

AT A JOINT MEETING OF THE JAMES CITY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, THE WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL, AND THE WILLIAMSBURG-JAMES CITY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, HELD ON THE 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2002, AT 2:03 P.M. AT THE JAMES CITY/WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY CENTER, LONGHILL ROAD, COUNTY OF JAMES CITY, VIRGINIA.

A. WELCOME

Mr. Kennedy welcomed the Williamsburg City Council and the Williamsburg-James City County School Board for a discussion regarding the proposed new secondary facilities, and called the Board of Supervisors to order.

Mayor **Zeidler** called the Williamsburg City Council to order.

Ms. Kay Aimworth, Chair of the Williamsburg-James City County School Board, **thanked the** groups for meeting, stated a goal of **becoming** the best school division in the Commonwealth by providing the best education possible, and called the School Board to order.

B. ROLL CALL

James G. Kennedy, Chairman, Stonehouse District
Jay T. **Harrison, Sr.**, Vice Chairman, Berkeley District, arrived at 2:10 p.m.

John J. **McGlennon**, Jamestown District
Michael J. Brown. **Powhatan** District
Bruce C. **Goodson**, Roberts District

Sanford B. Wanner, County Administrator

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Proposed New Secondary Facilities

a. Existing Facilities

Ms. Aimworth, Chair of the Williamsburg-James City County School Board, provided the members with an overview of the existing School division facilities, student capacity limit of 9,273 for these facilities, and stated that the 2001 enrollment number was 8,407.

The Boards and City Council held a discussion regarding the enrollment capacity, trigger points developed for enrollment capacities at the schools, the current status of the two high schools' enrollment capacities, and the development of a secondary facility focus group to provide recommendations regarding the third facility and programming needs of secondary education.

b. Project Needs

The School Board was requested to provide an overview of the existing secondary programming and the recommendations for secondary programs by the Focus Group.

Ms. **Ainsworth** stated that students and programming opportunities are the same at Jamestown and Lafayette High Schools and both schools were built for 1,250 student capacity.

Mr. **Kennedy** inquired as to how the School Board determines the need for a third high school as compared to expansion of the existing facilities.

A discussion was held concerning the limited expansion ability of Lafayette **High** School, target capacity enrollment numbers of 900 to 1,250 for a secondary school facility has been reached, the concept of "bigger not better" was discussed, and the School Board stated its position that teachers, parents and students would rather have a third secondary school facility rather than reach enrollment numbers of 1,250.

Mr. **Goodson** stated concern regarding the amount of overhead associated with an additional secondary facility that will reduce the overall enrollments at each of the secondary facilities below an optimum **efficient** capacity.

c. Expansion Alternatives

Mr. **Kennedy** inquired as to the criteria utilized by the Focus Group and the School Board to determine what type of secondary school programming would be at the new facility, shared facility vs. traditional high school.

Ms. **Ainsworth** stated that the existing facilities cannot be expanded and that it is the school's desire not to have large class sizes.

Ms. **Bush** stated that in 1992 the community stated favor for equally sized schools with balanced programming at each, and feels the community still favors those factors.

Discussion was held concerning secondary programming, school enrollment capacity, transporting students between schools and shared facilities for special classes, anticipated and historical enrollment numbers, and feedback from students, parents, and teachers that smaller class sizes provide an atmosphere of community and a **good** learning environment.

Discussion was also held concerning the physical class size needs that vary from program offerings, such as computer classrooms utilizing a large space for few students and philosophy classrooms utilizing little space for a larger number of students; the smaller class sizes provide a better opportunity for peers and teachers to see changes in a student's performance and to **intervene by** offering assistance earlier; and the ability of smaller class sizes allows children to interact across socio-economic lines.

d. Cost Estimates/Financing

Discussion was held concerning the economy of scale associated with the enrollment numbers, additional faculty needs, additional trailer requests, and the request to build a new secondary facility while at an over-enrollment capacity of 500 students.

Mr. **Hall** stated that it is difficult to time when to build a new facility because if it is built too soon, the result is a lot of overhead; however if it is built too late, there may be overcrowding in the new facility **built** to alleviate overcrowding.

Mr. Hall further stated that it seems that the three groups agree with the trigger enrollment capacity numbers and that the question has become how to determine that point, planning for relief, and timing; and suggested the focus turn to the planning process and timing of acquisition.

Discussion followed concerning the type of programming to be offered at a third secondary facility; alternatives for funding the third secondary facility if votes turn down a referendum; **the** need for the three groups to be in accord for a referendum and to move forward together; working with Thomas Nelson Community College if the facility is determined to be a shared facility; and keeping the facility open to the public as a central point for community education.

The School Board stated a strong desire to work with the City and County in this process and to receive constructive feedback from all parties.

Consensus was reached concerning the need for an additional secondary facility.

Ms. **Ainsworth** stated that additional **information** would be provided after June **when** input from the Subcommittee on Secondary Education will be submitted on anticipated programs for the facility, and recommended that additional joint meetings be held to review findings of the Subcommittee, and to review the development of plans for a third secondary facility.

Mr. Wanner suggested that the School Board should have a **good** idea of what type of parcel would be needed for a third secondary facility and recommended the School Board begin the process of site selection and planning with money from the **School** Board's carryover funds.

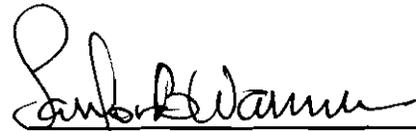
D. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kennedy, Ms. **Ainsworth**, and Mayor Zeidler thanked the groups for meeting, the input and suggestions provided, and stated support for another meeting soon.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to adjourn until 4 p.m. on February 26, 2002, for a work session

On a roll call vote, the vote was: **AYE: McGlennon, Brown, Goodson, Harrison, Kennedy (5). NAY: (0).**

The Board recessed at 4:15 p.m.



Sanford B. Wanner
Clerk to the Board