

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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COUNTY OF STOKES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
JUNE 7, 2004

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a scheduled budget work session for the proposed Fiscal Year 2004/05 County Budget in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building, located in Danbury, North Carolina, on Monday, June 7, 2004, at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Sandy McHugh  
Vice-Chairman John Turpin  
Commissioner Howard Mabe  
Commissioner Leon Inman  
Commissioner Joe Turpin

County Manager Richard Morris  
County Attorney Jonathan Jordan  
Darlene Bullins, Clerk to the Board

Others in Attendance:  
Finance Director Julia Edwards  
Assistant Finance Director Lisa Lankford  
Mr. Jack Veit- Stokes Intern

Chairman McHugh called the meeting to order.

County Attorney Jonathan Jordan delivered the invocation.

#### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman McHugh opened the meeting by inviting the citizens in attendance to join the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The following members were in attendance representing Stokes County Schools:

Vice Chairman Ty Boles  
Yvonne Rutledge, School Board Member  
Ernest Lankford, School Board Member  
Sonya Cox, School Board Member  
Dr. Larry Cartner, School Superintendent  
Finance Director Lynette Moore

#### **Schools-Capital Outlay**

The Stokes County Board of Education and Stokes County Board of Commissioners began the Budget Work Session with the discussion of Capital Outlay.

The following topics were discussed:

**Roofing Projects:**

North Stokes High School "S" Building (metal)  
London Elementary School Gym (metal)  
Nancy Reynolds Elementary School Gym (rubber)  
Pine Hall Elementary School Gym/Media Center/Office Area (metal)  
South Stokes High School Band Building (metal)  
South Stokes High School "F" Building (metal)  
12 total roofs are in need of repairing - six will be remaining

**Renovations - Central Office**

*Chairman McHugh requested information concerning recent renovations at the Central Office Building in Danbury, cost of renovations, cost of furniture, and funding source in current school budget.*

Dr. Cartner noted the need for renovations due to following items:  
space issue, departmental needs, health and safety issues-flooding, wiring, lightning, asbestos, sidewalks, paint, etc.

**Possible Additional School Nurse**

Possibility of 100 additional school nurses for the State- will be allocated per ADM

**Pine Hall Elementary School Mandated Wastewater System Improvements**

Waste having to be trucked out most of the year  
Styrofoam products being used most of the year

**Schools - Current Expense**

The Stokes County Board of Education and Stokes County Board of Commissioners discussed Current Expense.

Dr. Cartner presented handouts and spoke concerning the following:

**Projected Overall Funding Loss**

Local - \$380,574  
State - \$247,500  
Federal -\$70,000  
Total - \$698,074

**Local Funding Comparison (compares counties similar to Stokes)**

(chart comparing ADM rank, # of students, total teachers, total locally, etc.)

**Loss of State Positions**

Lost 6 teaching positions in planning allotment for 2004/05  
Lost 3.5 positions in December 2003  
Lost 1 support position (guidance, speech, nurses) in December 2003  
Total Loss of 10.5 state positions for school year 2004-05

**Local Positions: History and Need**

200 more students than 5 years ago and 18 fewer positions  
Request four additional classroom positions in local budget  
Request one additional school nurse in local budget

- Currently have 3 positions to serve 7408 students
- 2 are funded through school funds and 1 through the Health Dept.

Request one maintenance position

- 1.1 million square feet and slightly less than 700 acres maintained by 13 maintenance employees and 1 supervisor
- Preventive Maintenance

**School Resource Officers (\$205,892) (Excludes Walnut Cove)**

Redirecting \$123,900 funded through school budget for SRO Officers to be paid by local government to be used in the classroom

**Increased Employee Costs**

State mandated increases in retirement (+2.35%) and hospitalization (+125.00 per employee)

Costs for providing required P&S endorsements for 99 bus drivers

**Central Office Staff**

Eliminated one senior level position

One clerical addition to meet FSLA requirements

Three employees handle HR for functions for 1100 employees

Four and one half clerical handle finances, benefits, and insurance -1100 employees

Two employees handle entire Exceptional Children Program-over 1000 students

One employee directs Technology Prog. for-21 sites, 1100 employees, 7408 students

One employee handles required SIMS Management-18 schools, 7408 students

Three instructional directors (elementary, middle, high)

One clerical handles all curricular issues for 18 schools and 7408 students

Three employees conduct the child nutrition program -7408 students

One receptionist handles student records

One administration assistant to the Board of Education/Superintendent

One Finance Officer

Local positions - Technology and SIMS

**Low Wealth Funding**

In 2003-04, the local funding level of Stokes County is within \$1.39 of affecting the loss of Low Wealth Funding-estimated \$1.146

**Construction Needs**

Use of \$360,000 of State funding for maintenance roofing needs

Need to use State funding for school construction and renovation

**Remove 10% Cap for Transfer of Funds**

Removal of this cap will indicate a growing trust and will allow the school system to leverage greater financial flexibility in moving funds for students needs

**Purpose and Function**

The Board of Education needs the flexibility to budget according to needs.

Dr. Cartner requested the Board of Education be allowed to budget the entire local allotment to purpose and function as needed.

**Condition of Building**

Space Issue

Renovations - departmental and recruiting of personnel

Health and Safety Issues

**Local Teaching Positions**

Local

**Teaching  
Positions**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number</b>
1999/2000	38.84
2000/2001	30.84
2001/2002	22
2002/2003	20
2003/2004	20
2004/2005- Requested	24

Other items:

Critical Need of Full Funding; Restricted funding  
Funding formula changed from last year  
The Boards discussed other issues pertaining to:

Redrawing of school lines  
Retaining qualified personnel  
Mobile units at schools - Mt. Olive 17 units  
Student Population  
All Federal funding tied together- must take all or nothing  
Increased transportation cost  
Accountability of funding being expensed  
Detailed information concerning the Low Wealth Funding

*Chairman McHugh requested the following information:  
Out of the \$49 million in funding, what % goes into the Classroom  
for teachers, teacher benefits, supplies, etc?*

*Commissioner Joe Turpin requested where the additional increase  
of funding is being expensed?*

Members of the Board of Education noted the following:

**Ty Boles**

Central office renovations needed for space  
Local funding in Stokes News inadequate  
Recruitment of qualified teachers  
Maintaining qualified teachers  
Impact of State cuts  
Main purpose- education of children  
School Start Date Bill-takes 10 days away-possibly having to use substitutes  
to allow Teachers to acquire continuing education credits

**Yvonne Rutledge**

Redrawing lines would be domino effect -possibly increases all schools  
No additional space in other schools for redrawing of the lines  
Complex budget

**Ernest Lankford**

Federal funding - estimate \$3million for upcoming fiscal year  
The current increase needed for the schools

**Sonya Cox**

Current overcrowding in Schools

Redrawing of school lines - need for new schools

Possibility of more jobs for Reynolds, which could increase attendance

Mobile unit- safety issues

Retaining and Recruiting qualified teachers

Need for competitive salaries and benefits for recruiting and retaining qualified teachers

Chairman McHugh noted that the Board of Education has the option to request that funding can be moved to different funding sources before the budget is adopted; the need for building up the fund balance in order to obtain a good bond rating when new schools are able to be built; and the other needs for the citizens of Stokes County.

Board Member Yvonne Rutledge requested the Board be allowed to recalculate the \$43 million final budget total that included estimates from federal and state funding.

Chairman McHugh noted that the proposed budget includes \$416,000 more general funding than last year; school's unreserved fund balance estimated \$618,000; and over \$1 million in ADM funding.

Chairman McHugh reiterated that after the budget is adopted by the County, the Board of Education can submit changes for purpose and functions all at one time to the County.

Dr. Cartner requested the Board be given a dollar amount of funding from the County in order to budget by purpose and function. Dr. Cartner requested that the records reflect that he requested full funding of the Stokes County Board of Education's request.

Vice Chairman John Turpin requested information concerning Board Members being employed with organizations that the school system contracts with for professional services.

Vice Chairman John Turpin noted the conflict of interest in a school board member being paid by the school board in their private job which is contracted with Stokes County Schools.

Dr. Cartner stated that both the school board attorney and the North Carolina School Board Association Attorney, both confirmed that the school contracts with a Company that the Board member happens to be an employee there. The School Board does not contract with the Board member. Dr. Cartner noted that the Board Member abstained from the voting of that contract.

Vice Chairman John Turpin and Commissioner Joe Turpin noted individuals that are graduating highs schools and even community college that don't have the basic spelling and writing skills.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to adjourn the budget work session.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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**Darlene Bullins**  
Clerk to the Board

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**Sandy McHugh**  
Chairman