

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
Board of Education, 204 Franklin Street, Denton, Maryland

MINUTES
September 18, 2018

Joint Meeting with Board of Education

The Board of Education as well as members of the County Commissioners of Caroline County met at the Board of Education Office, 204 Franklin Street, Denton, Maryland for a Joint Board Work Session. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Dr. Patricia W. Saelens, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Milton E. Nagel, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services; Mrs. Louise M. Cheek, President; Mr. George J. Abner, Vice-President; Mr. James A. Newcomb, Jr., Board Member; Mr. C. Tolbert Rowe, Board Member; and Mrs. Kathy S. Dill, Board Member.

Also present, representing the County Commissioners were: Mr. Larry C. Porter, President; Mr. Wilbur Levensgood, Jr., Vice President; Mr. Daniel J. Franklin, Commissioner; Ms. Sara B. Visintainer, Chief of Staff; Ms. Margaret Roe, Finance Director; and Ms. Cathie Moore, Comptroller.

On behalf of the Commissioners, President Porter called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.; the Board of Education also convened.

Approval of Board of Education Alternative Financing for Support Services Building: Ms. Visintainer explained that the Board of Education will be renovating the former Greensboro VFW building for office space. They wish to enter into a lease-purchase alternative financing arrangement to fund the renovations of the building, the funding for which would come from their current operating budget, since the Central Office was paid off the prior year. State law requires the local County governing body to approve the use of alternative financing, even though the County is not a party to the agreement. On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the County Commissioners unanimously approved the Board of Education's use of alternative financing for the support services building, and the signature on the accompanying letter evidencing their approval.

Discussion of Greensboro Elementary School

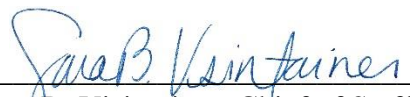
- Mr. Nagel presented the schematic design of Greensboro Elementary School and overview of construction, including project timeline, layout, floor plan, and cost estimate of the building construction.
- Commissioner Porter raised the concern of storm drainage issues in the community. Mr. Nagel reassured members that the water drain-off will be reduced/minimized.
- Cost reduction was discussed as well as being able to meet State regulation. Prevailing wage was brought up by Commissioner Porter, using local contractors versus going

through the State, in an effort to save money. Ms. Visintainer suggested exploring narrow state legislation to help local governments who have such large school projects relative to the size of their budget, possibly through exemption from certain requirements like the prevailing wage. The consensus was that the idea was worth exploring, and Ms. Visintainer stated she would vet the idea with staff at the Maryland Association of Counties to get their ideas and feedback.

Open Discussion with County Commissioners:

- Mr. Rowe directed a question to the Commissioners about the county administrator vacancy. Commissioner Porter discussed that there have been informal discussions with people and that a decision will not be made until after election. The Commissioners clarified that as an at-will position, there is no set process they must go through to appoint an administrator.
- Commissioner Porter spoke briefly about his conference call with Councilman Cohen of Baltimore City regarding Strong Schools. This led to discussions of the Kirwan Commission. New poverty index grouping was discussed with mention of using Baltimore City, Caroline, and Somerset counties as a comparison.
- Mr. Newcomb expressed his opposition to having a School Resource Officer at Preston Elementary School and questioned the true need for having such a position at the school versus the benefits of having an officer located in the Town of Preston to create more police presence in the area. This led to a discussion by many members who voiced their support for the need of an SRO at every school. Commissioner Franklin shared that during an active shooter emergency it would take at least 4-5 minutes for an officer to respond if they were placed off of school premises. This would be unacceptable in protecting lives. The responsibilities of the School Resource Officer were discussed with the notation that they are to protect the school and children first and foremost, with emphasis being made that the SRO is not to respond to a community threat. This is approved to be a 10-month position.

This concluded the County Commissioner portion of the Joint Work Session and therefore the Commissioners adjourned their meeting at 7:28 p.m., leaving the Board of Education to continue its work session.


Sara B. Visintainer, Chief of Staff