

MOORE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Work Session
October 2, 2017

MINUTES

The Moore County Board of Education met at Central Office in Carthage on Monday, October 2, 2017; at 2:00 p.m. for a Board work session.

The following Board members were present:

Ed Dennison	Charles Lambert
Stacey Caldwell	Helena Wallin-Miller
Dr. Betty Brown	Elizabeth Carter
Bruce Cunningham	

Also present for the meeting were: Superintendent Robert Grimesey, Assistant to the Board Sonya Potter, John Birath, Catherine Murphy, Tim Locklair, and Mike Bundy.

Ed Dennison called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Helena Wallin-Miller presented the motion for the Board to enter into closed session for confidential personnel matters and to consult with the Board attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3), (a)(6) and G.S. 115C-319. Elizabeth Carter seconded, motion carried 6-0.

Bruce Cunningham arrived at approximately 2:04 pm.

The Board returned to open session at approximately 3:11 pm.

Dr. Betty Wells Brown made a motion to approve the agenda. Elizabeth Carter seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.

Charles Lambert not present at the time.

Bruce Cunningham led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ed Dennison called for a moment of silence.

Chair Ed Dennison recognized Board of Commissioners Chair Catherine Graham and Robbins Town Manager David Lambert.

PENDING ACTION AND DISCUSSION

The following items were presented to the Board for review as pending action items that would need to be placed on the October 9, 2017, School Board Regular Business Meeting agenda under Action or Consent.

- NCSBA Conference 2017 Voting Delegates
- Award of Contract for Replacement of Building Automation System at West Pine Middle School
- Resolutions Requesting Funds for School Capital Construction and Improvement

The Board recessed for a short break at approximately 4:38 pm and returned at 4:49 pm.

Charles Lambert departed the meeting at approximately 4:38 pm.

- Owner Preferred Alternates for Construction
- Original Budget FY 2017-2018
- Low Performing Schools' Plans for Improvement
- Community Response to Proposed Name of Union Pines High School Track
- Proposal to Designate Pinecrest High School's Auxiliary Gymnasium as Barbara Foxx Gymnasium
- Adjustment to Supplement Schedule for Extra-Curricular Coaches and Sponsors

The Board reviewed a draft of the October 9, 2017, Regular Business Meeting agenda and placed the following items on the agenda accordingly:

- NCSBA Conference 2017 Voting Delegates (*Consent Agenda*)
- Award of Contract for Replacement of Building Automation System at West Pine Middle School (*Board Action*)
- Resolution Requesting Funds for School Capital Construction and Improvement (*Board Action*)
- Owner Preferred Alternates for Construction (*Consent Agenda*)
- Original Budget FY 2017-2018 (*Consent Agenda*)
- Low Performing Schools' Plans for Improvement (*Consent Agenda*)
- Community Response to Proposed Name of Union Pines High School Track (*Consent Agenda*)
- Proposal to Designate Pinecrest High School's Auxiliary Gymnasium as Barbara Foxx Gymnasium (*Consent Agenda*)
- Adjustment to Supplement Schedule for Extra-Curricular Coaches and Sponsors (*Consent Agenda*)

REPORTS, INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. The following was presented to the Board for information and discussion:

Updated Report on Charter School Local Funding: Mike Bundy and Tim Locklair presented an updated analysis of charter school enrollment patterns in Moore County. This analysis included details of the budget impact and demographics related to charter schools in Moore County. In 2017-2018, charter school enrollments have increased by 84 students compared to the prior year. The total of Moore County students attending charters is 684 in 2017-2018 versus 604 students in the prior year.

	STARS	Academy of Moore	Other	Total
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Year				
2013-14	259	122	5	386
2014-15	307	147	5	459
2015-16	336	166	19	521
2016-17	385	199	16	600
2017-18	423	239	22	684

The state provides state funding to charter schools equal to the average per pupil allocation for average daily membership of the LEA; however, this has an impact on local funds.

Per G.S. 115C-238.29H, the law states that local administrative units must pay charters the amount of “per pupil local current expense appropriation” for the current fiscal year. Moore County Schools has an estimated budget impact of \$1,400,000 for the current year which represents an increase of \$200,000 compared to the prior year. The County Commissioners provided \$100,000 in funding for charters included in the increase of \$2,061,837 in local current expense funds. The County Commissioners have also provided an additional \$100,000 in the one-time designation of fund balance of up to \$1,700,000 as a hedge to cover cost associated with the final state budget outcomes.

In reviewing the charter schools’ student enrollment, MCS has determined that 395 students out of 684 charter school students never attended Moore County Schools. This is an impact to local funds and diminishes our ability to meet the needs of our students. The per pupil expenditure (PPE) is estimated to be \$2,046.78 per student attending charter schools compared to \$2,050.86 PPE from the prior year. We have estimated a local budget impact of \$808,478.10 based on the per pupil estimated cost for students that never attended Moore County Schools. In conclusion, charter school enrollment continues to grow each year and has a dramatic impact on our local budget.

B. 2016-2017 Moore County Schools Key Outcomes Report: Tim Locklair and Dr. Robin Calcutt presented the 2016-2017 Moore County Schools Key Outcomes Report. Moore County Schools continues to demonstrate progress on state and local key indicators such as graduation rate, school performance grades and student achievement. A brief overview of the 2016-2017 key outcomes of the ready Accountability Model Performance Standards includes an analysis of our progress on the following indicators:

- Graduation rate reflects the four-year cohort graduation rate (CGR) increase of 3.2 percentage points in 2016-17 for a ninety-one percent (91%) graduation rate;
- Student achievement indicators reflect increases in nearly all performance composite scores in grades 3-8 Reading/ELA, English II, grades 3-8 math, Math I, grades 5 and 8 Science, and Biology;
- School Growth Measures reflect that eighty percent (80%) or 16 out of 20 schools met or exceeded growth in 2016-2017. Note: CLC at Pinckney, Southern Pines Primary and Aberdeen Primary schools are not part of the State School Performance Grades accountability model;

- School Performance Grades reflect the results that in 2016-2017, ten (10) schools received a B grade; up from seven (7) schools in 2016; seven (7) schools received a C grade; down from ten (10) schools in 2016; three (3) schools received a D grade which remained the same from 2016. Note: CLC at Pinckney, Southern Pines Primary and Aberdeen Primary schools are not part of the State School Performance accountability model.

C. 2017-2018 day 20 Enrollment Report and Teacher Allotment Monitoring Report: Tim Locklair and Kate Faw presented the 2017-2018 Day 20 Enrollment Report and Teacher Allotment Monitoring Report. Led by the Planning, Accountability and Research Department, the Academics and Student Support Services team have actively monitored the enrollment of our students as MCS has opened the 2017-2018 school year. On Day 20 of the 2016-2017 school year, Moore County Schools' enrollment was 12,707. On Day 20 of the 2017-2018 school year, Moore County Schools' enrollment was 12,665. Moore County Schools' Day 20 enrollment validates the number of teacher positions we receive from the state based on their projections. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, in their budget projections, projected Moore County Schools to have a Day 20 enrollment of 12,696 students. In order to qualify for the budgeted number of teachers from this projection, MCS must be within 100 students of this number. If MCS are 100 above the projection, we qualify for an additional 4 teacher positions. Based on our verified Day 20 enrollment, we have qualified for the teacher positions that were budgeted from the state. No state teacher positions will be reverted this year. In order to be more exacting in our student enrollment and teacher allotment projections, we based our projections on historical Day 20 enrollment numbers. We projected our student membership to be 12,619. As noted, as of Day 20 of the 2017-2018 school year, we have an official enrollment of 12,665.

AREA	Day 20 Enrollment 2016-17	Day 20 Enrollment 2017-18	Change from 2016 to 2017	Change Percentage
Area 1 (Union Pines)	4,279	4315	+ 36	+ 0.84%
Area 2 (North Moore)	1,806	1779	- 27	- 1.50%
Area 3 (Pinecrest)	6,568	6513	- 55	- 0.84%
Pinckney	54	58	+ 4	+ 7.4%
Total	12,707	12,665	- 42	- 0.33%

Enrollment at each school directly relates to the number of teacher positions each school qualifies for each year. The allotment ratios that are used to determine the number of teachers at each school are:

- K-3 (1:22)
- 4-5 (1:26)
- 6-8 (1:24)

- 9-12 (1:28)

The K-3 allotment ratios were determined based on the K-3 Class Size Law and our 4-12 ratios were determined based on 2016-2017 funding levels. Each school monitored their enrollments and withdrawals throughout the summer and staffed their schools based on this monitoring. The Academics and Student Support Services team worked closely with principals throughout the first 20 days of school to discuss their enrollment and their qualified teacher allotments. In a zero sum budget, we must ensure each school has qualified for each teacher position based on budgeted funded allotment ratios. This process of “reconciliation” was monitored throughout the first 20 days. The below chart summarizes the overall outcomes of this process:

Budgeted Projected Teacher Positions	545.5
Actual Positions Allotted	541.5
Budgeted Positions Reverted	8
Classrooms Collapsed	2
Teachers Transferred	1
Additional Positions Qualified	3 (K-3)
Additional "Frozen" Qualified Positions	4 (4-12)

Moving forward, the Academics and Student Support Services team will continue to monitor closely the class sizes in our K-3 classrooms. If class sizes go above the state mandated caps at any point in the school year, an additional position will need to be allotted.

Board Comments

Elizabeth Carter spoke of the very productive work session and very enlightened by senior staff for a phenomenal job. Ms. Caldwell offered the following comments: I think it is safe to say we were shocked with the outcome from last week’s joint meeting. I can’t stress enough how every school is in dire need of repair or replacement especially the Area 1 Elementary Schools, but it seems lately it is always something where we have to push things back or delay projects. We need to stop making excuses. The public hired both boards to make important decisions. We need to step up and realize this. In the joint board meeting, the County Commissioners stated they wanted the public to decide. Personally, I believe that they have decided, meeting after meeting, parents rallying together to say "FULLY FUND OUR SCHOOLS".

They come to our board meetings begging and pleading with us and all we can do is give them an understanding nod because our hands are tied. We do not control our funds. The state plays a huge part in this, but our County Commissioners do as well. I want to thank the senior staff for not giving up—for working all hours of the day and night to REDO a request we already know the answers too. We just can't wait anymore, it will delay every repair we need to do and delay the new schools from opening. So with that said, who is going to go tell North Moore students that they can't have the same classes or education as Pinecrest and Union Pines? Who will go tell all the parents at SFL that the wonderful playground they funded and built may have 5 more trailers next year next to it? Who will tell the children that their education does not matter to this county because that is what it looks like looking from the outside? Unfortunately, it is us, the teachers, principals, and parents -- the ones that want the best for our schools and children

Dr. Betty Wells Brown offered the following comments: At this beginning of October, I was hoping to share about our fall festivals, our sports and academic teams, and how we were taking giant steps in getting ready for our schools to be built. Instead I want to share my disappointment of having to justify why we have to show an emergency in order to deal with the overcrowding on two of our elementary schools. Or why we should put off for a year the building of our Advanced Career Center. I have watched over the past four to five years as Moore County Schools planned for our Advanced Career Center and other projects, only to have this option and others put off for another year...

I chose to run for the Board of Education in order to work with a team of professionals, both on the Board and within the administration, to make a difference in our community and our schools. I thought, when I saw the plans for the ACC that our county was "thinking outside of the box." We were looking ahead toward the future; we were thinking of what could be, not what is or was. Unfortunately, the Board of Education does not control the money to be spent on the schools. We make recommendations to the County Commissioners. I thought over the past year that they had heard us and the community. We are not looking at the "wants", we are looking at the "needs". This county has, for too long, put off the needs of our schools. We have made do as good educators do with what we have and worked around our needs by asking for parents and volunteers to assist in needed areas.

It is time now for our Commissioners and community to take a stand. Our Community has voiced its stand. The many that have come since January to say "build our schools." Are we going to listen to a few who do not want us to move forward; who wants to stand in the way of progress? For too long a few have controlled or tried to control us moving forward. Moore County Schools has a chance to have our county step up, be unique in our education, and offer our students an opportunity to grow and stay and give back to our County. Delaying building schools, any of the proposed schools, is a tragedy for our students and community. Be forward thinking and build our schools.

Mr. Dennison offered the following comments: Why did our Commissioners change their mind about using a Limited Obligation Bond to fund our new Area 1 elementary school and the Advanced Career Center? Didn't they agree to fund them with a LOB at their work session on September 19?

Since our Commissioners have indicated they would approve the amount we request for a General Obligation Bond, is this a transparency and/or tax issue or are they just attempting to put all the responsibility for the success or failure of a bond issue on the school board without them having to make a decision to support what needs to be done? Do they believe our students and staff deserve and need everything we included in our request on September 27? Was a General Obligation Bond used to finance the construction for New Century and West Pine Middle Schools?

Do they understand if the Area 1 elementary school and advanced career center are not funded with LOB's that it may significantly increase our request for GOB funding, which would reduce the amount of community support for passing the bond referendum, or do they understand this and know that we may have to reduce the number of projects included in our GOB request which, along with not using LOB's for the Area 1 elementary school and advanced career center, will reduce the amount they will have to raise taxes, even though our students desperately need everything we have requested?

There being no further business, Dr. Betty Wells Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Elizabeth Carter seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:41 pm.

Ed Dennison, Chair
Moore County Board of Education

Dr. Robert P. Grimesey, Jr., Superintendent
Secretary to the Board