

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 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2008, AT 11:03 A.M. AT 2007 LEGACY HALL, 4301 NEW TOWN AVENUE, COUNTY OF JAMES CITY, VIRGINIA.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Bruce C. Goodson, Chairman, Roberts District
James G. Kennedy, Vice Chairman, Stonehouse District
James O. Icenhour, Jr., Powhatan District
John J. McGlennon, Jamestown District
Mary Jones, Berkeley District
Sanford B. Wanner, County Administrator

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Budget

Dr. Mathews thanked the Board of Supervisors and City Council members for their longtime support of the public schools, improving the curriculum and public education. He listed four observations: 1) Williamsburg-James City County Schools (WJCC) division average exceeded the State's benchmarks in English/Reading, Writing, Science, and History in every grade in elementary and middle schools. The high school results also exceeded the Standards of Learning. The Advanced Placement results were also encouraging. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for African-American students was achieved in Math and Reading for the first time in 2006-2007; 2) The 2008-2009 WJCC budget was built on School Board approved budget goals 1-3 and on Long Range Goals and Annual Improvement Goals. Federal AYP and State accreditation standards also pushed the budget forward; 3) The school division, superintendent, and School Board understand that times are challenged. Dr. Mathews recommended that the budget be within the County guidelines of 1.7 percent increase (County and City combined); and 4) Importance to see overview of proposed budget by Mr. Burckbuchler.

Mr. Scott Burckbuchler, Assistant Superintendent/Certified Financial Officer for WJCC Schools, gave a PowerPoint presentation covering the following: Key Points about Budget Process; Budget Overview; Revenue; Key Points about State Revenue; Key Points about Local Revenue; Expenditures; Key Points about Salary Increase; Efficiency; and Summary. *See Attachment #1*

Mr. Burckbuchler noted that incremental budgeting was not used; staffing was done from the bottom up as the budget was built in accordance with projected enrollment; and there is \$2 million less due to the budget being built from the bottom up.

There were questions on where WJCC is in terms of proposed salary increases with other school divisions (WJCC ranks 9th of 132 school divisions for average teacher pay because of longevity, and 64 percent of WJCC's teachers have a masters degree, various steps on the salary schedule are not as competitive); aspirations peer group for performance comparisons in pay and other performance measures; and self-comparison over the past five years. Dr. Mathews noted that the self-comparison has been done and agreed that a peer group is an excellent idea.

How will the proposed 15-year bus replacement plan cycle (budgeted for \$500,000 to start) and the proposed increase in bus drivers' salaries affect the tiered system? Mr. Burckbuchler responded that if WJCC Schools had more than enough bus drivers, it should help alleviate problems we are having with the three-tiered system. Dr. Bob Becker added that the proposed increase in bus driver wages is an effort to create an incentive to retain and attract new staff. Also, there is no bus replacement cycle in place now, but there needs to be.

Instructional positions were discussed as to how staffing was accomplished, and it was noted that seven positions were reduced due to the Standards of Quality (SOQ) funding and other positions added due to the Alternative Education Task Force recommendations.

The funding allocations for the Academy for Life and Learning (ALL) Program, middle and high school transition programs, and the proposed facility for alternative learners were discussed; and WJCC's plans for hiring teachers when a significant number of them begin to retire.

Mayor Zeidler stated that she appreciated the proposed budget was within the County's guidance and that WJCC was trying to implement the Task Force's recommendations, but did it fully implement the recommendations? Does it make sense to implement all the recommendations at once or could some be implemented in stages? How are other needs balanced in the school division – for instance, technology?

Mr. Burckbuchler responded that the budget entirely funds the administrative response to the Task Force's recommendations. Alternative education for non-traditional learners would start mid-year. Dr. Mathews noted that they do not know what interest there will be in this proposed program. He stated that if there are not at least 60 students, the program could not go forward.

When asked if there was an attempt to bring forward a budget that was less than the 1.7 percent, Dr. Mathews responded that he worked in adherence to the County Administrator's guidance letter. There was discussion about the 1991 recession. Mr. Haulman asked what happens if we approve a budget but we can't fulfill it? Mr. Wanner responded that in the past the City was held harmless and the County funded it. Mr. Burckbuchler stated that the school division would work with the City and County if this happened.

Mayor Zeidler stated she supports the initiatives, but are they the right things to do without knowing what will happen next year? Mr. Burckbuchler responded, regarding technology, in the capital requests there are funds to continue in the high, middle, and elementary school levels.

Mr. John McDonald gave a report on the County's budget process, which is four-to-six weeks behind the schools. He noted that next year's budget will be a decrease from this year's. The budget will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in early April.

The group took recess from 12:31 p.m. to 12:40 p.m.

2. Enrollment and Capital Implications

Mr. Burckbuchler briefly reviewed the 2008/2009 through 2012/2013 projected student enrollments produced by DeJong-Healy. The group discussed the possibility of taking James Blair Middle School off-line and renovating the building for an elementary school.

3. Construction Program as 9th Elementary and 4th Middle Schools Move Forward (inclusive of Value Engineering)

Dr. Becker stated that WJCC School division was in the drawing phase and gave a brief report on the last building committee meeting. The group discussed the cost of building the 9th elementary school compared to Matoaka Elementary School, which is calculated at the midpoint of construction – which is 2009 for the 9th elementary school, in dollars per square foot: \$236.65/square foot (Matoaka) vs. \$218.97/square foot (9th elementary school).

There was discussion about construction costs being lower at this time, mainly in lumber. Lumber is used in small quantities; steel is used in larger quantities when building schools. A nine percent escalation factor was used to calculate the projected construction costs.

4. Co-Joined, Geothermal, and Potential Impact on County's Groundwater System

When asked if there was an effort to do value engineering on the geothermal system for the two new schools, Dr. Becker responded, "No, not the construction costs, we looked at future energy use." There was discussion on the cost effectiveness and efficiency of geothermal along with the building and site costs for geothermal. Dr. Becker confirmed that site work will be done early to take advantage of lower construction costs.

Dr. Becker also confirmed that WJCC School division has worked closely with the James City Service Authority and General Services to determine the depth for the 480 wells of the geothermal system. Two test wells will be dug to a test depth of 200 feet, which will not impact the County's groundwater system. Also, the geothermal system is a closed-loop system that will not penetrate the aquifer.

Dr. Becker confirmed that the two schools (9th elementary and 4th middle) would be built simultaneously, which should generate substantial savings in masonry, steel, ceiling tiles, etc. Mr. Haulman stated there was a substantial amount of the budget going into this project and that it would be useful to have positions to explain why. Dr. Becker will provide bullet lists to the governing bodies.

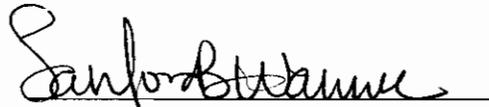
The use of prototype buildings was reviewed; the criteria for an elementary gymnasium were discussed; and the redesign to accommodate the geothermal heat pump closets in lieu of a mechanical room was also discussed.

5. Triennial Census Update

Mr. Burckbuchler reviewed the letter that will be sent to City and County residents, and the Action Plan for completing the Triennial Census. He noted that at a regional finance meeting they had considered joint advertising.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Supervisors adjourned at 1:44 p.m., until 4:00 p.m. on February 26, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sanford B. Wanner", written over a horizontal line.

Sanford B. Wanner
Clerk to the Board

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