

PULASKI COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – MARCH 8, 1999

At a joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and Pulaski County School Board held on Monday, March 8, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N. W. in the Town of Pulaski, the following members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Jerry D. White, Vice-Chairman; Dr. Bruce L. Fariss; Charles E. Cook; and Frank R. Conner. Present from the Pulaski County School Board were: Lewis Pratt, Chairman; Ronald E. Chaffin; Warren Jeff Bain; Beth C. Nelson; and Rhea Saltz. Staff members present included County Attorney Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr., County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan; Management Services Director, Nancy M. Burchett; School Superintendent Dr. David Cox; School Business Manager, Walt Shannon; School Board Secretary, Jean Cox and Ron Nichols.

1. Welcome of School Board Members & Superintendent:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Sheffey welcomed the School Board and new School Superintendent, Dr. David Cox.

2. Board of Supervisors Accomplishment Presentation

Chairman Sheffey reviewed a power point presentation of the Board of Supervisors accomplishments over the past four years, as prepared by county staff.

3. School Construction Update

- a. Snowville Elementary Expansion
- b. Critzer Elementary Expansion
- c. High School Repairs

School Board Chairman Lewis Pratt expressed appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to meet with the Board regarding school issues.

Mr. Ronnie Nichols of the School Board staff reported that both the Snowville Elementary School and Critzer Elementary expansion projects were ahead of schedule with Snowville expected to be completed by August 1, 1999 and Critzer to be completed by early this summer. He also advised that the baseball field should be completed soon, but will not be ready for use this year. Plans are to use the Calfee Park field this year.

Discussion was held on the recent fire at Critzer Elementary. School Board staff advised that approximately \$20,000 worth of damages had resulted from the fire. It was reported that the fire occurred in the heating and cooling systems. Further, staff advised the entire cost of damages would be covered by the insurance company, less the deductible of \$1,000.

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Walt Shannon, School Business Manager, advised that the Literary Loan application approval for the high school repairs was pending and the repairs could not proceed until approval had been received. However, he reported approval was expected this month.

4. County Revenue Estimates

Joseph N. Morgan, County Administrator, reviewed preliminary local revenue projections for FY 00. He reported an estimated \$506,838 in additional local revenues for FY 00.

5. State School Revenue Projections

Walt Shannon at this time reviewed the state school revenue projections by line item. He noted the new revenue of lottery distribution estimated to be \$666,022, GED funding at \$15,717 and restoration of technology initiative at \$312,000. He also pointed out a number of line items, which reflected a reduction in funding. However, he reported a total projected increase in state revenues for the schools to be \$1,396,376. In addition, teacher salary increases were approved by the state at 6% with an effective date of January 4, 2000.

6. School Budget Issues

School Superintendent Dr. David Cox identified School Board goals for FY 99-00 to be as follows:

1. Increased Student Achievement
2. Evaluation and Employee Development
3. Open Lines of Communication
4. Capital Building Plan

Dr. Cox also advised that he would be recommending a curriculum audit review by an independent firm. He reported this type of review would compare the current curriculum to national and state standards and make recommendations for improvements. The cost of such a review was reported to be approximately \$45,000 to \$50,000. Dr. Cox further reported that he plans to develop an individual school profile to include goals for improvements at each school.

Walt Shannon reported the two major school budget issues for FY 99-00 to be increased VRS contribution rate and employee health care costs.

7. Employee Health Care

Management Services Director Nancy M. Burchett reviewed the recent employee health care renewal rates. Said rates reported to reflect an increase in premiums of 22%. Additional data reviewed included a five-year history of premiums and two years of data regarding premiums paid versus claims paid. In addition, Ms. Burchett reviewed additional options for health care coverage to include the Virginia Municipal League and the Pulaski Encouraging Progress possible group. Ms. Burchett requested authorization to notify the Local Choice Program of Pulaski County's possible withdrawal from the pool effective July 1, 1999, with a decision regarding remaining in the program to be made by April 30, 1999.

The Board of Supervisors and the School Board members expressed concerns regarding the 22% increase and the additional dollars needed to fund such an increase.

On the motion of Dr. Fariss, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried, the Board of Supervisors authorized staff to proceed in notifying the Local Choice Program of Pulaski County's possible withdrawal from the program effective July 1, 1999 and that a decision regarding renewal should be made by April 30, 1999.

Voting yes: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. White, Mr. Conner.
Voting no: none.

8. Boundary Adjustment at Northwood Elementary

On the motion of Dr. Fariss, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors authorized the School Board to make the decision regarding a boundary line adjustment at Northwood Elementary School.

Voting yes: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. White, Mr. Conner.
Voting no: none.

9. Other Matters

There were no other matters discussed.

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10. Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried that the Board of Supervisors adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting set for Monday, March 22, 1999, 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 143 3rd Street, NW, Board Room in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia.

Voting yes: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. White, Mr. Conner.

Voting no: none.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman
Pulaski County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Joseph N. Morgan, Clerk
Pulaski County Board of Supervisors