendum, and what the potential cost of a delay may be with regard to inflation.

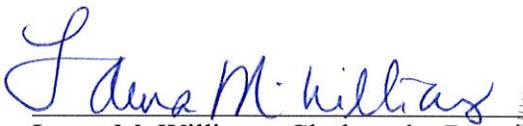
Chairman Picerno shared that the County Attorney had been asked during a meeting earlier in the day to prepare resolutions regarding reinstatement of the County's 40% share of State Education Lottery funds and also the request for the option to levy an additional quarter cent under the Article 46 sales tax, both of which could have a big impact on the funding of projects for the Schools.

The Board of Education expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the commissioners.

Upon motion made by Vice Chairman Ritter, seconded by Commissioner Saunders, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn the October 20, 2015 special meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners, held jointly with the Moore County Board of Education, at 4:31 p.m.



Nick J. Picerno, Chairman



Laura M. Williams, Clerk to the Board

