

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Special Called Meeting

March 13, 2019

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a special called meeting on Monday, March 13, 2019, at 11:35 a.m. in the Board Room located at the Administrative Offices of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Gladys Garland, Vice Chair Donna Hudson, Ross Gwynn, Tracy Stanley, Wayne Owen, and Mel Battle. Vennie Beggarly was absent. Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter, Board Attorney Ron Bradsher, Finance Director Amy Chandler, Emily Buchanan, Medina Jones, Steve Oestreicher, Rick McVey, Jeremiah Jeffries. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gladys Garland. Tracy Stanley moved, seconded by Wayne Owen to call the special called meeting to order. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Gladys Garland shared that the special called meeting was to discuss and review the original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) compiled by Attorney Brian Ferrell and the Board of County Commissioners that was sent back to the Board of Education for approval.

A copy of the March 8, 2019 meeting by the County Commissioners and summary of probable construction costs (dated October 2018) was also shared with the Board of Education.

Dr. Carter shared that prior to the March 8, 2019 commissioners meeting she met with County Manager Bryan Miller and Chairman Rick McVey. An overview of the meeting included:

- The difference between a project manager and project monitor (two distinct rolls)
- Sales tax –the school system should receive the tax from the grant money (\$15M) plus the \$1.6 Million
- Change orders

Items also brought to the Board of Education's attention by Dr. Carter were:

- Summary of probably construction costs scope of project
- N.L. Dillard payoff amount

Dr. Carter shared in talking with County Manager that the Request for Quote (RFQ) is with Attorney Brian Ferrell and once returned will be posted (hopefully this week).

Gladys Garland asked board members for their input.

Mel Battle shared his concerns. He stated that he felt the MOU was self-explanatory and once adopted would be the document that we go by. Concerns were shared regarding wording in the March 8, 2019 minutes noting there is no provision for the school to receive sales tax. Mr. Battle shared he did not feel that is correct. Other concerns: the school system should be eligible for the sales tax from the grant money; scope of project is not included in the MOU, and clarity on the payment of N.L. Dillard. Mr. Battle did not have any issues with the project manager/monitor. Any areas in the MOU that are questionable should be clearly defined and after that he is ready to move on.

Wayne Owen questioned if two people would be hired to fill the project manager/monitor. Discussion was had on the skillset that each position would need to have. Mr. Owen felt it was not necessary for

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change orders to go to both boards if there is no additional cost. Mr. Owen also felt that clarity was needed regarding the NL Dillard payment amount.

Gladys Garland expressed similar concerns that were mentioned previously. She has concerns with the project manager/monitor and with both boards having their own. Other concerns included the sales tax and clarity on the NL Dillard payoff. She felt we need to have clear language before going forward.

Donna Hudson expressed she felt certain the payment for NL Dillard has been paid for February which would change the amount listed in the MOU. If it has, wording should be changed to reflect this. The MOU lists that only one person would be the project manager/monitor. Dr. Carter shared she is hopeful that we could have two part-time people as there are two skill sets. Wayne Owen shared that regardless of who the person is; the project manager needs to understand the construction codes and guidelines and would hope this position could be one person. Attorney Ron Bradsher shared that if nothing changes on the MOU it would only be one person as listed. Donna Hudson questioned how this person will be paid. Commissioner Rick McVey shared that it was his understanding that the county would have one person (project monitor) and the school would have one person (project manager). Mr. McVey shared that if the school board would like to write down a list of their concerns he would be happy to take it back to the commissioners.

Discussion took place regarding the MOU and the motion the commissioners made. The Board of Education felt that there would be no more negotiating. Mr. McVey shared the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU as presented but stated, again, he would be happy to take the concerns back to the commissioners one last time. Commissioner Jeremiah Jeffries stated their board voted to accept this and move forward. He questioned why it would be brought back.

Mel Battle shared that regardless of the MOU there is specific language that needs to be clarified before the Board of Education can sign off.

Tracy Stanley expressed her concerns had been shared by others and she was just tired of the length of time this has taken to finalize. The citizens voted to update the high school and we need to move forward.

Ross Gwynn did not have any comments noting that all concerns had been shared.

Attorney Ron Bradsher had no comment.

Dr. Carter shared if Chairman Rick McVey is willing to take the concerns back to the board that she will submit a listing. Those concerns will include:

- Project Scope - not to exceed \$35.1 Million (\$18.5 Million funded by County) as outlined in the BYHS Facilities Study - Summary of Probably Construction Costs (October 2018) will be attached.
 - Project defined in Facilities Study (both pages - including Alternates) are the BYHS upgrades provided to taxpayers during Bond Referendum. The items listed in the October 2018 summary were also in an earlier, March 2018 Summary of BYHS Facility Costs, but updated in October, due to increased construction costs.
- Sales Tax Rebate - all sales tax rebates from BYHS construction costs to go to County.

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- Project Manager – oversight by Board of Education and Project Monitor oversight by Board of Commissioners / Both positions paid from County Sales Tax Rebate.
- Change Orders – all change orders approved by Board of Education/Superintendent UNLESS the change order results in exceeding \$18.5 Million, which would then go to the Board of Commissioners for approval.
- NL Dillard Middle School payoff – Payoff to be exact payoff amount on date of signed MOU.

Donna Hudson thanked the Board of Commissioners for their willingness to work with the Board of Education and shared that the Board of Education is ready to move forward.

Board Attorney Ron Bradsher expressed that both boards need to come together and be willing to work together.

Chairman Rick McVey shared he will add this item to the agenda on Monday. The Board of Commissioners meets on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

II. ADJOURN

Ross Gwynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:34 p.m., Tracy Stanley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 25, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Central Office Administrative Building of Caswell County Schools.

Gladys Garland
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent