

Special Meeting Minutes

**Hyde County Board of County Commissioners
and
Hyde County Board of Education**

Monday, April 22, 2013

Chairman Barry Swindell called the Special Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 5:05 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2013, in the Hyde County Government Center, Multi-Use Room, and the Ocracoke School Commons Room using electronic conferencing equipment.

The following members were present on the mainland: Commissioners Anson Byrd, Earl Pugh, Jr., Dick Tunnell and Barry Swindell; County Manager Bill Rich; County Attorney Fred Holscher; Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; and, Finance Officer Corrinne Gibbs. The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioner John Fletcher and Public Information Officer (PIO) Sarah Johnson.

The following Board of Education Members were present on the mainland: Chairman Thomas Whitaker; Board members Diantha Coley, John Mullen, Randy Etheridge and David Tolson; Superintendent Dr. Randolph Latimore; and, Finance Officer Kenneth Chilcoat.

No members of the public attended.

Following opening prayer by Board of Education Chairman Thomas Whitaker and pledge of allegiance, Chairman Barry Swindell called the meeting to order with Mr. Whitaker presiding.

County Manager Bill Rich welcomed members of the Board of Education; and, reported that he and Corrinne Gibbs, FO met earlier in the day with Dr. Latimore and Ken Chilcoat, FO.

Dr. Randolph Latimore, Superintendent – FY2013-14 Board of Education Budget Message

Dr. Latimore stated that materials presented would represent the proposed FY2013-14 Hyde County Board of Education Budget requests for local revenue only. Currently, the Board of Education does not know Federal or State funding levels. A reduction of 15% is expected. He reported the request for funding from local revenue does reflect an increase over current level of funding. The needs of the public schools of Hyde County are not diminishing. The budget from local revenue is crucial in assisting the Hyde County Board of Education in meeting the educational needs of the six hundred seven students enrolled in the graders Pre-K through 13.

The Hyde County Board of Education has reduced staff due to reduction in State and Federal funding coupled with the strain on available local revenue. During the current budget cycle, fifteen positions were eliminated. Through the reduction in force, the Board of Education eliminated 11 professional positions and 4 classified positions.

The Board of Education continues to evaluate its programs and personnel in order to determine priorities if additional shortfalls in revenue from the Federal, State or local levels are forthcoming.

The budget request of \$1,424,568.00 for the 2013-14 school year from local revenue reflects the same level of local revenue provided by the County of Hyde during the 2008-09 school year. Local appropriation for the public schools of Hyde County has decreased from the 2008-09 appropriation to \$1,199,568.00 for the current school year.

Restoration of funds to the level appropriated in the 2008-09 school year is needed to assist in meeting current and projected needs of the school system. Due to financing recent construction projects and as a matter of sound business practice, the Local Education Authority (LEA) now is required to have flood insurance on its facilities. Prior to the current year, buildings were not covered by flood insurance. The cost for flood insurance coverage is \$80,000.00.

Mr. Chilcoat confirmed for Board Member John Mullen that no teachers are being paid from local funds at this time.

Commissioner Fletcher inquired how many Board of Education staff members are paid from local funds and how many clerical staff members are employed in the Central Office.

Mr. Chilcoat confirmed one Maintenance Director, two Maintenance Workers and 1.5 Clerical staff members in the Central Office are paid from local funds. The Central Office employs five Clerical staff members.

Diantha Coley reported that Clerical staff in the Central Office is at the State required minimum.

Chairman Barry Swindell reported that the Board of Commissioners will include the Board of Education's FY2013-14 Budget requests in its upcoming budget deliberations. Mr. Swindell stated that County Manager Rich was commissioned to not raise taxes. He reported that the Board promised citizens that taxes would not be raised and stated that the County's streams of revenue are also being cut by the State.

Commissioners Tunnell and Pugh served previous terms on the Board of Education and are familiar with both budgets.

David Tolson reflected on the Reduction in Force by the Board of Education.

Chairman Thomas Whitaker thanked the Hyde County Board of Education for its support of the School Board. Mr. Whitaker proposed the Boards meet more than once a year.

Commissioner Fletcher requested a more thorough discussion of the proposed school budget.

County Manager Rich will coordinate a meeting with Commissioner Fletcher and Mr. Chilcoat.

Commissioner Tunnell asked if the schools continue to receive Capital Outlay funds.

Mr. Chilcoat reported that Capital Outlay funds are flow-through funds from the State.

In conclusion, Dr. Latimore invited both Boards to tour Mattamuskeet and Ocracoke School Campuses. He recommended touring the Hyde County School System and believes a better informed decision will result from the visit.

Adjourn

Board Member Randy Etheridge moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting. Ms. Coley seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Whitaker, Etheridge, Coley, Mullen and Tolson; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Chairman Swindell moved to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Byrd, Fletcher, Pugh, Swindell and Tunnell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

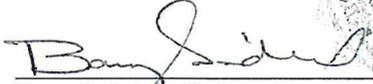
The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 6th day of May, 2013.


Lois Stotesberry, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Attachments: (none)


Barry Swindell, Chairman
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

