

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AND  
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JOINT MEETING**

DPS Staff Development Center  
2107 Hillandale Road, Room M-1

Wednesday, March 27, 2002

6:30 P.M. Budget Worksession

**MINUTES**

Present: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black and County Commissioners Philip R. Cousin Jr. and Becky M. Heron

Chairman Kathryn Meyers and Durham Public Schools Board of Education members Regina George-Bowden, Gail M. Heath, John Lucas, Michael Page, Phillis Scott, and Arnold Spell

Durham Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Ann Denlinger and County Manager Michael M. Ruffin

Staff: County—Carolyn P. Titus, Wendell Davis, Pam Meyer, Chuck Kitchen, and Garry E. Umstead

Durham Public Schools—Nancy Hester, Bert L-Homme, Ann L. Majestic, Donna Smith, Nancy Dominick, Janice Davis, Calvin Dobbins, Hugh Osteen, and David Lee

Absent: Commission Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow (excused) and Commissioner Joe W. Bowser (excused)

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Kathryn Meyers called the meeting to order.

Chairman Meyers recognized Chairman MaryAnn E. Black to make comments.

Chairman Black welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chairman Meyers said the only topic and reason for meeting was to discuss the budget situation.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as prepared.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Budget Presentation—Durham County**

Chairman Meyers recognized Chairman Black to introduce the County's budget presentation.

County Manager Michael Ruffin recognized Pam Meyer, Management and Budget Services Director, to make the presentation.

Ms. Pam Meyer reviewed for the Commissioners and Board of Education members two documents that were in the agenda package.

The documents reviewed dealt with the following subjects:

#### Revised Estimate Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Net Revenues for Durham County

Estimated New Revenues Total	\$11,454,458
Estimated Lost Revenues Total	6,817,280
Estimated Expenditures Increase Total	12,603,435
Net County Revenue Available for Operating Budget (\$7,966,228)	

#### Durham County Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Sales Tax Projections

Sales Tax Total	\$34,324,016
Investment Earnings	1,000,000
Other Related Revenues Total	4,500,000
2002-03 Total Sales Tax, Investment Earnings, and Other Related Revenue Growth	\$39,824,016

The Commissioners and Board of Education members asked questions and made comments to which Ms. Meyer and County Manager Ruffin responded.

Ms. Meyer said the agencies are being asked to reduce budgets by 5% using the current year budget as the base budget.

County Manager Ruffin said he wanted to give the Board of Education a sense of where the County is and the kind of issues it is facing. We are waiting to hear from the school administration. The school system is being asked to hold the line with its requests rather than apply a 5% reduction. We did not think that education and children should be put on the table right now.

Chairman Meyers said the school system would be doing more with the same amount of money.

### **Budget Presentation—Durham Public Schools**

Chairman Meyers recognized Dr. Ann Denlinger, Superintendent of Durham Public Schools, to introduce the schools budget.

Dr. Denlinger said the school system did not expand any program offering last year. The \$3-million increase paid for salary increases, utilities, and other expenses. The \$1-million budget increase was for capital outlay.

Dr. Denlinger said Durham Public Schools would share with the Commissioners its budget status and what the budget going to the Board of Education on April 11, 2002 would look like in general. To respect what Mr. Ruffin said, the school system would honor its agreement to keep the budget flat.

Dr. Denlinger recognized Calvin Dobbins, Associate Superintendent, to make the budget presentation.

Mr. Dobbins said that the school system is requesting only one item of new funding this year:

- \$314,500 to fund Year 1 of the Hillside High School Plan.

Mr. Dobbins said the methods for achieving necessary cuts are as follows:

- Analysis and review of all vacant positions
- Across-the-board cuts
- Elimination of Central Services positions
- Personnel allotment formula adjustments
- Review of bus routes for increased efficiency
- Reduction of warehouse inventory
- Utility conservation
- Increase summer school operational efficiency

The Commissioners and the School Board asked questions and made comments about the budget to which Calvin Dobbins and David Lee, Finance Director, responded. Various staff members also responded to the questions and comments.

Mr. Dobbins commented that a 2% reduction would be made in the Central Services Department at this point in time.

Dr. Denlinger said that she and the staff would meet on April 10, 2002 to look at the Central Services Department. Central Services staff would be reorganized. The same

services must be delivered, but with fewer people. Final decisions would be made on April 10, 2002. There are several vacancies that probably won't be filled now at the Central level. There are two positions that should be eliminated. There will be a reduction in positions at the central level.

There is now nearly a 90% efficiency rate in the bus transportation system.

Chairman Meyers said one of the important outcomes of this joint meeting would be to have on behalf of the Board of Education and the school administration, the Commissioners' understanding and support for this as a template as we go about making difficult decisions.

Chairman Meyers said the Board of Education historically has been unanimous in the adoption of the budget. The school board works very hard to send the Commissioners a strong message that its members are all behind the budget. The school board certainly would like to know it has the Commissioners' support when it begins its budget development April 11, 2002. She asked if there was anything on here or anything the Commissioners would like to tell us. She stated the school board would like to know if this is the wrong approach or an approach that the Board could support as we move forward. Chairman Meyers said the Board of Education doesn't want any surprises down the road.

Chairman Black said the purpose of this discussion was to talk about the cuts and deficits in the Commissioners' budget. During public discussion and the public hearings, the Commissioners want to agree in terms of how decisions are made. The Board and Commissioners need to be together when the citizens start asking hard questions to get more funding for their favorite programs. We are working together in terms of what type of budget will come to the Commissioners. The Commissioners don't want to second-guess anyone. They want to know what you are doing and why you did it that way.

Chairman Black said she has told the County Manager to determine what the County can do to help out if the school system cannot find the \$314,000. The County Manager and the Superintendent would find the money.

Commissioner Heron commented that the Commissioners should not make any promises at this point in the budget process. The school system should find the money to do the Hillside project.

Dr. Denlinger said her recommended budget to the Board of Education would be the same amount as the current year plus \$314,500 for the Hillside Year 1 project.

Chairman Meyers said the Board of County Commissioners and the Durham Public Schools would work together to finalize the FY 2003 budget.

**Welcome**

Chairman Meyers welcomed Dr. John Lucas as a new Member on the Board of Education.

**Neal Middle School**

A brief discussion was held on the installation of the waterline to Neal Middle School.

**Adjournment**

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting  
at 7:30 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC  
Clerk to the Board