

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

October 16, 2018

Work Session Minutes

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a work session on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Gladys Garland, Vice Chairman Sylvia Johnson, Tracy Stanley, Donna Hudson, Mel Battle, Gordon Satterfield, and Ross Gwynn. Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter, Amy Chandler, Wayne Owen, Carol Boaz, Emily Buchanan, David Useche, Medina Jones. Carol Boaz recorded the minutes.

I. A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Carter reviewed information on the upcoming bond and grant information.

Information was shared from a meeting with Brian Bradner of Dewberry & Davis and hard copies of updated construction cost estimates were given to board members. Discussion took place on the grant receipt of \$15 million for the Capital Needs Grant. The grant will reduce the bond amount to \$21.5. The Board of Education committed to using \$3M from lottery funds which will reduce the bond amount needed to \$18.5M.

Information shared from Finance Director Amy Chandler indicated that the interest rate is currently at 4%. Informational handout was shared with the board with estimated sales tax figures.

Question was asked if the grant can be used if the bond does not pass. Dr. Carter stated that the grant cannot be kept if not used for the project as written in the grant. The grant was written specifically for a new two-story high school.

Dr. Carter shared other information regarding the payoff of N.L. Dillard Middle School and noted it will free up sales tax currently going towards this debt. We will not receive lottery funding for five years. Dr. Carter shared that seven districts in North Carolina received \$15 Million in grant money. If Caswell has to return the \$15 Million, she was unsure if we would ever receive another grant of this magnitude.

Board members shared thoughts and information they are hearing from the community.

Board members felt a meeting was needed with the commissioners as soon as possible to share this information. Dr. Carter responded that meeting dates were discussed, and the county commissioners relayed they did not feel it would be beneficial to meet until December when the newly elected commissioners are on the board.

Attorney Ron Bradsher suggested making each county commissioner a copy of the information shared at the meeting along with a letter. It was also shared that the community

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needs to be aware that this may be the only chance to build a new high school for the amount needed from the bond (\$18.5M).

Questions were asked if the bond doesn't pass can we add \$5M to the \$15M grant and pursue the new high school. Dr. Carter responded you cannot build a new high school for \$20M. If we don't take advantage of this now how much more will it cost in five-years? What would happen if we get to a point of condemning the school?

Brian Bradner with Dewberry & Davis stated that we cannot complete renovation on the halls because they cannot be brought up to current code without leveling the halls. Safety needs to be considered also.

Dr. Carter shared she will send a letter on behalf of the Board of Education to the commissioners along with the information given out at this meeting.

Attorney Bradsher reviewed information with board members regarding promoting the bond.

Adjourn

Ross Gwynn moved, seconded by Sylvia Johnson to adjourn the work session meeting at 4:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Gladys Garland
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent