

AT A JOINT WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF JAMES CITY, VIRGINIA, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, AND THE WILLIAMSBURG-JAMES CITY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, HELD ON THE 11TH DAY OF MARCH 2014, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE CAFETERIA IN THE SCHOOL BOARD AND CENTRAL OFFICE, 117 IRONBOUND ROAD, WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.

**ADOPTED**

**A. HOST WELCOME**

APR 08 2014

**B. CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Supervisors  
James City County, VA

Chairman Jones called the James City County Board of Supervisors to order. Roll Call:

Mary K. Jones, Chairman, Berkeley District  
Michael J. Hipple, Vice Chairman, Powhatan District  
James G. Kennedy, Stonehouse District  
Kevin D. Onizuk, Jamestown District  
John J. McGlennon, Roberts District

M. Douglas Powell, Acting County Administrator

Vice Mayor Freiling called the Williamsburg City Council to order. Roll Call:

Clyde Haulman, Mayor (Absent)  
Paul Freiling, Vice Mayor  
Scott Foster  
Doug Pons  
Judy Knudson

Jackson C. Tuttle, City Manager

Ms. Ruth Larson called the Williamsburg-James City County School Board to order. Roll Call:

Heather Cordasco  
Elise Emanuel  
Joseph Fuentes  
Jim Kelly  
Ruth Larson  
James Nickols  
Dr. Oscar Prater (Absent)

Dr. Steven Constantino, Superintendent  
Janet Cerza, Clerk to the Board

### **C. FY2015 OPERATING BUDGET**

Ms. Terry Stone, Chief Financial Officer for WJCC, presented the proposed WJCC FY2015 Operating Budget. Participants were each given a folder containing budget information. *See Attachments*

There was discussion on how the proposed sixteen additional teachers would be used; how the \$300,000 for alternative education enhancement would be used (a pilot to better meet the needs of students that are not successful in traditional school days through blended learning models); and, the proposed increase in staffing (see Superintendent's Proposed FY2015 Budget for breakdown).

### **D. FY2015 CIP/MIDDLE SCHOOL AND CENTRAL OFFICE DISCUSSION**

There was discussion on the acreage needed for a middle school site (State recommends 30 acres. The James Blair site is 25 acres, including Cooley Field. A new building could be positioned on the property). Discussion followed on possible expansion of the high schools (two of the high schools can be expanded). Ms. Jones noted that the main floor of Warhill High School was designed larger than usual to accommodate future expansion. Mr. Kennedy stated 2001 studies that were done said Lafayette High School could be expanded.

The group discussed options to expand the current three middle schools (kitchens and other areas would have to be enlarged to accommodate the larger number of students). Dr. Constantino noted that hallways cannot be enlarged and a 21st century learning facility with adaptable learning space was recommended by the committee. All three middle schools are expandable. Ms. Jones stated that constituents have told her that if current schools can be expanded, it's more affordable and what goes on inside the building is more important than what the building looks like. Dr. Constantino noted that the effectiveness of the teacher is the most important thing, and they should consider in what environment teachers will thrive.

Ms. Cordasco noted that a geothermal system was used at Hornsby Middle School – it cannot be expanded. Also, the City is planning an adjustment to the road alignment in front of James Blair, which will decrease the land in front of the building. School buses need to be replaced – there is a cost for everything and the big picture (or the decision) is one we will have to live with for years.

There was discussion on either retrofitting James Blair or razing the current structure and building new.

More discussion followed on why expanding the existing school buildings would not fit into 21st century visions. The SOLs suggest mastery and moving on when ready – need to have flexibility to change student groupings based on what they have mastered. STEM education requires flexible learning space. Ms. Larson noted that a complete change is needed – not just adding on. The School Division is at a crossroads and needs to know what you are thinking and how we should proceed.

Mr. Kennedy asked about the 113 developable acres in the Stonehouse area, which would require expansion of the PSA. Previously the thought was that schools should be comparable (Within financial reason, strive for equity throughout the division. Terms of equity also evolve). Discussion followed on costs to expand the infrastructure of existing schools. One size no longer fits all; there are different programs at the schools. Kids are going to New Horizons for programs (auto shop).

Mrs. Cordasco noted that a new special education facility is being built at Butler Farm campus. The building currently being used is located on Woodside Lane it will be retrofitted for 21st century career ready classes (this is closer to Williamsburg.) Williamsburg-James City County (WJCC) has a strategic plan and is following it. This year paper usage, stipends and overtime were reviewed for new efficiencies. Technology for online learning and stormwater are issues they have no control over.

Dr. Constantino clarified for Mr. Hipple that school designs need flexible learning places for kids that are different. In addition to regular classrooms there need to be accommodations for personalized learning and the ability to regroup kids. Students don't learn the same way on the same day. Hallways are currently being used for regrouping. The decision needs to be for the next 20-40 years and include how we get there. Partnering opportunities with businesses and on-time graduation were discussed.

Ms. Larson said they (the School Board) need to get an idea on how to proceed with the central office needs. Mr. Kennedy stated that the JCC Planning Commission felt misled about whether the central office would be put in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) this year (CIP info is requested in August/September and all the information was not available at that time).

Dr. Constantino stated that the School Liaison Committee knew that this decision rested on whether James Blair was used as a middle school. The interest of the County was to find land as opposed to lease. A year has already been lost for completion of the fourth middle school (now 2018).

Ms. Jones felt the communication between the schools and the County needed to be improved. They should take advantage of the School Liaison Committee meetings and make sure everyone is on the same page. She suggested that the three groups agree on a date for next year's joint meeting and put it on their organizational calendars. The joint meeting should be in early February, before the superintendent's proposed budget comes out.

Ms. Larson stated strongly that they never wanted to mislead anyone, but if the central office is not at James Blair it needs a place to go. Serious accusations have been made in the paper about how they (central office) operate. They need a place to conduct business and have professional development.

Mr. Freiling stated the School Board needs to justify why these buildings are needed. The School Board is not interested in a fancy building, but the educational experience in the schools. They (School Division) need the same type meeting room that's in the LEC. Need to provide educational training experiences for citizens to be here. People are concerned about the closing of a City building.

Mr. Pons noted that both options require central office to be moved first. Leasing is not in our best interest.

Mr. McGlennon noted that this discussion has been happening for a long time. There are many considerations. We've all known we have these needs and the need to address them and provide direction to the School Board and administrators on what to plan for in their budgets. They must make hard decisions in a short time frame. Recognize the need for a new facility and determine where it's to be placed. If at James Blair site, central office needs to be relocated first. Direction needs to be given within weeks, not months.

Mr. Fuentes said if they go with Option B, the architect needs to design the final project and work backwards so the facility can be expanded. Ms. Larson noted that expanding a school won't just happen over the summer – students will need a place to go and there will be additional operating expenses to consider.

Mr. Onizuk said citizens generally understand and are supportive of the middle school. They are concerned about a central office facility and the costs. There is unused office space (in the County), have creative options been explored – like a lease purchase, new construction or retrofitting?

Ms. Larson said a great deal of time has been spent looking for existing space to meet our needs. Discussion followed on the amount of space needed for central office, specifically the multipurpose meeting space for professional development and School Board work sessions. Mr. Kennedy suggested looking at vacant shopping centers or hotels. Dr. Constantino responded that this was done, but the emphasis changed in January 2013 when they were asked to look at jointly owned property or the pad site next to it.

Ms. Knudson stated they were asking the people running central office to work in offices that may not be as nice as the one we work in. These are the people who are creating the atmosphere and making learning a good thing. The central question is: Do they need an office and what do they need?

Mr. Pons said the best administrators and teachers are needed for a premier system. Renovating shopping centers will not meet these needs and are not appropriate.

Mr. Nickols described the multipurpose room needs. Mrs. Cordasco noted that confidential things like student discipline hearings and special education could not be conducted in close quarters.

Mr. Kennedy related questions he is being asked by constituents. James City County will have to fund 90% of this building. The discussion has been going on for some time. What space options are available – the high-end medical building, the new Stryker Building? He was unsure of the January 2013 references. The middle school is doable, but the problem is central office.

Ms. Larson responded that if the citizens have questions about central office needs, they should call and we (School Board members) will put them in touch with central office staff. WJCC has been up front and transparent on their website and at their meetings. They have tried to find space that would work. Dr. Constantino has been in constant contact with the county and city administrators and has passed along information to the board after these meetings.

Discussion followed on the amount of space needed for central office (40,000 square feet) now and in the future. Ms. Jones asked if it would be an issue if the Board (of Supervisors) members wanted more time to study the options. They want to make the best decision for the students, community and fiscally. They will communicate back in the next two weeks. Dr. Constantino said the School Board could adopt a budget with a placeholder (must be adopted before April 1). Ms. Jones told the BOS to get their questions to Dr. Constantino or John McDonald before their next meeting.

Mr. Onizuk said he would feel comfortable with more information on central office options. He wasn't suggesting inadequate facilities. He wanted to look at other options available in the community or a lease/purchase option – creative solutions. Dr. Constantino said he would furnish whatever information they have.

Ms. Larson asked if there were other spaces they wanted the school division to look at beside James Blair or is there another land site? They will not look at leasing land in York County (suggested in paper). Mr. McGlennon noted that Option B means less site work and land costs. Ms. Jones said she supported repurposing James Blair facility. Regarding administrative office, they need to look long term also. Mr. Freiling said they were happy to work with the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Larson thanked everyone for attending. She stated Dr. Constantino goes above and beyond with information and is very transparent. He works constantly with the County and City. This community has a premier school division that people want to live in.

#### **E. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Jones adjourned the Board of Supervisors at 6:07 p.m.

Ms. Larson adjourned the School Board at 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Freiling adjourned the City Council at 6:07 p.m.

These minutes were drafted by Ms. Janet Cerza, Clerk to the Board, WJCC School Board.



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M. Douglas Powell  
Clerk to the Board

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