

Minutes
Joint Meeting
Hertford County Board of Commissioners
And Hertford County Board of Education
County Commissioners' Meeting Room
Thursday, May 15, 2014
6:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: William F. Mitchell, Jr., Ronald J. Gatling, Johnnie R. Farmer, Curtis A. Freeman, Sr., and Howard J. Hunter, III

Commissioners Absent: None

Board of Education Members Present: Sheila Porter, John Horton, and David Shields

Board of Education Members Absent: Dennis Deloatch and Wendell Hall

Also Present: County Manager Loria D. Williams, Assistant County Manager M. Ray Wiggins, Superintendent Dr. Michael Perry, Schools Finance Officer Cindy Martin, Schools Human Resources Director Danny Williams, Shelia W. Matthews, and Sue Godwin

Chairman William F. Mitchell, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Perry reviewed the proposed budget for FY 2014-2015 for Hertford County Public Schools. They are requesting a total appropriation from Hertford County of \$4,573,524, which is an increase of \$400,000.

Their Fund Balance is at 19% (\$1,058,502) instead of the recommended 20% (\$1,102,176).

A handout regarding Capital Outlay was discussed (which Dr. Perry explained "these items are a must"). Capital Outlay budget totaled \$1,343,410.

Discussion was held on the Governor's proposal for teacher raises.

Commissioner Hunter shared with everyone that a bill was being filed today to restore lottery funds to counties for school construction.

County Manager Williams led a discussion on ADM monies. She explained there is \$283,000 in ADM that could be drawn down to help with technology. It would need approval by both Boards. Everyone was in agreement to do this.

School Board Member John Horton shared his thoughts on how education has been shrinking in the County's pie chart, and how he represents the minority opinion of his Board to spend Fund Balance before letting the children lose out.

Commissioner Chairman Mitchell explained that education is just one facet of what the County has to consider. Commissioner Gatling further explained that the County is faced with a 12 cent tax increase with everything that had been requested from departments and outside agencies.

Board of Education Chairperson Sheila Porter stressed the importance of not cutting teachers and assistants (especially in elementary schools).

County Manager Williams questioned of the \$400,000 increase, is it possible to get there incrementally? Can we partner on this? Ms. Williams and Dr. Perry will meet before the Budget Work Session and determine what part is recurring.

Commissioner Freeman stressed the importance of meeting together more than once a year.

Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting.