

Joint Meeting:

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, March 29, 2010

The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners met in Joint Session with the Yadkin County Board of Education on Monday, March 29, 2010 at 6:30pm at Prime Sirloin, 805 South State Street, Yadkinville, North Carolina. The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners was the host for today's meeting.

Present for the meeting:

Representing the Board of Commissioners

Chairman Chad Wagoner
Vice Chairman Kevin Austin
Commissioner Tommy Garner
Commissioner David Moxley
Commissioner Brady Wooten

Representing the Board of Education

Chairman Frank Brown
Vice Chairman Howard McKnight
Rex Baity
Hazel Brown
Joe Dezern
Diane Hampton
Larry Vestal

Yadkin County Personnel

Jim Haynes, Interim Manager
Aaron Church, Deputy Manager
Gina Brown, Clerk to the Board

Yadkin County School Personnel

Dr. Jim Benfield, Superintendent
Mark Rumley, Assistant Superintendent
Gale Hill, Finance Director
Donald Hawks, Director of Maintenance
Tammy Miller, Secretary to Superintendent
Kaky Berry, Principal of Success Academy
Kathy Hughes
Teresa Logan

Others in Attendance

Wayne Matthews, Surry Community College
Barry Sink, Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy

WELCOME

Mr. Wayne Matthews offered an invocation. Dinner was served.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wagoner called the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners back in session from recess at 7:07pm. Chairman Frank Brown called the Yadkin County Board of Education to order at 7:07pm. Chairman Wagoner welcomed the Board of Education and commented on the collaboration of the 2 boards.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Barry Sink provided a PowerPoint presentation and video of the proposed Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy. The academy was developed after research and careful planning in the Yadkin Valley Region to train a workforce for the growing technology industry. Mr. Sink reported that this initiative will be a collaboration with Surry Community College. Mr. Sink asked for the support and encouragement of both boards for this project.

PRELIMINARY YADKIN COUNTY SCHOOLS BUDGET

Superintendent, Dr. Jim Benfield introduced Finance Director, Ms. Gale Hill. Ms. Hill provided a summary of budget work thus far. State cuts for FY 2009-2010 were \$1.8 million. There were 7.1 position cuts. Ms. Hill anticipates additional cuts for the upcoming budget year. The cost of hospitalization insurance and retirement will increase. The net result is a \$1,050,340 deficit anticipated for the FY 2010-2011 budget.

STATUS OF EARLY COLLEGE

Mrs. Kathy Hughes reported that the Early College Program was originally funded for 5 years. However, with the success of the early college concept, school administrators feel that additional funding will not be an issue. Further, Mr. Wayne Matthews reported that the program continues to grow. Mr. Matthews has been able to meet classroom needs with mobile units from the elementary schools. Mr. Matthews thanked the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners for the collaboration that enabled the move of those mobile units.

UPDATED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2010

Chairman Wagoner announced that the scheduled meeting of May 31 would no longer be needed. Instead, a work session would be planned during the budget process. The Board of Education will host the Board of Commissioners on Monday, August 30, 2010 and the Board of Commissioners will host the Board of Education on Monday, November 29, 2010.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Board of Education Chairman, Frank Brown, thanked the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners for its support of the educational system in Yadkin County. Chairman Brown noted the tremendous progress that has been made in just a few short years; citing the high school science wings, the middle schools, and the early college. In regards to funding, Chairman Brown spoke of the importance of maintaining the facilities and asked the Board of Commissioners for due consideration on that point.

Board of Commissioners Chairman, Chad Wagoner stated that he had been on the Board for 4 years and had never used the position as a “bully pulpit”. However, there is a matter in development that Chairman Wagoner states he feels strongly about and he presented his thoughts to the school administrators. State employees and retirees will be asked to sign an affidavit of no tobacco use in order to receive 80/20 coverage on their insurance plan. Failure to sign this affidavit will result in 70/30 coverage. As a pharmacist, Chairman Wagoner stated that he sees customers day after day that are participants in entitlement programs. These customers purchase medicines for various breathing ailments yet purchase cartons of cigarettes on their way out. Chairman Wagoner stated that his issue is not smoking, but rather the absurdity that recipients of free public programs are not held to the same requirements as state employees who are making a contribution. Chairman Wagoner encouraged the school administrators to contact their local representatives and voice their outrage at this injustice.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Kevin Austin spoke regarding the Title I turnaround funds potentially available to Yadkin County Schools. Vice Chairman Austin stated that administrators may face tough decisions regarding the Yadkin Success Academy but believes that the academy is doing what it was designed to do. Vice Chairman Austin stated that one shouldn't try to fix what is not broken.

ADJOURN

Vice Chairman Austin made a motion to recess the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners until Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 7:45am. Commissioner Moxley second.

Vote: 5/0

Prepared by Clerk to the Board

Date Approved by the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners