



Scotland County Schools
Board Briefs
Regular Meeting - September 12, 2016
Joint Meeting with the County Commissioners - September 14, 2016

Regular BOE Meeting - September 12, 2016

- IEJ 5th grader, Mauricia Mackie, proudly led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Key Player Award - Laurel Hill Elementary's custodial team - Shirley Smith, William McPhatter, and Brandon Galbreath - was presented with Key Player awards for all of their hard work and the dedication they have for the school, staff, and most importantly, the students at Laurel Hill.
- Assistant Superintendent, Larry Johnson, reported on the recent middle school athletics policy that the State BOE adopted allowing 6th graders to play middle school sports, except football. No decision was made locally, but points made that will guide further discussion were:
 - With the 6th grade athletes, the district is totally liable for them, unlike the 7th and 8th grade athletes, which are partially covered under state middle school athletic insurance policies.
 - Potentially less children would be able to participate since there would be more competition.
 - It is such a tough transition going from elementary to middle school. Additional activities could add pressure and take away from their academic focus.
 - However, knowing that one of the challenges of our community is after school programs for our youth, allowing 6th graders to participate in sports could engage more students in productive activities.
 - One option would be to have an 'A' team and a 'B' team
 - Board recommended that we do more research and bring it back up in the spring.
- Dr. Summer Gainey, Jamie Sutherland, Raymond Hyatt, and Charles Brown will be our NC School Board Association voting delegates representing SCS.

- Board attorney, Nick Sojka, reported that the upset bid process continues for Washington Park. The new deadline for an upset bid is Tuesday, September 20 and the new minimum bid is \$68,300.
- Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Valarie Williams, reported to the Board the district's low performing school plan (those schools which received a D or F). The only schools in our district to receive a D were IEJ and Carver. We did not have an F school this year. Dr. Williams pointed out though that these grades did not in anyway reflect the tremendous growth that happened in these schools last year. IEJ had amazing double-digit growth and Carver was only .6% of a point from being a C school. However, in order to comply with state regulations, a low-performing plan must still be in place.
- CFO, Jay Toland reported on the HB 1030 legislation:
 - For 16-17, this school year, everything stays the same.
 - The changes come into effect for the 2017-18 school year.
 - Only affects kindergarten through 3rd grade.
 - Currently, we allot teachers based on a 1:21 (with a max of 1:24) ratio for all K-3 classes.

With the new legislation:

- In kindergarten, the ratio will be one teacher per 16 students, with a maximum of 19 students.
- First grade will be one teacher per 16 students with a maximum of 19 students.
- Second and third grade will be one teacher per 17 students, with a maximum of 20 students.

The challenge for our district is:

- Knowing if consolidation will move forward as presented.
- The actual number of classroom needed under the new legislation would depend upon whether or not we consolidate additional schools AND we would need to have a more accurate count of what classrooms are being used for now (i.e. special instruction such as P.E., music, art, etc.)
- An additional challenge is per a memo from the Office of State Budget and Management on August 26, 2016, 'agencies shall submit reduction options that equate to two percent (2%) of the agency's 2016-17 BD...' and 'General Fund appropriation expansion requests shall not exceed two percent (2%)...' and 'The change to the General Fund must be budget neutral or result in a net savings.' – Which means less funding.
- **Special Note: Although this legislation did pass, the challenges that it presents to districts big and small has created a lot of discussion and 'push back'. The possibility does remain that HB 1030 could be repealed prior to the 2017-18 school year.
- Dr. Hargrave reported during his Superintendent's Report:
 - Great opening of school - one of the smoothest yet!

- SCS administrators voted to NOT receive the allocated Merit Pay Bonus. The \$60,000 that would have been disbursed to administrators will now be divided among the other employees. This will equate to anywhere between \$60-\$100 more bonus money than they would have gotten before. Dr. Hargrave commended school and district administration for that very tangible demonstration of just how much they care about all of our employees.
- A Laurel Hill Elementary grandmother suffered an apparent heart attack in the car rider line during pick up. Due to the quick thinking and action of bystanders and staff, they were able to perform CPR, use the defibrillator and shock her heart to start, and literally save her life.
- Reported that there is legislation sponsored by Senator Tom McInnis that allows TAs to go to school to finish their degree and receive a stipend for doing so. Dr. Hargrave will be attending an upcoming meeting to find out more information about the program, who is eligible, and how it is implemented. The hope is to have it available for TAs at the beginning of 2nd semester.

Joint Meeting of the BOE and Board of Commissioners - September 14, 2016

First Tryon, the independent financial group hired jointly by the BOE and County, reported its findings to both Boards during the joint meeting. What they found is that the information and savings presented by the BOE were statistically on target with their calculations. The only line item that differed was in the area of transportation. The BOE has projected a cost savings of over \$117,000 in transportation if the next phase of consolidation were to be completed. First Tryon did exclude these savings from their total however because they could not definitively say that all of the estimated transportation cost savings were directly correlated to consolidation. In other words, some of that savings could come from corner stops, more efficient routes, etc. - something that we are going to be doing anyway. Additionally, First Tryon presented the possible ways to finance school construction and discussed the pros and cons of each option.

There was much discussion from both Boards and although no decision was made, the general tone of the meeting was positive and then expectation moving forward was that the Board would continue to collaborate and through open and honest dialogue, work to make the decision that's best for the community, our schools, the staff, and most importantly, our students.