

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2007, IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE  
WOODWARD BUILDING, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

Present: John D. Miller, Jr., Saluda District  
Robert A. Crump, Saluda District  
Kenneth W. Williams, Pinetop District  
Wayne Jessie, Sr., Jamaica District  
Fred S. Crittenden, Pinetop District

Charles M. Culley, Jr., County Administrator  
Marcia Jones, Assistant Administrator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and led the group in prayer. Mr. Culley led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. There being a large number of people present for the public hearing, the Board recessed the meeting and moved to the Courtroom next door.

Mr. Miller reconvened the meeting in the Courtroom and informed the public that Mr. Crittenden would not be present for the meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING – MIDDLESEX COUNTY SCHOOL AND COUNTY BUDGETS FOR FY 08**

Mr. Culley presented a review of the proposed County budget, totaling \$16,537,443.00. This total reflects an increase from last year of \$877,833 (5.61%). Of 73 departments, 11 have decreasing budgets, 43 have increases and 19 have no change. Salary increases of 5% are proposed for County employees, with state/local salaries estimated to increase 4%. Additional incentive pay has been added for deputies and dispatchers. The largest increase is in the Social Services Department budget in the amount of \$63,116.00, which reflects a change in funding for foster care services. Debt service for the County is increased by 0.69%; school debt service has decreased by 1.60% and the school operations budget less the local debt service increased by 4.86%. The proposed budget uses \$387,914.00 from the fund balance to match revenues to expenses. No tax increase is proposed.

Monies for the School Budget reflect a proposed increase in school operations of \$563,125.00, or 4.86%. The proposed school capital outlay budget is \$133,700.00 for bleachers at MHS gymnasium (\$77,000.00), purchasing one new activity bus (\$42,700) and one new mid-size sedan (\$14,000). Funds were appropriated several months ago to the current budget to purchase two new buses from the current budget year. The proposed local funds in the Textbook Fund are \$77,500; this amount is set by the State.

Mr. Miller opened the hearing for comments from the public. The following citizens offered comments or had questions:

Richard Shores, School Board Chairman – thanked the Board for including money for the buses and bleachers. Requested additional funds to keep elementary classes small, to enable teachers to better catch deficiencies and to encourage more student participation. Dr. Shores encouraged the Board to add \$100,000.00 to the budget.

Doris Page, representing the Middlesex Education Association – requested full funding as recommended; opposed decreasing in staff to meet approved funding.

Lorna Lindsay, Middlesex Elementary School PTO – both the MES PTO and SCW PTO have endorsed fully funding the school budget.

James Lennon, representing the Kiwanis Club – requested full funding of the School Board budget and retaining all teachers.

Sandra Walton – concerned with teacher turnover rate; need to keep teacher/student ratios down and competitive salaries, need to gain on scores. If budget cannot be fully funded as requested, then at least give enough so teacher positions can be funded.

There being no further comments, Mr. Miller closed the public portion of the hearing.

Mr. Williams reminded everyone that the Board of Supervisors has no control of how the money given to the School Board is spent.

Mr. Jessie commented that he did not approve with playing games with the numbers and noted that the County has a good system. Mr. Jessie asked Mr. Culley if there were ways that the additional \$100,000 requested could be found within the School's budget. Mr. Culley commented that there were some items that he questioned that may be cut, such as copy machine leases, internet increases, fuel, electric, a half-time special education teacher and a physical education teacher position.

Mr. Crump commented that the Board of Supervisors would be deliberating over the comments received.

Mr. Crittenden commented that he was in favor of seeing more money distributed to the teachers. Mr. Crittenden requested documentation that every position in the central office is required by the State. He noted that when additional funds were requested to purchase buses this year, the comment was made that perhaps an additional \$50,000 would be left over; perhaps this money could be put back in for teacher supplements. Mr. Crittenden commented that with five different superintendents in the past twelve years the school system would have a hard time running efficiently. Mr. Crittenden reminded those present of past years when administration received 2% increases and teachers received 4%.

Mr. Miller expressed his concern that teachers are not getting the increases they should be getting.

There were no further comments from the Board. It was noted that no action could be taken regarding adoption of the budget. A date to consider adopting the budget would be set at the Board's meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**RECESS**

There being no further business, the meeting was recessed by the chairman until May 1, 2007, at 9:00 A.M.

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John D. Miller, Jr., Chair  
Board of Supervisors