

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Thursday, March 29, 2012

8:00 A.M. Legislative Breakfast

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Room, second floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chairman Michael D. Page, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and Commissioners Joe W. Bowser, Brenda A. Howerton and Pam Karriker

Representatives Larry D. Hall, Paul Leubke, Henry M. Michaux Jr., and W. A. Wilkins; and Senators Bob Atwater and Floyd B. McKissick, Jr.

Absent: None

Presider: Chairman Page

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Page welcomed everyone to the March 29, 2012 Legislative Breakfast meeting between the Board of County Commissioners and Durham Delegation.

Chairman Page recognized Tommy Hunt, Stadium Authority Chair, who requested to speak. Mr. Hunt commented on the proposed legislation to change the number of Durham County Memorial Stadium Authority members from five to nine. He requested that a seven-member board be considered instead of the proposed nine. He cited the difficulty in obtaining a quorum as a concern.

He will discuss this item with the Stadium Authority at the May meeting. Chairman Page asked that the Authority have a call meeting to discuss prior to the May Worksession. There was further discussion about ensuring citizen input, and making sure prices are not set too high at the stadium to deter use.

Opening Comments regarding Current Session

The Delegation briefly commented on the challenges they face with the new Republican majority. Revenue projections are on target and slightly ahead of last year. The Internet Sweepstakes and temporary taxes are two items being discussed. It has been a challenging year. Cuts to services has been the sentiment of the current Legislature.

Brief Discussion of 2012 Agenda Package

Seek legislation changing the number of Durham County Memorial Stadium Authority members from 5 to 9 and modify terms to 4 years rather than the current 5 years.

Representative Hall suggesting getting as much citizen input as possible. Representative Leubke commented on the fees charged by the Stadium Authority. Mr. Hunt responded that he will be asking direction from the Board of County Commissioners regarding fees.

Seek legislation to increase child care subsidies to meet needs of children needing child care in Durham and reject efforts to cut such subsidies.

Gail Perry, Interim DSS Director, and Stan Holt, DSS Board Chair, spoke on the issue. There are 1700 children on the waiting list for child care in Durham County. They solicited assistance in making sure funds were not cut for child care.

The Delegation voiced their frustration and concerns, however, they pointed out that the matter was a political issue. They vowed to continue to fight for funding; however, they suggested Board members talking with fellow commissioners who have Republican legislators.

Seek legislation to transfer adult guardian funding to Social Services from Mental Health LMEs.

Ms. Perry explained that Mental Health was being divested as adult guardian, and DSS will be the only public agency serving as guardian. DSS will absorb the 51 cases. DSS will need funds in order to serve the wards. The DSS Board on behalf of Durham County DSS requests that the Delegation advocate for the statutory changes and the support to implement the changes.

Seek legislation to eliminate discretionary reversions of DPS funding from the State Department of Public Instruction.

The Delegation discussed the impact of the State's actions on local governments. The State eliminated aide jobs and now the locals have to get rid of teachers because there is no one else to get rid of.

There was further discussion about the impact of charter schools. Representative Michaux stated that the funding for any child that drops out of charter schools should follow them back to the public schools.

Additional Item for Discussion

Video Sweepstakes

The Board stated their position as not being in favor of the video sweepstakes; however, if it passes, they believe counties should receive some of the revenues.

Deborah Craig-Ray, Assistant County Manager, thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Page adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



V. Michelle Parker-Evans
Clerk to the Board