

Grayson County Board of Supervisors
And Grayson County School Board
Joint Budget Work Session
January 28, 2019

Board of Supervisors attending were: Kenneth R. Belton, John S. Fant, and Michael S. Hash. Thomas Revels participated by phone. Brenda R. Sutherland was in Richmond and unable to attend.

Mr. William L. Shepley, Mr. Mitchell L. Smith and Leesa A. Gayheart were in attendance as well.

School Board members in attendance were: Diane Haynes, Fred Weatherman, Randy Shinault, Rick Sage and Tracy Anderson.

Mr. Kelly Wilmore, Mrs. Mary Paisley and Ms. Michelle Cassell were also in attendance.

Supervisor Belton called the Board of Supervisors meeting to order.

Chair Haynes called the School Board meeting to order.

IN RE: OPENING BUSINESS

Supervisor Fant made the motion to approve the agenda; duly seconded by Supervisor Hash. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Weatherman made the motion to approve the agenda; duly seconded by Mr. Shinault. Motion carried 5-0.

IN RE: BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mr. Wilmore began and noted the following:

- The school has received the Governor's budget which includes a 5% teacher raise – not certain yet if it includes all positions or just que positions so they are waiting on the House and Senate results. If positions are fulfilled with the 5% raise, then that would allow us to move our pay scale a little closer to some of the surrounding school systems. We are still waiting on the House and Senate before finalizing our budget
- Very few renovations in our budget for next year but the roof at Fairview School needs to be fixed – the metal part is good; the other areas are what needs our attention now. Looking at renovations in the next couple of years that hopefully both the Board of Supervisors and School can agree upon

- Test scores for first semester were high and last year and we had the highest test scores in the state
- ADM is looking better and currently around 1500 with Kindergarten the largest in a long time. State has projected our number at 1427 and it will probably be April before we get a better feel for our number
- We are looking to add electricity and plumbing in the CATE Center and possibly HVAC and Cyber Security and will all be taught in-house
- Excited about doing some educational things in Baywood
- Looking at doing something different with our distant learning/homeschooling in alternative education and possibly turning it into an academy which would mean we'll have either a half to a full-time position that would need to be filled; a homeschool student can/could enroll in a class(es) (2 blocks) which would in turn help our numbers and get the attendance under control

Supervisor Hash explained CPMT (Community Policy Management Team) and that now if the parents can't get the child to attend school, they are placed in truancy, then in residential foster care for three (3) months, easily spending \$40,000 on one child plus the education cost is unreal.

Mr. Shepley explained the cost associated with the three (3) areas in over budget that we don't have any control over and are exploding cost wise: Regional Jail, Juvenile Detention and CPMT. Currently they are increasing between 50% - 100% in what we've budgeted for in each of those three (3) areas each year. With these three (3) things alone, it's hurting our budget and we're trying to do something in order to get it under control.

Mr. Wilmore noted that the free/reduced lunch numbers continue to increase and is currently at approximately 62% county wide with one school at 94%. We are doing the pack-a-snack program on the weekends and the number of participants is increasing. Thinking outside the box is a must to be able to get our children in school.

Mr. Shepley spoke about the long distance DSS (Department of Social Services) must travel (Norfolk, VA) to see these kids that are in foster care. We are looking to bring these services a lot closer to home. Staying focused on what's best for our children is crucial.

Supervisor Belton noted this is going to be a tough year budget wise and requested Mr. Wilmore to prioritize their needs. Mr. Wilmore noted that their number one (1) priority is to get the salary levels up and if the 5% goes through, will get the teachers where they need to be and number two (2) the school doesn't have as many needed renovations as in prior years – CATE Center is getting painted; replacing propane with HVAC will be done in the future; placing air in the middle school gym are a few of the things that will need to be addressed. We do plan on keeping the dual enrollment programs.

Mr. Shepley reinforced that this is going to be a very tough year with many challenges to deal with. Taxes have not been raised in the County for ten (10) years. Not only are we being challenged with new expenses that are rising at a rapid rate and with a declining population rate it's going to be tough. It will be a tough job but as long as we all work together, we'll overcome this challenge.

Mr. Wilmore noted that he felt the school could operate with the same money that the County gave last year.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Supervisor Fant made the motion to adjourn; duly seconded by Supervisor Hash. Motion carried 4-0.