

**June 10, 2014**

A special joint meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners with the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 4:30 pm in the Health Department Conference Room, 300 Mercer Mill Road, Elizabethtown regarding FY 2014-2015 Budget and Capital Needs.

Members present were:

James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman

Mark Gillespie, Vice-Chairman

Delilah Blanks

Billy Ray Pait

Daniel Dowless

Russell Priest

Michael Cogdell

Wayne Edge

Charles Peterson

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and provided an invocation.

Superintendent Robert Taylor addressed the needs of Bladen County Schools, highlighting State budget cuts. He indicated that the school will spend \$8.2 million in local funds for FY 2013-2014 with \$6.182 million funded by the county and the remainder coming from Fund Balance. Dr. Taylor stated that sixteen positions were eliminated during FY 2013-2014 through attrition. The county has proposed \$6.182 million for FY 2014-2015, equal to the current year funding level. Another sixty positions are being eliminated in order to reduce the budget for the upcoming year.

Commissioners Gillespie and Edge left at 5:15pm.

Dr. Taylor and the Board of Education requested an additional \$630,000 in order to fund five teachers, seven teacher assistants and 1.5 assistant principal positions for FY 2014-2015. These positions will otherwise be eliminated. He also stated that the Fund Balance has been depleted during FY 2013-2014 and now carries a balance of \$200,000.

Board of Education member Alan West departed the meeting at 5:35pm.

There was considerable discussion related to the failed one-quarter cent sales tax referendum, new school facilities throughout the county, capital projects during FY 2013-2014 and other capital needs.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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James G. Smith, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Gregory J. Martin, Deputy Clerk