



Stafford County
1300 Courthouse Road
P.O. Box 339
Stafford, Virginia 22555-0339

Stafford County Public Schools
31 Stafford Avenue
Stafford, Virginia 22554



AGENDA

Joint Schools Working Committee Meeting

January 29, 2018 // 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session Room

Alvin York Bandy Administrative Complex

Stafford County Public Schools

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
- II. Election of Committee Co-Chairs
- III. Approval of June 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes (EXHIBIT A)
- IV. Member Comments/Reports
- V. Discussion:
 - a. Update on Legislative Issues, Including Day Schools (*Maurer*)
 - b. MOU for High School Firefighting Program (*Egan*)
 - c. CIP-Related Purchases (*Egan*)
 - d. Comparison Data for Early Childhood Education Programs (*Chase*)
 - e. Enrollment Projections and Pre-K Growth (*Maurer*)
 - f. School Expenditures Classified Under Several Categories (*Shelton*)
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Select Monthly Meeting Dates (continue as before, on fourth Monday each month?)
- VIII. Adjournment



Stafford County
1300 Courthouse Road
P.O. Box 339
Stafford, Virginia 22555-0339

Stafford County Public Schools
31 Stafford Avenue
Stafford, Virginia 22554



MEETING MINUTES
JOINT SCHOOL WORKING COMMITTEE
June 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m., in the ABC Conference Room in the George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center.

In attendance was Stafford County Board of Supervisors members Wendy Maurer and Laura Sellers. The Stafford County School Board was represented by members Jamie Decatur, Irene Egan, and Patricia Healy. Also attending were Mr. Thomas Foley, County Administrator, Holly Hazard, School Board Chairman, Maria Perrotte, County Chief Financial Officer, Chris Fulmer, Schools' Finance Director, Scott Horan, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities, and Marcia Hollenberger, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. The committee members not present were Jack Cavalier and Gary Snellings. School Board member, Mr. Dewayne McOsker, arrived at 6:29 p.m.

I. Approval of May 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Decatur motioned to approve the minutes from the May 22, 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Healy and passed unanimously.

II. Anne E. Moncure Elementary School

Ms. Egan said that she called the meeting to discuss value engineering and construction bids for Anne E. Moncure Elementary School (MES). She noted that bids came in higher than anticipated and asked Mr. Horan to go over plans to meet the \$2.5 million gap.

Mr. Horan said that after receiving the bid, he met with the general contractor and five or six sub-contractors who told him that higher construction costs was a trend across the State. He said that the bid was 8% over the budget and the professional estimator should have been closer in his estimate. Mr. Horan said that staff came up with \$2.9 million to cover the overage. However, \$1 million would affect programs and potential square footage of the rebuild. Mr. Horan distributed a handout with a list of the recommended value engineering showing a total of \$1,486,525. The numbers were presented to the School Board at its meetings on June 13 and June 20, 2017.

Ms. Sellers asked if the public was aware of the overage. Mr. Horan said it was on the School Board's agenda. Ms. Healy said it was the bid, not the Schools' choice. Ms. Decatur inquired why Ms. Sellers asked the question. Ms. Sellers said that VDOT and other local contractors' bids did not come in substantially over the estimate and asked if a new contractor should be considered. Ms. Egan noted that it was a part of the new shared services venture; that there was no labor available and that all fingers pointed to a future recession. Mr. Horan said he put it back on the architect who hired the estimator. Mrs. Maurer asked what his reason was for the overage. Mr. Horan said that it

was a lack of laborers; the estimator's job was to put it in the ballpark and he failed; the Schools would most likely not use him again.

Ms. Egan talked about value engineering. Ms. Healy said that they were not reducing capacity. Ms. Sellers asked what else was not being funded. Mr. Horan said that the proffer funds (\$580,000) were not allocated to another project, nor was \$319,000 in capital reserve or FY2017 carry-over in the amount of \$117,000. Ms. Sellers asked again what was coming from other schools like Winding Creek ES (WCES) and Anthony Burns ES (ABES). Ms. Healy said that nothing had been identified aside from the money from the proffer funds. Ms. Sellers asked how she was supposed to tell parents from Winding Creek ES and Anthony Burns ES that the overage at MES would not impact them or affect their schools. Ms. Egan said those questions should be referred to the School Board member; it was not the Board of Supervisors responsibility to explain School Board policy or decisions. In response to Ms. Sellers question about school capacity, Mr. Horan said that Elementary School #18 was planned for 2028.

Mrs. Maurer asked Ms. Perrotte what happened to proffers that were not used within 10 years and did it go back to the state. She said if the schools were sitting on \$1.2 million in capacity expansion and did not use it until 2028, would they lose that money. Ms. Perrotte said that she would have to clarify that to provide an accurate answer. Mr. Foley said that he believed that the money reverted back to the developer.

Ms. Sellers said that she would have a hard time supporting the School Board's decision. Ms. Egan said that redistricting would impact the Garrisonville District. Ms. Sellers said that it always affects the Garrisonville District and she did not wish to see the game continue of moving money around. Ms. Egan replied that it was not a game; that some of the schools were packed like sardines and redistricting was necessary to even out attendance levels. Mr. Horan said that \$323,000 in proffers was from the Aquia Town Center; \$148,000 in funds from Westgate went to Colonial Forge HS, which Ms. Healy said, they were still paying on. Shelton Woods proffer funds were earmarked for MES. Ms. Healy said the only other alternative was to cut back capacity. Ms. Egan said that was not an option and the School Board should get credit for coming up with the money. Ms. Sellers said that it was a game. Ms. Decatur said that it was a strategy. Ms. Sellers said that Mountain View HS were packed in like sardines. Mrs. Maurer said if the Board had not approved Liberty Knolls, there would be capacity. She said that the Board was getting ready to approve Sycamore, all of whose kids were zoned for Margaret Brent ES. Mrs. Maurer apologized to the School Board.

Ms. Sellers said that the money was coming out of the Garrisonville District. Ms. Egan said that the School Board had no power to put another school in the Garrisonville District. Ms. Hazard said that capacity numbers would be coming out in a report next month. MES was already at 105% capacity. Ms. Egan said it was over capacity when it was built and that was the reason she called this meeting; they were not asking for money, the School Board solved that problem; the School Board has been criticized for years and asked what "you guys" want from "us." Ms. Sellers said that Hampton Oaks ES wanted to be a neighborhood school again. She asked why kids living in Hampton Oaks had to attend Park Ridge ES. Ms. Hazard suggested waiting until the attendance/capacity report was out in July.

Ms. Healy said that MES was the #1 priority. Mr. Horan said there would be 950 students and two Pre-Kindergarten classes at the rebuilt MES. Ms. Sellers said that she wanted assurance that Hampton Oaks kids would not be pushed aside. Ms. Egan said that at the end of the day, they want Board of Supervisor support as it benefits the entire County. She said that it was the Board that wanted the rebuild of MES, it bought land, after the SB determined that MES was the perfect candidate for renovation. The Board pushed the Schools' into doing a rebuild, not a renovation, so that the students were not so close to traffic, lock downs, etc. Ms. Sellers said that the rebuild was not intended to be on the back of other schools. Ms. Egan suggested that the Board should recommend a property tax increase. Ms. Sellers said that she advocated for a tax increase every year she was on the Board. Ms. Egan said it was beating a dead horse; that with the upcoming joint Capital Improvement Program (CIP), needs would be scored and those that needed the money most would get it. Ms. Sellers repeated that the money came

away from ABES and she wanted an asterisk placed next to that line so that it would again become a neighborhood school. Ms. Egan said that it was not within their power.

Ms. Sellers said that via redistricting, Hampton Oaks ES could again become a neighborhood school. Ms. Egan noted that the goal was to not drive past MES to get to Park Ridge ES or other elementary schools except for special programs. When Garrisonville Road shifts, kids would be put back into schools where they belong. She added that without redistricting, there would be no rebuild of MES. Ms. Healy said that if proffer money was not available, they would have to go back to the drawing board. Mrs. Maurer said if they didn't use proffer funds, they would use operating funds to fix HVAC systems and other maintenance issues. Ms. Decatur said if Ms. Sellers made it sound negative when talking to her constituents, it would be negative. She should make it sound positive.

Mr. Horan spoke about better fidelity on capacity. Ms. Egan said that County-wide, schools were losing capacity with Pre-K programs. Ms. Sellers said that there was no information coming out of the schools. Ms. Hazard said that six or eight weeks ago a very good, detailed memo came out from Sue Clark. Mr. Horan talked about every Pre-K causing reduced capacity. Ms. Sellers asked if square footage made a difference in capacity. Mr. Horan said the average classroom size was 750 to 800 s.f. and noted that equipment for special needs students was bulky and took up a lot of space. Mrs. Maurer asked if any of the planned classrooms at MES were of a smaller footprint, less square footage. Ms. Egan said it was designed to have two Pre-K classrooms with attached bathrooms. If not for Pre-K, Kindergarten or 1st grade would use those classrooms.

Ms. Egan said they deviated from the ABES model and pull-out sessions would not be held in hallways at MES. Ms. Egan said that another possibility was looking at eliminating computer labs or going back to Art-in-a-Cart. Ms. Sellers asked about putting Pre-K in modular. Mr. Horan said that modular classrooms were much more expensive to maintain and to heat and cool than a bricks and mortar building. Ms. Healy spoke about a centralized Pre-K and that Pre-K moved out of Falmouth ES. Ms. Sellers noted that Pre-K students did not eat lunch with the rest of the student population. Ms. Egan suggested that Ms. Sellers get on the Joint CIP Committee.

Mrs. Maurer asked if this item was going to the Board on Friday. Mr. Foley said that agenda materials were typically available on Thursdays. Ms. Sellers asked again about capital budget cuts. Ms. Decatur said there were none, "point blank." Ms. Hazard mentioned \$318,000 in the Schools' reserve account. Ms. Perrotte clarified that it was unspent funds from FY2015 and FY2016. Mrs. Maurer said that when it got to the joint CIP, bond-funded projects would be first. Mr. Foley said they would be breaking up cash capital next year. Mrs. Maurer said that cash projects would also be scored. She said that she understood what Ms. Sellers was saying; that the possibility existed that a number of projects that were scored may not be funded but be bumped to take care of more immediate, higher priority projects. She said that the School Board hadn't yet scored its projects. Ms. Hazard disagreed saying that they scored school projects and as money became available, they ticked items off the list and paid for them with cash capital. She added that some projects could not be done while students were still in the classrooms.

Ms. Healy asked for any suggested ways to bridge the \$1 million gap. She said that the School Board's solution was the least painful. Ms. Sellers said that she was not opposed to using proffer money. Discussion ensued about the need for additional schools; Mrs. Maurer noted that the County did not need another middle school. Ms. Decatur said that nothing was cut. Ms. Hazard said there was initially \$6 million worth of projects that was cut to \$2 million in the final budget and she was happy with what was funded that year.

Mr. Foley brought up the issue of timing and getting this to the Board for discussion and a vote. Ms. Healy said that the School Board was meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2017. Mr. Horan said that Dr. Benson could send a letter requesting use of the proffers. It would cause no delay in executing the contract if this was put off until the Board's August meeting so long as plans were in place and approved to cover the \$1 million. Ms. Egan said the School Board was ready to move on MES but she would not be confident in doing so without Board approval of the use of

proffer money. Ms. Hazard said the letter would include the funding strategy and a request for Board approval. Ms. Healy said that the Board's commitment was unclear. Mrs. Maurer said, "Patricia, you and I are good."

Mrs. Maurer asked if the proposed opening date was slipping. Ms. Egan said it was mid-year but probably would be the beginning of the next school year. Mrs. Maurer said she was not in favor of a mid-year opening anyway. Mr. Foley said that it was on the Board's July 5th agenda, which was already set.

Mr. McOsker said that the joint Finance, Audit, and Budget (FAB) Committee was meeting on Thursday, July 29th, and suggested waiting until that meeting to continue this discussion. Ms. Healy said that if it went to the Board on July 5th or August 15th, it did not make a difference but the School Board needed some level of comfort that the Board would support this or they may have to cut space. She said that she was not comfortable that the Board would work with the School Board to bridge the gap. Mr. Foley said that it should not be rushed. Ms. Healy said she felt they were having a hard time explaining the funding gap and if MES was not a Board priority, maybe it should be reevaluated or look at cutting square footage. Ms. Egan suggested bringing it to the full Board at the joint FAB meeting with Mr. Horan present to provide the explanation. Ms. Sellers pointed out that the joint FAB meeting was the same night as the Fire Rescue graduation and several Board members would be attending that instead of the joint FAB. Mrs. Maurer said that she and Mr. Cavalier would be at the joint FAB. Mr. Foley told the group the Dr. Benson was scheduled to give his monthly presentation to the Board at its July 5th meeting.

Ms. Egan suggested that Board members should watch School Board meeting and/or come to its work sessions. Ms. Sellers replied that she either attends or watches all of the School Board's meetings and work sessions.

III. Expenditure List (previous year), Red-line version of Presented v. School Board Approved Budget

Mr. Fulmer gave hand-outs of the FY2018 Operating Fund Budget Summary from the 7 on 7 meeting held on March 15th and an updated version dated May 5th. He suggested that this item should be taken up with the joint FAB Committee on Thursday evening as it was not the purview of this group. Mrs. Maurer asked if there was a monthly report showing budget and actual numbers. Ms. Hazard said it was done quarterly. Ms. Sellers asked about a line-by-line budget/expenditure listing. Mr. Fulmer said that the Schools' budget book would be available on the Schools' website within a week. Discussion ensued about State funds and when they appeared in the budget. It was determined that State funds were included before the budget was presented to the Board. Mr. Foley asked if the Superintendent's budget was different than the School Board's budget. Ms. Hazard said that the Superintendent's budget was a starting point with consideration given to that when the School Board formulated its approved budget. The adopted budget was based on what the Board of Supervisors funded. It was agreed to bring this back for discussion at the Thursday joint FAB meeting.

IV. Summer Meeting Schedule

Committee members agreed to meet again in September, an exact date to be determined later in the summer.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.