

February 9, 2009

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Recessed session on Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room in the Department of Social Services, 423 North Main Street, Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Cary Turner and Commissioners David Fussell, Frances Parks, Harold Raynor, Reginald Wells and Zettie Williams.

Absent: Ms. Julia Herring, Administrative Officer; and Ms. Wendy Sivori, County Attorney.

Also Present: Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager; Ms. Teresa Lanier, County Finance Officer; Dr. Wiley Doby, School Superintendent; Ms. Susie Miller, BOE Administrative Assistant; Mr. Bo Mullins; Mr. Cary Powers; and Duplin County Board of Education members Mr. Hubert Bowden, Mr. Chuck Farrior, Mr. Willie Gillespie, Mr. Reginald Kenan, Ms. Emily Manning, and Mr. Jennings Outlaw.

Commissioner Wells gave the invocation.

Commissioner Fussell discussed the need to settle the lawsuit between the two boards. He proposed a \$1 million settlement. Members from the board of education stated that they would have to confer on that, but it is unlikely that they will approve of the proposed settlement.

Commissioner Wells talked of the importance of having a “shovel-ready” project in case the economic stimulus package is passed. If there is no project in place, the money would not be available to the county.

Members from both boards discussed the proposed facilities plan. The board of education is requesting \$22 million for maintenance needs. This does not include the cost of a new school.

Commissioner Parks stated that a new facility itself will not raise test scores. She stated that first we must look at the quality of learning/teaching that is present in schools.

Mr. Bowden discussed the need to raise taxes in order to support education. Several members of both boards discussed the burden that increased taxes would cause on citizens of the county.

Ms. Manning stated that they would not be able to solve any problems or make any decisions at this meeting. She stated that they would discuss these issues presented at their board meeting on February 10, 2009.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

The board adjourned to meet again on Monday, February 16, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Meeting Room at the Department of Social Services, 423 North Main Street, Kenansville, North Carolina

Clerk