

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Special Called Meeting
June 15, 2018

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a special called meeting on Friday, June 15, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room located at the Administrative Offices of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Gladys Garland, Vice Chairman Sylvia Johnson, Donna Hudson, Mel Battle, Gordon Satterfield, Ross Gwynn, and Tracy Stanley. Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter, Vennie Beggarly, Wayne Owen, Brian Miller, Brian Bradner, Adam Powell with the Caswell Messenger, and Board Attorney Ron Bradsher. Minutes were recorded.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gladys Garland. Tracy Stanley moved, seconded by Sylvia Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

Gladys Garland stated the special called meeting was to discuss the Bartlett Yancey High School (BYHS) renovations. Dr. Carter stated the purpose of the meeting today is to share information for the board to consider. Over the past few weeks there has been increasing communication as to whether or not the BYHS renovations/schools safety project should be revisited due to the potential of increasing interest rates and property tax increases. The project has previously been scaled back as much as possible.

Dr. Carter called Brian Bradner and discussed items listed in the project and the possibility of scaling back. This would take into consideration the possibility of increased tax rates and if there are any options to be reconsidered so that the numbers can be reduced. Mr. Bradner agreed to review and look at possibilities.

Dr. Carter also contacted Brian Miller and discussed the possibility of changing the bond amount. The response, after calling the LGC, is that Monday is the last date that the commissioners would consider and possibly approve any reduction. Dr. Carter spoke with Brian Miller who also contacted Chairman Nate Hall who indicated that if anything is changed regarding the renovation and cost, the commissioners would need it on Friday afternoon.

Dr. Carter shared that the board may decide not to make any changes but wanted the board to be aware of the options prior to Monday.

Handout #1 was shared with the board. Debt affordability analysis was reviewed which includes sections that are included in the current renovations. Handout #2 was shared which included possible changes/reductions. If considered, the renovations would need to be done in waves. One area included the dining and kitchen area. Students would remain in the current dining area. The square footage would be reduced. Classroom size and office space would remain in the proposed amount. Another area to review included the enclosed corridors which were added for safety. If you compare current annual interest rate 3.875% the current interest rate would be 3.60%. Interest rates are projected to increase in July. This proposal (handout # 2) includes a two story building with classes that meets the academic needs of the students, keyless entry, and parameter fencing and one shell of fencing on the outside. The schedules shared include the \$1.34 million for all other schools and using \$3 million of lottery funds against that total.

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Safety was discussed. The chain length fence would go around the perimeter of the school. The front of the school would have wrought iron. Discussion took place regarding the fence in the back currently used by students with classes at Piedmont Community College.

Concerns were shared regarding deleting any areas for security.

Handout # 3 included everything in Section A and will add the enclosed corridors back into the proposal at a cost of \$25.3 million.

Lengthy discussion took place among board members on their thoughts regarding changes to the original proposal and looking at phases for new construction/renovations. Dr. Carter shared if the capital needs grant is received, lottery funds will not be received for eight years depending on the amount. Discussion also took place on the conditions of using the grant money if received.

County Manager Brian Miller shared that the rationale for the commissioners choosing the bond referendum route is to allow the citizens of the county to have a voice.

Upon lengthy discussion Dr. Carter felt a consensus of the board was needed.

Donna Hudson asked what the board's opinion is on a 7.75% tax increase passing. Board members felt this was not an issue. Dr. Carter shared this is the current rate. Increases could occur in July.

Options to consider for board's consensus include: barebones deduction, adding the deleted bullets back into the proposal, or no change at all.

Chairman Gladys Garland asked for a show of hands for those that are in favor of no change to the original proposal. Mel Battle, Gordon Satterfield, Donna Hudson, Sylvia Johnson, Tracy Stanley and Ross Gwynn were in favor to stay the course with the original plan.

Chairman Gladys Garland asked for a show of hands for those that are in favor of reduced changes. Gladys Garland was in favor of this option.

III. ADJOURN

Ross Gwynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m., Sylvia Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, June 25, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Central Office Administrative Building of Caswell County Schools.

Gladys Garland
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent