

May 28, 2015

A Special Meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the conference room at the NC Cooperative Extension Service, 450 Smith Circle, Elizabethtown, NC. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss budget and capital needs related to Bladen County Schools.

Members present were:

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman

Russell Priest, Vice Chairman

Delilah Blanks

Michael Cogdell

James G. "Jimmie" Smith

Daniel Dowless

Billy Ray Pait

Wayne Edge

Arthur Bullock

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order and provided the invocation. Chairman Peterson asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Dr. Taylor provided a brief review of a previous request of the Board of Commissioners to authorize a transfer of up to \$495,000 from Bladen County Schools' Capital Outlay Fund Balance to its Current Expense Fund in order to meeting current year obligations of Bladen County Schools.

Following discussion, Dr. Taylor cited several expenditures which were over-budget during the current year, such as substitute teachers. Dr. Taylor indicated that several summer programs would either be eliminated or cut back to bare necessities. Also, he stated that only critical repairs would be made.

Chairman Peterson, referencing North Carolina General Statute 115c-433(d), stated Bladen County Schools nor the Board of Education have the authorization to transfer funds from the Capital Outlay Fund Balance to Current Expense Fund. The Board of County Commissioners is also unable to authorize that type of transfer, without a clear understanding of "emergencies unforeseen and unforeseeable at the time the budget resolution as adopted". Commissioner Edge read aloud NCGS 115c-433(d) for information.

Commissioner Blanks asked Dr. Taylor and the Board members in attendance for additional information regarding an unforeseen emergency to support a transfer of funds.

Following additional discussion, Dr. Taylor communicated that plans are being developed to eliminate excess costs and School System officials would provide an update at a future Board of Commissioners meeting regarding consolidation.

Chairman Peterson stated that if funds to complete the school year are a necessity, a transfer would come from the General Fund Reserves of Bladen County. He indicated that a decision would be made at the upcoming regular Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2015.

Chairman Peterson thanked everyone for their time and understanding.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Peterson at 1:58 pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman