

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION BUILDING IN FOREST CITY, NORTH CAROLINA ON MARCH 4, 2009 AT 12:30 P.M.

**PRESENT: VICE CHAIRMAN MARGARET HELTON
SUSAN CROWE
EDDIE HOLLAND
PAUL MCINTOSH**

ABSENT: CHAIRMAN BRENT WASHBURN

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Helton called the meeting to order.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education Chairman John Mark Bennett called the Board of Education to order.

Mr. Benny Hendrix, Chief Information/Technology Officer, spoke to those present about technology in the classroom and the tools needed to keep abreast of advances in technology. He stated that there is fiber connectivity to all schools in the county that is delivered to the classrooms. Staff development focuses on technology. Funding by the county has gotten technology infrastructure for the schools to the point where it should be, and Mr. Hendrix would like to keep the momentum going.

A purchase of 206 promethian boards and 33 smartboards are a great asset to both teachers and students. However, there are 625 classrooms. There are 4500 desktop and laptop computers used by the school system. Only 2-1/2 technicians support all of these. The state suggests that one technician should be in place for every 300 computers.

Instructional Technology Specialist Jennifer McBrayer and two teachers demonstrated the uses of the prometean boards in the classroom.

Vice Chairman Helton thanked the Board of Education for the presentation. She could certainly see the need for the advancement of technology to the schools; however, she pointed out that budgeting will be challenging due to the economic climate.

FINANCIAL REPORT/DEBT REPORT

County Manager John Condey presented a report regarding RutherfordCounty's issued debt. The purpose of the indebtedness is divided into five categories. Over 75% of this debt or \$54,543,013 relates to educational facilities. A total of \$11,096,196 or 15% relates to the county

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building program. The County Water and Sewer Capital Reserve Fund accounts for 4.5% or \$3,239,830. A total of \$3,042,601 or 4.5% of the county's debt is for lease purchase. Revenues of the ICC Capital Reserve Fund come from 6% of the Article 40 sales tax and interest earnings. Currently ICC has used funds to pay annual costs, but the college may request the ability to borrow funds in the future.

Manager Condrey pointed out the decrease in funds designated for the Schools Capital Reserve Fund and the possibility of a negative balance if adjustments are not made. Dr. John Kinlaw, School Superintendent, and his staff are currently analyzing adjustments that can be made to these items to reduce this negative balance. ICC has been receiving a portion of the sales tax funds previously used for schools. These funds are being phased in over a period of time. The college has agreed to postpone additional funds.

Rutherford County's debt, based on professional analysts' statements, emphasize that the county has positioned itself in a "solid financial position and moderately low debt level."

ADJOURNMENT

The Vice Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

2:00 P.M. -Adjourned.

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Clerk, Board of Commissioners