

AT A JOINT MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS AND MIDDLESEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2001, IN THE PUBLIC MEETING ROOM OF THE
COOKS CORNER OFFICE COMPLEX, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

Present: Kenneth W. Williams, Pinetop District
Fred S. Crittenden, Pinetop District
John D. Miller, Jr., Saluda District
Lenora O. Weber, Saluda District
Frank Jessie, Jamaica District

Charles M. Culley, Jr., County Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman, Mr. Williams, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Mr. John Moore, Chairman of the Middlesex County School Board, called the School Board to order. All members of the School Board were present: James Goforth, Wayne Jessie, Randy Hester, Richard Shores; also, Superintendent Charles H. Lackey and Assistant Superintendent Michael Willis.

SCHOOL MATTERS

Mr. Moore outlined actions by the School Board relative to the construction projects. According to Mr. Moore, the School Board established revenue projections, then obtained a construction estimate and came up with a figure to borrow. Mr. Moore indicated that the School Board knew that the improvements would cost a minimum of 13 million, however, opted to borrow \$11.5 million from the sale of bonds through the County's Industrial Development Authority (IDA). Knowing they would be 1-2 million dollars short of the original projection, the School Board went back to redesigning a plan that would meet the 11.5 million dollars that was borrowed.

Mr. Moore noted that there were six (6) people at the Planning Commission meeting who voiced their objections to the proposed high school improvements. The architect has addressed those concerns and has proposed a new façade that was presented to the Board at the December 19th meeting.

Mr. Moore noted that he was in receipt of a letter advising that the School Board was delinquent in payment of the annual administration fee to the IDA. The fees are \$12,500 for the \$10 million bond and \$1,875 for the \$1.5 million bond. Payment of these fees was not included in the School budget, however, Mr. Moore indicated the School Board would ask for an additional appropriation unless the Board of Supervisors chose to pay it. Mr. Moore also commented that the Board of Supervisors owned the receipts from the Bond issue, however, a trustee controls the funds and was limited on how the funds could be released.

Mr. Culley noted that by law, the School Board cannot sign a contract for the construction without full funding available. Mr. Moore noted that the School Board had projected to have three years of lottery monies plus the bond revenue for construction.

Mr. Crittenden noted that the School Board had requested \$11.5 million for construction and that Mr. Moore knew that the County was planning on using lottery proceeds to help pay for debt service. Mr. Moore disagreed and said that conversations about lottery money being used for debt service took place after the School Board had announced their funding scenarios.

According to Mr. Moore, revising the current plan would involve environmental assessments, demolition costs, borings, 10 temporary units, relocating the septic, fuel, and a 9 month delay, adding approximately \$800,000, plus \$200,000 already spent, to the total project costs.

Improvements to replace the west wing were considered originally, along with an anticipated school population of 600. These plans were withdrawn from consideration after being considered too big and too expensive for a revised projected school population of 400. This plan included 28 new classrooms in a two-story addition. A plan for an addition of the west side of the main building was also considered, but further limits available parking. The current plan fits the population projection and improves circulation.

Mr. Culley questioned the option of constructing an addition on the east side. Mr. Moore commented that architects and engineers for the State's Department of Education had reviewed the existing building and recommended construction of a new wing rather than remodeling of the existing structure. According to Mr. Moore, the existing east wing is in bad shape; there were no expansion joints put in during original construction.

Mr. Williams commented on the proposed addition to the front, which would place the building way out in front of all other houses and structures on that side of the street. In addition, the proposed addition would eliminate a state maintained bus loop, placing the loop between buildings, mixing traffic and requiring County maintenance. Mr. Moore noted that there were 21 buildings in Saluda that would be closer to the road than the proposed addition. Mr. Moore also commented that the architects can work on preventing traffic problems.

Mr. Moore noted that at the Board of Supervisors meeting on December 19th, it appeared that five of the six people who spoke in opposition to the plan at the Planning Commission meeting had changed their minds and were concerned with the façade.

Mr. Culley questioned the possibility of increasing the slope on the roof an/or to putting a metal roof on the addition. Mr. McCalla stated that that would be an easy fix to the plans. The renovated classrooms on the front east end would keep the existing roof. Mr. Culley stressed the importance of designing a building and looking at options that will have a long life and not require money for repairs five years down the road.

The Board of Supervisors needs to know what all the options are and the costs associated with them, including the lifespan of each.

Randy Hester commented that this was the best plan within the budget that the School Board had to work with. He noted that if they could get another million, they would look at other improvements that were needed and not spend it on throw away costs.

Elementary School -

Mr. Crittenden commented that the Board had requested price information for increasing the roof slope to accommodate a metal roof. Mr. McCalla, architect, noted that he had not had time to prepare those prices.

RECESS

Mr. Williams recessed the meeting and moved to another room so that the School Board could continue with their regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Williams called the Board back into session.

COMMUNICATIONS HUTS

This item was tabled from last week's meeting. Mr. Culley indicated he had talked with a Motorola representative who has indicated that their engineers have reviewed the specifications and found them to meet their standards of construction. In addition, Motorola engineers will perform an audit of the building construction and installation to insure that they meet the Motorola R-56 standard prior to final payment being made to the contractor. Mr. Culley recommended that the contract for the communications huts and additional grounding be awarded to Atlantic Tower. An additional appropriation of \$33,300.00 will be needed to meet the current budget for this project. The motion to award the contract to Atlantic Tower for \$109,900, for two Smith-Midland Shelters @ \$49,325 each, plus \$11,250 for additional grounding at the Communications Addition, and appropriating an additional \$33,300.00 for the project was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously.

LEGISLATION

Mr. Culley noted that the Governor has proposed to require increases for constitutional officers without funding through the Compensation Board, which would constitute an unfounded mandate. It was noted that the Board's opposition to this proposal should be made known to the Legislators and the Virginia Association of Counties.

RESOLUTION

The motion to draft a resolution recognizing Mrs. Ebinger's recent certification as a Certified Appraiser, was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, to begin at 7:30 P.M., in the Board Room of the Woodward Building.

Kenneth W. Williams, Chairman
Board of Supervisors