

The Amherst County School Board met in special session on Thursday, March 22, 2018, in the Public Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
 Priscilla M. Liggon, Vice Chairman
 David S. Cassise
 Jennifer E. Cumby
 Francisco D. Mayo
 Craig S. Terwilliger
 Abby J. Thompson

ABSENT: None

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order and observed a moment of silence.

Mr. Henderson stated the purpose of the Special School Board meeting was a budget work session on the 2018-19 School Operational Budget.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the March 22, 2018, agenda for the Special School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Cassise, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda of the March 22, 2018, Special School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated information had been provided to Board members as an outline for the budget work session.

Mr. Henderson provided Board members with an overview of the Amherst County School Board's Presentation of the 2018-19 School Operational Budget to the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Henderson stated the County Administrator asked him if the members of the School Board were supporting a four cent tax increase.

Staff members reviewed the following options that had been discussed with members of the Amherst County School Board:

Option 1 Recap: Superintendent's original presentation of needs based budget with \$1.3 million dollar deficit; adjusted for student enrollment and savings in utilities and health insurance.
Deficit: \$824,190

Option 2 Recap: Superintendent's suggestion to eliminate 2% raise and additional time on classified contracts from the original proposed budget, also adjusted for enrollment (3788) and savings in utilities and health insurance.
Deficit: \$88,983

Option 3 Recap: School Board presentation to Amherst County Board of Supervisors with original needs based budget, eliminating the additional time on classified contracts and adjusted for student enrollment (3788), and savings in utilities and health insurance.

Deficit: \$721,205

Option 4: New per Mr. Henderson, Chairman

Members of the Amherst County School Board discussed and reviewed the options.

Mr. Cassise expressed concern on why does the salary increase come down to "us versus them". Mr. Cassise asked, why is it that the county can fund a two percent salary increase for its employees; however, if the school employees get a two percent salary increase taxes have to be raised?

Mrs. Cumby stated the members of the School Board do not have taxing authority. Mrs. Cumby stated the School Board should be presenting an honest budget that funds the needs of the division.

Mrs. Thompson stated she works in education. Mrs. Thompson stated she thought the following:

- Superintendent presents his/her needs based budget.
- School Board members review and make changes if needed.
- School Board presents the needs based budget to the governing body.

Mrs. Liggon raised the following questions:

- Can we do without?
- Savings from Pleasant View Elementary School have been spent.
- Can we balance the budget ourselves?
- Are we going to give raises?
- Are we going to equalize pay?

Mrs. Liggon encouraged Board members to talk with their individual Board of Supervisor member about the needs of the school division.

Mrs. Thompson asked if some of the responsibilities of the Director of Support Services could be absorbed by the Supervisor at Amherst Education Center. Mrs. Thompson also asked if the Amherst Education Center could be utilized in a regional manner where other divisions have to pay to send students to Amherst Education Center. Board members and staff discussed the options. No decision was made to make any changes to the way that Amherst Education Center is being utilized.

Mr. Mayo stated he had reviewed the information provided and the highest amount was the 2% salary increase for employees. Mr. Mayo stated he believed the employees need the increase and deserve the increase.

After much discussion by the Board, Mr. Terwilliger asked about the fourth option by Mr. Henderson. Mrs. Crouch reviewed Mr. Henderson's request, which eliminated the two percent salary increase, changed funding for utility savings and added an additional school bus.

Mr. Terwilliger asked what the costs would be if everything was eliminated except the salary increase, additional positions; equalization of pay for instructional assistants and secretaries, and the two

percent for health insurance. Mrs. Crouch reviewed the changes and stated the deficit for this option would be \$634,238.

After continued discussion, the consensus of the Board was to submit to Mr. Dean Rodgers, County Administrator, on Friday, March 23, 2018, the revised option with a deficit of \$634,238 for the 2018-19 School Operational Budget.

Upon motion by Mr. Cassise, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools