

MINUTES**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON****BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 25, 1998**

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a special called meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Henderson County Office Building.

Those present were: Chairman Bob Eklund, Vice-Chair Grady Hawkins, Commissioner Renee Kumor, Commissioner Don Ward, Commissioner Vollie G. Good, and Acting Clerk Avalina B. Merrill.

Also in attendance were County Manager David E. Nicholson and Finance Director J. Carey McLelland.

Absent were Assistant County Manager/Staff Attorney Angela M. Skerrett, County Attorney Don H. Elkins and Clerk to the Board, Elizabeth W. Corn.

In attendance from the Henderson County Board of Public Education were Chairman Linda R. Hawk, Vice-Chairman Jackie H. Hornsby, Ervin W. Bazzle, Brenda O. Brock, Allen A. Combs, Thomas E. Orr, and Thomas B. Pryor. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Dan G. Lunsford, Dr. Tom Ledbetter, Dr. Kolan Flynn and Finance Director, Neill Tilley, Attorney Walter Currie.

The room was filled to capacity with an audience, several of whom were representing the Community Relations Committee of Fletcher Elementary School.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Eklund called the meeting to order at approximately 5:40 pm and welcomed all in attendance. Chairman Eklund's statement:

"On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I would like to welcome the Board of Public Education and the general public to this afternoon's joint meeting. This is considered a workshop between the two boards, so public input will not be accepted today.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive a response to the Board of Commissioners' letters of December 3, 1997 and February 3, 1998. In order to clearly state the requests from the Board of Commissioners, I will quickly review these letters.

In our letter of December 3, 1997, the Board requested that the Board of Public Education develop both a short-term and long-term maintenance plan. We also requested that the development of a modified facility replacement schedule ranking your facilities and establishing priorities based on that ranking.

The Board of Commissioners continued discussing the need for school facilities since our

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original letter. The Commissioners held a workshop on January 26, 1998 on a plan that would increase maintenance funds to the school system. On February 3, 1998, I wrote a letter to Mrs. Hawk concerning our funding discussion. The Commissioners have proposed utilizing the Public School Capital Fund - commonly known as the State ADM Fund - and the County's capital reserve fund for schools to provide 1.2 million dollars in the current fiscal year and an additional 1.2 in the next fiscal year. We again emphasized in the letter the need for the development of a short and long term maintenance program.

At this afternoon's meeting, the Board of Commissioners looks forward to hearing from the Board of Public Education concerning these important issues. Since the Commissioners will only be receiving this information at today's meeting, I will request that the Commissioners first review this information and set a date for a workshop to develop a formal response which we will get back to the school board in a relatively short period of time within 2 or 3 weeks.

Again, we welcome each of you to this meeting."

Chairman Eklund then invited Chairman Hawk to present to the Commissioners the information from the Board of Education in response to their letters as previously mentioned.

Chairman Hawk thanked the Commissioners for agreeing to the joint meeting with the Board of Education and read her letter dated 3/25/98 in its entirety issued to the Board of Commissioners with a subject of Significant Facility Needs. A copy of this letter is attached to this record of minutes. In her letter, Chairman Hawk stated the Board of Public Education believed that the facility needs had accumulated due to age of buildings; increased student membership; expanded instructional programs; updated code requirements; failure of the school bond and insufficient funds to meet major needs over time.

Other portions of Chairman Hawk's letter stated the Board of Public Education believed the use of the available funds of \$2.4 million would address some of the significant needs but was not the best use of the \$2.4 million. Chairman Hawk's letter included a list of major safety and code compliance projects. Although the immediate safety needs were being met with this proposal, the Board of Education was concerned that large expenditures of funds on 70+ year old buildings would lead to long-term use of inadequate structures, per Chairman Hawk's letter.

Chairman Hawk's letter reminded the Commissioners of the need for the enhancement of maintenance and custodial services of the facilities as outlined by the management audit of Management America, Inc. and cautioned that would be part of the Board's budget request to the Commissioners.

As stated in Chairman Hawk's letter, the Board of Public Education hoped to enter into a full partnership with the Commissioners in the provision of improved school facilities.

Much discussion ensued between the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners about the proposed short-term as well as the long-term plan for school facilities and funding for those

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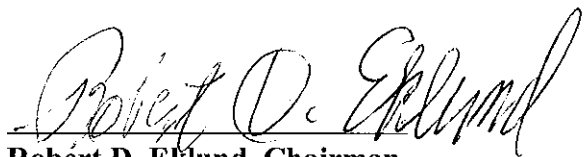
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needs.

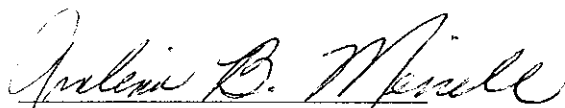
Chairman Eklund adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:40 pm.

APPROVED BY:



**Robert D. Eklund, Chairman
Henderson County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST:



Avalina B. Merrill, Acting Clerk

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