

**Special Called School Board Meeting
Monday, November 12, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.
Fayette-Ware High School – Library**

Minutes

1. Call the meeting to order.
Ronnie McCarty, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
2. Establish a Quorum.
A quorum was established with all Board Members present; Robert Redditt, Marandy Wilkerson, Evangeline Shaw, Wendell Wainwright, Ronnie McCarty, David Barnes, James Garrett, Sally Spencer, Dana Pittman and James Teague, Superintendent.
3. Approval of Agenda.
Mr. Wainwright motions to approve.
Mrs. Shaw seconds.
9 – Yes 0 – No.
Motion carries.
4. **Discussion and/or approval of Alternative School Plans and Resolution to the County Commissioners to fund same.**
Mr. Barnes motions to approve.
Mr. Wainwright seconds.

Mr. Teague went over several handouts that were given to the Board Members explaining the alternative school zone plan. He stated that the first section was a summary of what was discussed at the October 27th work session, one was the Consent Order and the other was an Alternative Plan, which included closing 2, 3, or 4 schools and reassigning all those students. He stated that 78 students will move from Northwest to Oakland and that 50 students will move to Jefferson in 2013-14. Southwest and Oakland will go back to PreK – 5th grade. The new school will expand from 600 to 900 students. The increased cost would be 2.3 million dollars. The projected savings will be about \$563,568. He stated that this is a summary of the educational benefits and the learning opportunities that will be provided, as well as the financial savings that will be involved in this.

Mrs. Wilkerson asked Mr. Teague about the \$563,568 projected savings by closing the four schools, Northwest, Central, Somerville and Jefferson. She wanted Mr. Teague to speak on replenishing the Fund Balance and also wanted to know if we received anything on the Auditor's Report.

Mr. Teague stated that the Auditor's Report won't be in until the end of November. He stated when we started this fiscal year our Fund Balance had been nearly depleted, 1.3 million dollars depleted. He stated that he doesn't think that we can

make it up in one fall swoop, but we can make some of it up and replenish part of our Fund Balance through that plan.

Mrs. Wilkerson wanted to know if Mr. Teague knew how much we are talking about putting in there. Are we going to try to meet that 3% or are we going to stay below 3%.

Mr. Teague stated that we won't reach 3% this year. He stated that this savings will put us close to that 3%.

Mrs. Wilkerson stated that we don't know how much of the \$563,568 will go to the Fund Balance.

Mr. Teague stated that we know it is going to be that much money. He stated that we have 3 places that we would like to spend that savings, part of it would be to replenish Fund Balance; part would be to provide salary raises for teachers and staff; and part would be for educational technology.

Mr. Wainwright wanted to know if Mr. Teague had thought about what percent would be for raises for the teachers.

Mr. Teague stated that he did not put a percentage to that because it would take us \$600,000 just in teacher's raises alone to put us on par with Hardeman and Haywood County. He stated that he would think that they would not spend all that money on salaries for staff and teachers because we must put some money in our Fund Balance; it has to be built up in order for us to start up the next fiscal year. He stated that there are some technology things that need to be done at some of our schools.

Mrs. Wilkerson had questions about the technology and wanted to know if this would be available to all of our schools or just some of our schools. She stated that there are a lot of technology issues that have to be addressed. She asked Mr. Teague if he could share his inventory list and what he planned to do electronically for each of the schools.

Mr. Teague stated that we know in our schools that we have plenty of computer stations for our students. He stated we have enough for labs and classrooms. He stated the trouble is that our infrastructure in these elementary schools, the Internet infrastructure, will not handle 400 students online at the same time. Some of the schools that qualified for E-rate got brand new wiring last year that cost us one-tenth of the price. Some of the schools don't qualify for that and we need to help them catch up in that technology area. He stated that they need to spend some money on their infrastructure to carry the load for Internet.

Mrs. Wilkerson wanted to know when Mr. Teague was going to put together a plan that details the amount of dollars that you plan to spend for teacher and staff salaries and where you are going to spend that money.

Mr. Teague stated that we have a plan in place to look at what a percentage raise would cost, say 1% for all employees or 5% for all employees. We know what that

would cost us and we just have to judge that from the savings. How much do we want to spend from the savings on salaries, how much do we want to spend on technology.

Mr. McCarty stated that we are voting on passing the Resolution to the County Commission for approval. We need to get the County on board to increase the funding for the expansion of the new school. He stated that if the County Commission does not get on board for doing it, then there is no sense in doing the alternative school plan.

Mr. Barnes withdrew his motion and restated it.

Mr. Barnes then motions to pass this Resolution on to the County Commission for their consideration.

Mrs. Spencer seconds.

Mr. Garrett wanted to know if the Resolution depends on Northwest being in that mix .

Mr. Teague stated that he would have grave concerns asking the County Commission to fund a school plan that you have not approved.

Discussion was held on the floor among the Board Members concerning the Resolution.

Mr. Minor stated that he thought what the Board needed to do tonight is vote to approve or not approve this Resolution in order to take the next step of asking the County Commission to provide the additional funding to construct a larger school. At that point, that has to go before the County Commission committees tomorrow night, then it has to go before the full commission on the 27th. He stated that the School Board would need to meet again in a special called meeting to consider and vote upon a new school plan based on the action that the County Commission takes or doesn't take. Mr. Minor stated that if the County Commission agrees to provide the additional funding and if the School Board agrees to construct a larger school and alter it's existing plan, the next step would be to go before the Court either with the consent of the LDF and DOJ or without and ask the Court to approve this alternative plan. This will have to be done after the Board votes to adopt a new plan. He stated that in his opinion, it will require Special Counsel to help assist me in going forth just like before.

Mrs. Wilkerson asked Mr. Minor if he has submitted a cost for the Special Counsel.

Mr. Minor stated that the Special Counsel is assisting me and taking the necessary steps to get the current Consent Order approved. He stated that there are lawyers that specialize in practicing before Federal Courts and I do not specialize in practicing before Federal Courts. He stated that the purpose for retaining the Special Counsel is just for that purpose of shepherding this thing through the Federal Court System in the event that we get to that step.

Mrs. Wilkerson asked Mr. Minor if he would be providing that cost to them.

Mr. Minor stated that we can certainly request from the attorneys an estimate of the amount of hours that would be needed and what the cost would be. Mr. Minor stated that the important thing to remember is that we have funding from the County Commission to build a new school and those monies are going to be available to us. He stated that our preliminary discussions with the architect and our construction manager is that they can go on now with groundbreaking and commencement of construction on the 600 capacity school while we are deliberating on whether or not we are going to expand to a 900 capacity school. He stated that we already have that hard work done and that hard work is paying off now in moving forward to the commencement of construction.

Ms. Pittman stated that she would like to point out that the Board has a mediated agreement with the County Commission for the funding for the smaller school, there is somewhat a provision in there to at some time at a later date include Central. She stated that the way the figures were done it precludes Central ever being merged into the new school so to take that step it is going to require the County Commission to agree to that.

Mr. Teague stated that this Alternative School Plan is academically sound for all the students of Fayette County. This will free up resources for all of our elementary schools not just the new school, our two junior highs and our high school. This plan is academically sound and financially responsible. Mr. Teague stated that he recommends this plan wholeheartedly.

Mrs. Wilkerson wanted to know if we are scrapping and closing schools to save money, why we are continuing to enter into a financial agreement with the County Commission for monies we don't have and don't know if we are going to have. Secondly, the taxpayers started paying a wheel tax last year to help fund this new school. She stated that once the 10 million dollars or whatever the school is going to cost has been accrued, what is County Commission going to do with the remainder of the wheel tax?

Mr. McCarty stated that the wheel tax will be paying for the new school for the next 20 to 25 years.

Mr. Garrett asked about the amount that the School Board will have to pay back on the extra 2.3 million dollars that the Board is requesting.

Mr. Minor stated that the County Commission will service one-half of the 2.3 million dollars and the Board will service the other half of the 2.3 million dollars.

Discussion continued between the Board Members.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Barnes – Yes; Mr. Garrett – Yes; Ms. Pittman – Yes; Mr. Redditt – Pass; Mrs. Shaw – Yes; Mrs. Spencer – Yes; Mr. Wainwright – Yes; Mrs. Wilkerson – No; Mr. McCarty – Yes.

7 – Yes 1 – No, Mrs. Wilkerson 1 – Pass, Mr. Redditt

Motion carries.

5. Adjournment.
Mr. Barnes Motions to adjourn.
Mr. Wainwright Seconds.

Approved: 12/13/12



Ronnie McCarty, Board Chairman



James Teague, Superintendent