

AT A JOINT WORK SESSION OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND MIDDLESEX SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON FEBRUARY 15, 2023, AT THE MIDDLESEX HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER, 454 GENERAL PULLER HIGHWAY, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

Present: Wayne H. Jessie, Sr., Jamaica District
Don R. Harris, Saluda District
Reginald A. Williams, Sr., Harmony Village District
Lud H. Kimbrough, III, Pinetop District
John B. Koontz, Jr., Hartfield District

Matthew Walker, County Administrator
Ann Marie Ricardi, Assistant County Administrator
Heather Lewis, County Attorney

School Board Members and Staff: Dr. Dana Burnett, Board Vice Chairman, Board Members Jenny McMurtrie and Claudia Soucek; Dr. Tracy Seitz, Superintendent; Dr. Byron Bishop, Assistant Superintendent; Kim Bagby, Clerk; Karen Murray, Deputy Clerk; Dustin Harris, Director of Operations; and Susan Fleet, Principal.

CALL TO ORDER

The purpose of the work session was to hear the School's FY24 Budget Presentation which was presented by Dr. Seitz. The work session began at 4:30 p.m.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Dr. Seitz explained the salary step scale and said it is based on years of experience. Once an employee reaches the maximum of thirty steps, a salary is based on a 2% increase with no step increase.

There was discussion on determining the salary increase before the State finalizes its budget. Mr. Walker stated that communities have always been able to pre-fund; however, not knowing whether there will be a 5 or 7% increase, the safest position for the County would be to not pre-fund the increase.

Dr. Seitz discussed the acquisition of two electric buses last year. She added there are four of these buses on the road, they are reliable, and the program is operating well. Mrs. Soucek stated there is a certified bus technician on staff now.

There were discussions regarding the proposed budget including whether the 7.95% salary line item increase including three new requested positions. Dr. Seitz clarified that the increase does include the five percent plus the three new positions. The proposed overall increase for the entire budget is 8.05%.

Dr. Seitz explained that Pre-K students are not funded by the state because Pre-K is not mandatory, but there is a 50% match required for the Virginia Pre-K Initiative; the proposed budget is based on a projection of 1150 students, not including Pre-k students.

The LED lighting in the budget is for the elementary school only, and it is unclear if there is an active contract with Honeywell. Other topics discussed include bringing the division's salaries to a level comparable to surrounding divisions, recruitment and retention of teachers, faculty, and staff bonuses, ESSER funds, and health insurance.

TOUR OF MIDDLESEX HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Fleet and Mr. Harris led a tour of the High School. The tour included visiting the oldest areas of the school which are not in compliance with VDOE spacing requirements, an unattached vocational and training space, the gym, cafeteria, art room, band room, and guidance office. Throughout the tour, Mrs. Fleet and Mr. Harris provided information regarding the facilities.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Soucek to go into closed session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Murtrie. All in favor indicated by voting 'AYE' with no one opposing. Pursuant to CODE OF VIRGINIA, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2 -3711, (A), Subsection 1, for the discussion of personnel matters; resignations; retirements; recommendations of staff; stipends and volunteers; and Subsection 2, for the discussion of student matters; non-resident student applicants, student discipline.

There was no action by the Board of Supervisors and Mr. Kimbrough recessed the meeting.

Lud H. Kimbrough, III, Chairman
Board of Supervisors