

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners held a joint meeting with the Gates County Board of Education at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2013 at Central Middle School, 362 U.S. 158, Gatesville. Commissioners Jordan, Hofler and Felton were present. Also present was County Manager, Jon Mendenhall. Gates County Board of Education members present were: Chairman Doug Lilley, Ray Felton, Leslie Byrum, Claire Whitehurst, Glendale Boone & Superintendent Dr. Barry Williams.

Chairman Lilley called the joint meeting to order and welcomed the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Jordan led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance

Dr. Barry Williams, Gates County Superintendent, welcomed the Board to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting. Dr. Williams led both Boards in an educational activity of putting together a puzzle which required each Board to share resources and work together. The Boards discussed how the corner pieces were the foundation pieces then the support side pieces were needed before finally inserting the detail pieces. When missing pieces were discovered each Board looked for solutions by collaborating within the team and with other teams.

Dr. Barry Williams, Gates County Superintendent, presented the following presentation.

- Meeting for the Future
 - Dr. Barry Williams Superintendent of Schools
 - Mr. Jon Mendenhall, County Manager
- Assignment: Warm Up
 - Educational Setting Central Middle School
 - Educational Meeting = Educational Activity
- Purpose
 - Cooperation across real or perceived team boundaries can be beneficial, sometimes even crucial, for success.
 - Sharing Services was the beginning, our vision and mission is from the county and the heart of the county is our future
 - **Our Students!!!**
- Preliminary Budget Figures
 - Review the Gates County Schools Instructional Needs and Capital Outlay spreadsheet submitted in December 2013
 - Take into account:
 - Possible 2%-3% raise (would mean an increase of approx. \$300,000 to the local, state and federal budgets). The legislators could possibly take dollars from the teacher/teacher assistant allotments for these raises.

Mr. Rube Blanchard, Chief Financial Officer, stated that there is little known about next years budget. There has been some talk about a 2-3% raise. Retirement rate could increase slightly if at all and the health insurance rate could increase a bit but is not a big concern.

- Crystal ball Calculations
 - Not sure if these raises will be approved or how they will be implemented into the budget
 - Retirement rate could increase slightly but should stay below 15% (currently at 14.69%)
 - Health insurance rate was set at \$5,476/year in the 2013 session (slight chance it could increase a bit)
- Do You Remember the Year?

• New house	\$12,675.00
• Average Income	\$5,199.00
• New Car	\$2,610.00

- Average Rent \$98/month
- Tuition to Harvard University \$1,250/year
- Movie Ticket \$1.00
- Gasoline \$.25/gallon
- First Class Postage Stamp \$.04
- AND ...
 - Sugar \$.45 for five pounds
 - Milk \$1.04/gallon
 - Coffee \$.97/pound
 - Bacon \$.65/pound
 - Eggs \$.30/dozen
 - Hamburger meat \$.58/pound
 - Bread \$.20/loaf
- How about ...
 - The top television shows were the Andy Griffith Show, Rawhide and The Real McCoys
 - Willie Mays signed with the Giants for \$85,000
 - Elvis Presley finished his stint in the U.S. Army
 - President Eisenhower signed the Civil Rights Act into law
 - The 1st weather satellite was launched by NASA
- Interesting Facts
 - Roy Orbison released "Only the Lonely"
 - The first cartoon television show premiered: The Flintstones
 - JFK became the youngest man to be elected president of the United States
 - "The Twist" by Chubby Checker was a favorite song
 - Psycho was one of the top movies
- Facilities Construction to date
 - Buckland..1950's
 - Gatesville Daycare..1949
 - Central Middle..1950's
 - Gates County High..1961
 - TS Cooper.. 1950's

Mr. Joe Harrell stated that the County is blessed to have the new sewer system at Commerce Park but it is not being utilized. Mr. Harrell also stated the benefits of our area. Expansion brings compliance challenges as well as roof, air qualities, food service, and safety issues. Other items such as backup generators for power outages are big concerns. The age of the main buildings, structural issues, and windows are also major concerns.

- LOGISTICS
 - Consideration of wastewater facilities at the schools. Costs of maintenance, replacement, monetary fines for non compliance, local environmental impact.
 - Locate school facilities to use the new sewer at the commerce center on US 158. Maximize use of existing infrastructure in the location of new facilities.
- LOGISTICS
 - Use maintenance resources to maintain newer facilities that require less labor and downtime.
 - Gates County has a geographic advantage, located close to the largest port on the east coast. Having infrastructure and schools accessible to accommodate the local population's needs that reside and work in these jobs will be an economic asset.
- LOGISTICS
 - Consideration of condition of roof systems, electrical expansion and code compliance, lighting, building security, mold, mildew, air quality.
 - Foodservice kitchen facilities design and sanitation. The High School serves on disposable plates (no commercial dishwasher).
 - Backup generator for power outages to provide emergency shelters, prevent instructional disruptions during school, and protect food spoilage.
- Facts & FYI
 - The age of the main buildings of most School Facilities predates modern mandated infrastructure such as : ADA code, Energy Code, Lighting, and Electronic media etc.
 - The operational and repair costs of these facilities is a continued financial liability unless the facility is closed, totally gutted and renovated to bring up to modern standards.
- Facts & FYI

- Because of age and failing structural issues DPI engineering recommends that total replacement of the building would be a better investment.
- Facts for consideration:
- Bids average \$22,000 per classroom to renovate with energy efficient windows.
- Facts & FYI
 - Three of the School's five steam boilers have been discontinued for several years, with no available parts being manufactured for these models. If we lose a boiler at one of these schools There will be no heat until an emergency rental is procured and retrofitted. New boilers require 60- 90 days lead time.
- Facts & FYI
 - Modern heating and cooling systems integrated into modern facilities outdate boilers with proven efficiency savings of 250% to 300% in operational costs.
 - DPI's audit of our facilities found that 70% of the old campus buildings did not meet current ADA requirements. Complete renovation of deficient bathrooms and doorways will be required. Emergency escape windows are required in classrooms.
- Facts & FYI
 - Potable water, sewer, and wastewater lines have been retrofitted over the years and are at end of life in many instances.
 - Asbestos floor tiles, pipe insulation, and lead paint under coatings are in all facilities pre dating 1978. This requires "Abatement" before any renovations can proceed.
 - Proper location and planning of buildings, parking, emergency vehicle access, as well as security planning is required.
- Facts & FYI
 - Data cable and network upgrades for modern instructional, HVAC, and building security is viable and very efficient. Abandonment of outdated and redundant systems will save money and labor.
 - Upgrade and consolidation of athletic facilities will increase security and reduce risk.
 - Modern School facilities attract and retain families to a given geographical area where the tax base can grow rather than diminish.
- Each of You ...
 - Central Middle School 1950
 - Gates County High School 1960
 - February 4, 2024
 - February 4, 2034
 - February 4, 2044
 - When you leave this meeting each of you will pause, reflect and give deeper thought into this presentation
- Have the Opportunity ...
 - Each of you will embrace it or toss it aside but you will after pausing, after reflecting on it for more than an inattentive moment.
 - Thought is important because it is thought that generally precedes action.
- To Make a POSITIVE IMPACT!
 - Pausing and Reflecting- investing thought beyond an instant twice more each week on this presentation will create the innovative possibilities of action and/or improvement for Gates County.
 - THINK ABOUT THE GIFT YOU CAN OFFER, THE STRENGTH OF A LEADER AND THE LEGACY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION!
- You Make This Dream a REALITY!
- Reference
 - Researchers
 - Mr. Joe Harrell, Director of Maintenance
 - Mr. Rube Blanchard, Chief Finance Officer
 - Mr. John Smith, Director of Technology

Dr. Williams opened up to discussion between the Boards.

Chairman Lilley stated that last night the School Board had a meeting at Buckland Elementary where the 5th graders presented a song about what they want to be when they grow up. The children energized the Board to keep motivation going despite all of the challenges in education.

Chairman Jordan stated that students are the most important and asked what the trends for new construction and school centralization are. Replacing all five schools would be a huge undertaking and it's important to look at trends for centralization and consolidation to make it work. Chairman Jordan explained that these are trends that can be looked at as we move forward. Seeing if the trend is smaller schools or larger centralized school would be helpful.

Dr. Williams shared an example of where 6 schools were consolidated down to 3 schools. The outcry of the community was huge; the community felt that losing a school was losing the heart of the community. There was a lot of negative that ended up coming out as a positive once schools were constructed. Dr. Williams explained that he is in this for the long haul and is committed to sticking around to see the project follow through.

Commissioner Felton stated that he is very appreciative to be able to listen to all that has been presented. One of the logistics issues at the high school is that all of the buildings are behind the main building, should there be a fire or another issue the setup would create a major issue.

Dr. Williams stated that we will continue to research and make things work but you can only drive a car you bought in the 1960s for so long. Somewhere down the line someone is going to have to make a decision on what should be done.

Ms. Whitehurst stated that Buckland has some issues that just keep getting band aids because that's all that can be done.

Commissioner Felton stated that it would be helpful to see some idea of a plan and/or timeline.

Dr. Williams stated that a two and three year plan is in place that could be reviewed if there was land available.

Ms. Whitehurst stated that after watching the super bowl the quarterback explained how he was raised on the slogan why not you and then he took it to his team and said why not us. Why not Gates County, why not us, why can't we work as a team. Ms. Whitehurst explained that we have good statistics that prove that we are making strides in the right direction and we are a little shining light in Northeastern NC. If we have good team work and good conductors leading us we can accomplish these things. We hate to see schools close but we have to understand why they have to close and you have to move forward. There is a vision for Gates County to lead the way and if we continue improving test scores, data, and buildings we give people more of a reason to stay in the County.

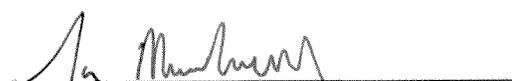
Mr. Felton stated that we are not poor by default we are poor by design. There are lots of places in the US that are tremendously poor and you can see new schools with new construction and good roofs. It's an uncomfortable zone now because as a County we have never gotten out of our comfort zone. Mr. Felton feels that we have to step up and make decisions that are good for the County and not decisions that are popular or decisions that we think will get us reelected.

Chairman Lilley stated that our teachers have to change what they are teaching every year where as they used to could teach the same book for 10 years but we haven't changed our facilities.

Chairman Lilley thanked Dr. Williams and Mr. Mendenhall for preparing the presentation and thanked the Board of Commissioners for attending.

Mr. Felton made a motion to adjourn.


Henry L. Jordan, Chairman


Jon M. Mendenhall, Clerk