



**GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FY 2018-19 BUDGET WORK SESSION
MAY 29, 2018 10:00AM
AGENDA**

PRESENT: Chairman Alan Branson, Vice Chairman Justin Conrad, Commissioners Melvin “Skip” Alston (via phone-in), Jeff Phillips, Alan Perdue, Hank Henning, Carolyn Q. Coleman, J. Carlvena Foster

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Marty Lawing, County Attorney Mark Payne, Clerk to the Board Robin Keller, Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier, Deputy Clerk to the Board Scott Baillargeon, Guilford County Public Information Officer Worley Smith, Members of County staff, the media, and residents and citizens of the County.

I. Welcome / Call to Order

Chairman Branson called the meeting order at 10:12 a.m.

II. Guilford County Schools (GCS)

Superintendent of GCS Sharon Contreras and School Board Members Angie Henry and Alan Duncan provided the details of the strategic goal plans. She emphasized the need for students to pass specific courses to ensure readiness in vocational and non-vocational schools. She spoke to low performing schools and discussed teacher compensation increases. She shared the costs for textbook replacement and stated that while the state provides 3M annually for textbooks that it cost upwards of 15M to update all textbooks and therefore have not been updated in fifteen years. She spoke to the need to retain principals in the schools and not seek higher salaries. She elaborated on the budget requests. She spoke to the increase in class sizes.

Commissioner Phillips asked about the 3.4M and how much was targeted to teacher recruitment retention.

Angie Henry provided a full breakout of the 3.4M.

Contreras spoke to the rubric used to provide the breakout.

Commissioner Coleman asked about lateral entry teachers and retention of good teachers.

Contreras stressed the need to retain teachers in low performing schools. She emphasized the need to educate the future students. She shared that students are struggling with teacher retention and turn-over. She discussed the many areas that require more proficiency.

Commissioner Alston asked about the incentive of 15% to remain at a low performing school.

Commissioner Cashion asked the percentage of incoming lateral entry teachers.

Contreras provided feedback concerning the teachers hired and differences among lateral entry and pedagogically trained teachers.

Commissioner Cashion shared a recent visit to a school and a conversation she had had with a teacher.

Contreras spoke to salary scales. She chided the state for not handing her a purse of money to allocate as the School Board deemed necessary.

Commissioner Foster spoke to Mission Possible and the program that sought to encourage education. She spoke to the challenges of salary gaps. She emphasized culturally competent teachers that ensure education is distributed equitably. She emphasized the need to move past old conversations and find pathways forward to mitigate budget pressures.

Vice Chairman Conrad referenced the state's budget release.

Henry spoke to the changes in the budget and underscored that the schools would not obtain much more to target problem areas. She spoke to the state rewards and how those funds are distributed.

Contreras spoke about the concentration of color among low proficiency schools. She emphasized the need to incentivize those schools to ensure equity. She noted the need to locate excellent teachers to provide focus in these challenging areas.

Commissioner Henning asked about the damage of the tornado and sought more information concerning the study to access the damage report.

Contreras stated that she would be in touch with the Chairman to set up a closed session to address these questions.

Duncan spoke to the scope of the lawsuit. He shared many statistics regarding the County's homeless student populations.

Contreras thanked the BOCC for their support for Schools. She emphasized the need to deliver on her promise.

III. Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC)

GTCC Doug Parker thanked the Board.

Commissioner Foster asked about the remediation efforts among high school students incoming to college.

Parker spoke to the efforts to move forward with public schools to ensure students are prepared for college.

Commissioner Coleman asked about the 401K for returning employees. She asked if there was a state match for the public schools.

Parker elaborated the details of the 401K. As per the public school's state match, Parker could not say.

Commissioner Cashion asked for the retention rate of employees/teachers.

Parker discussed information regarding retention. He shared the difficulty to encourage good people to stay.

Commissioner Coleman asked about the Camden Campus.

Parker shared the updates to the center.

Commissioner Alston asked about 35K students, and how does that number compare to previous years.

Parker stated that the percentage is down from previous years.

IV. Review General Fund Revenue Projections

Budget Director Michael Halford reviewed the County's projected school budget.

Guilford County Manager Marty Lawing shared that the GCS requested 4.9M for security and was not included in his 7M budget proposal.

Vice Chairman Conrad spoke in the need to place a meaningful amount of money set aside for security.

Commissioner Coleman asked about the request the schools had made.

Lawing provided the details of the amount asked for by the schools regarding maintenance and security. He provided a greater breakout of the different measures the schools have requested to increase security.

Commissioner Alston asked about the 2.5M the manager has proposed for non-security measures. He sought clarification regarding the 4.9M.

Commissioner Cashion spoke to the manager's proposal and provided additional information to clarify the two differing requests.

Commissioner Phillips clarified that the number requested by schools had been 9M and shared that he supports Vice Chairman Conrad's suggestion to wait until an assessment is completed before allocating funds to the schools' security budget. He shared that it should be a top priority.

Commissioner Foster shared that the decision needed to be a joint discussion.

Chairman Branson spoke to the sheriff's department providing safety and security among the schools and sought input to craft sound decisions moving forward.

Commissioner Henning shared his agreement with the comments of the Board. He emphasized the need to keep focus on the facilities and allow for the schools to provide their own administrative efforts. He shared his reluctance to allocate the full amount before the assessment of damage is completed.

Commissioner Foster emphasized the need to have a decision in the coming weeks.

Commissioner Perdue expressed caution for creating silos. He stated that security was a priority and not provide a band-aid approach.

Commissioner Coleman shared that the schools have not taken things into consideration and more needs to be done in the coming weeks.

Halford spoke to the allocation of public school funding. He noted that Charter Schools were outside his calculations in the budget. He shared that GCS has dropped from fourth to fifth ranking in the state.

Commissioner Alston asked about per capita funding. Alston asked about the School Board Fund Balance.

Halford Provided a full breakout of the graphs presented. He provided comparisons to emphasize differences among counties. Halford answered the question and provided information concerning the General Fund Revenue Projections. He shared that any change in the fund balance would reflect a downgrade on the rating. Halford reviewed the recommended budget. He shared that sales taxes were up. Halford spoke to the general fund and his projections for the next fiscal year. He shared the percentages of revenue the County collects.

The Board recessed for 10 Minutes at 12:35p.m.

The Board reconvened at 12:50p.m.

Vice Chairman Conrad expressed concern for the nursing procedures.

Halford spoke to the different procedures a nurse in comparison to a nurse practitioner responsibility.

Vice Chairman Conrad asked Ken Carter to address the staffing challenges of the nurse. Conrad shared that the topic was new, and more discussion was necessary for an educated decision

Public Health Ken Carter spoke to the question as to what duties the CNA may provide to the RN.

Halford expounded on the limitations and the options available to expand the scope of services while reducing costs.

Commissioner Alston stated that he would like to return to the topic for future further discussion.

Lawing stated that at the next work session.

Commissioner Phillips stated that a recommended model would be helpful to accommodate a decision to ensure that funds are distributed haphazardly.

Discussion ensued among the Board concerning the recommendation and what measures the Board should take.

Halford sought to provide a working model concerning the limitations of nurses and CNAs in the schools.

Vice Chairman Conrad suggested a post-budget session, work session, to educate the Board on the school nurse topic.

Commissioner Cashion stated the CNAs were non-medical personnel and more information was needed. She stated that she was an advocate for school nurses.

Discussion ensued among the Board concerning the nurses.

Halford discussed the human services changes. He shared the total cost of the services and shared that a request to recruit conditionally position if the Board. He discussed the shifting of County funds for essential programs. He shared the high priority capital projects currently underway throughout the County.

Lawing spoke to the funding for each project and discussed his recommendations to reallocate funds where necessary. He proposed several options to ensure projects are finished timely.

Commissioner Alston asked about the bonds issued in previous years.

Lawing expounded the details of the bonds and the total amount left over. He spoke to the 6M capacity within those bonds, and subsequently to sell the bonds in January 2019 with zero impact on the budget.

Commissioner Alston asked what the bond funds could be used for and inquired whether schools could receive the funds.

Lawing shared that the funds could be allocated toward schools. However, the financial advisor discourages the use of funds to schools. He shared that the opportunity of the bonds facilitates the needs of several ongoing projects.

Commissioner Alston suggested raising the taxes by one cent to incur the necessary funds to offset the bond funds.

Commissioner Phillips stated that raising taxes was not an option.

Commissioner Lawing provided additional information concerning bond funding

Vice Chairman Conrad asked Charlie about funding for the machines.

Elections Director, Charlie Collicut, spoke to the machines and the deadline to upgrade the voting machines by the next the presidential election.

County Attorney Mark Payne spoke to other legislation of the machines.

Lawing outlined the scope of work in phase and what the County could expect. He shared that the options were available.

Discussion ensued among the Board concerning upcoming projects and viable options.

Interim Finance Director Harley Will shared more background on the timeline of the 2/3 Bonds.

Commissioner Cashion asked how long the County could wait before making a decision on the use of the bonds.

Lawing shared that the County would have to make a decision before January 1.

Commissioner Perdue shared that the priorities are set and a way to move forward.

Commissioner Alston moved to go forward with the High Priority Capital Projects

Commissioner Phillips stated that he was not comfortable in voting today on the item. He stated that he would need additional time to deliberate.

Discussion ensued among the Board about a decision.

Commissioner Alston withdraws his motion.

Chairman Branson emphasized the need to decide to avoid higher costs down the road.

Commissioner Phillips agreed and shared that caution moving forward was paramount to the overall health of the County.

Commissioner Coleman asked the manager what the goal for today's meeting.

Lawing reiterated the purpose of the work session.

Vice Chairman Conrad asked if the projects could change post-decision of fund allocation of bonds.

Chairman Branson asked if the decision needed two additional weeks.

The Board agreed to a two-week delay on making a decision about the bonds for high capital projects.

Halford spoke to debt repayment and elaborated on the budgeted County money in the next fiscal budget. He provided information on the new debt issuance for capital projects.

Commissioner Phillips asked about the debt increase and conservative percentage recommended.

Halford spoke to the financial climate and shared that present climate is out of line with the ten-year projected timeline.

XIII. Retreat Follow-Up: Impact of \$15.00 Base Wage Rate for County Employees

Michael Halford spoke to the increase in salary and discussed the wage increase and its impacts across the County.

XIV. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Funding Recommendations

Guilford County JCPC Chairman Marcus Jackson \$987,774 state money with 83K County match funds. He provided a breakdown of the programs the funding will be allocated to.

Commissioner Alston asked about the funds transferred from One Step Further to another program in juvenile remediation.

Jackson provided reasoning for the transfer of funds.

XV. Department Director's Opportunity to Address Commissioners

Halford introduced the next items from directors about additional issues.

Purchasing Director Susan Crotts presented her recommendations for the budget. She shared to requests. One an intern for the MWBE program (\$8,300). Second Surplus Program Temporary Labor Hourly Support.

Tax Director Ben Chavis shared a PPP for impacts on collection percentages. Needs a legal assistant.

Discussion ensued among the Board concerning the position.

Payne shared the County needs for legal assistance.

XVI Schedule Next Budget Work Session

The Board agreed upon June 14 2-5pm Budget Work Session

XVII. ADJOURN

Motion made by J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Jeff Phillips. The Board adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:00 p.m.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

AYES: Alan Branson, Alan Perdue, Carolyn Coleman, Hank Henning, J. Carlvena Foster, Jeff Phillips, Kay Cashion, Justin Conrad, Melvin "Skip" Alston

NOES: None

Chairman

Clerk