

August 15, 2009

County of Greene, Virginia

The Greene County Board of Supervisors attended a Workshop Meeting with the Greene County School Board on August 15 at 9:00 a.m. at Best Western Ruckersville.

Present were: Steve Catalano, Chairman
 Clarence Peyton, Vice Chairman
 Jeri Allen, Member
 Carl Schmitt, Member
 Mike Skeens, Member
 Barry Clark, County Administrator

Mrs. Michelle Flynn, Chairman of the School Board, opened the workshop meeting with discussion regarding health insurance for employees. It was noted the County has decided to go with Local Choice for county employees.

Mr. David Jeck, Superintendent, felt it would be beneficial to work on communication and sharing of information so everyone is seeing the same thing.

Mr. Steve Catalano, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said the County would not need to services of an insurance consultant. Mr. Barry Clark said the County will not be soliciting bids for insurance coverage again unless there is a significant increase in premiums.

There was further discussion regarding health insurance coverage and which entities would be remaining with the Schools or going with the County.

School Board Member Graydon Lamb said all requests for information should go thru the Superintendent or the County Administrator. No one should be asking a school or county employee to do any project that takes a significant amount of time. Mrs. Flynn agreed and said a written request should be submitted with a copy to Mr. Jeck and Mr. Clark. School Board Member Jason Collier agreed saying that everyone should be respectful of staff. Mrs. Jeri Allen, Member of the Board of Supervisors, said no request had been made that would take two hours to complete. Mrs. Flynn felt there were issues with communication and the move should be made towards consistency.

Mr. Jeck said, in regards to athletic facilities, it would hard to find another school with facilities as bad as ours. The new field house is completed. The cost to update the athletic facilities would be approximately \$2.3 million. Of that amount, \$500,000 would do lighting and move the field.

Mrs. Flynn said data shows that children who are involved in athletics do better in school. Mr. Higgins noted the quality of schools can impact economic development also. Mr. Collier said other schools in the area have top notch facilities and host athletic events which generates revenue.

Mr. Peyton felt the goal should be to do what needs to be done for the kids that are here right now. Projects should be done right the first time. Mr. Catalano said additional funds should not be expected from taxpayers and safety issues should be the number one priority. Good, clean, safe facilities might not look the best but serve the purpose. Mr. Higgins said this project is what is best for the kids adding there is "no fluff". Mr. Jeck asked when is a good time to come out and support this project. He's been hearing the same thing for the last few years since he came here. He felt there is more support out there to do this than you think. Citizens wonder why their tax money isn't going where they want.

Mr. Catalano noted the School Board is elected and is responsible to appropriate funds that are allocated. It's up to the School Board to make adjustments in the operating budget to do projects. The funding allocated by the Board of Supervisors is what the County has.

Mr. Clark suggested a loan over 20 years. Mr. Schmitt asked what the priorities are and the plan. Mr. Jeck said top priorities are safety issues and the track. Mr. Schmitt asked what those projects would cost. Mr. Jeck asked if it matters as the Schools can't even afford to pay for specs for these projects. Mr. Schmitt asked about the possibility of stimulus funds.

Mr. Troy Harlow, Vice Chairman of the School Board, said these are the needed projects and asked what needs to be done to make it happen.

Mrs. Flynn agreed that there is more support from taxpayers than the Board thinks.

Mr. Catalano asked about the status of the Booster Club. Mr. Jeck said the Club donated approximately \$20,000 in the last year which is primarily raised by running the concession stand.

Mrs. Flynn said the School Board wanted the Board of Supervisors to be aware of needs so when they are presented during the budget process next year, the Board of Supervisors won't be surprised.

Discussion regarding the use of retiring debt service funds followed. Mrs. Allen asked if the possibility of floating a bond thru the EDA has been considered.

Mr. Higgins noted enrollment has been basically flat for the last three years which has put the need for new schools down the road a bit.

The School Board is looking for support from the Board of Supervisors regarding the concept of use retired debt service funds to pay for projects.

Mr. Catalano spoke on resources, such as Parks and Recreation and the Library, being pooled. It was noted the Parks and Rec Department currently uses school facilities for programs.

There was further discussion about the project and ways of funding.

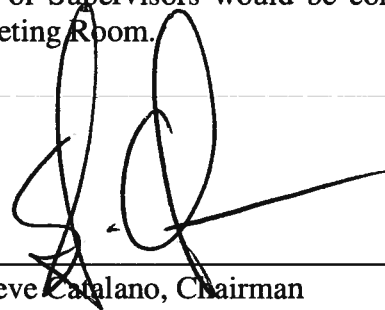
Mrs. Flynn recapped the discussion as follows:

The School Board will explore different financing options such as a bond issue through EDA and debt retirement. The Board of Supervisors would like a priority list and there are certain safety issues that need to be addressed.

Mr. Catalano said no one can predict what will happen at budget time. The Board might support a project but then revenue drops and shifts have to be made.

Mr. Schmitt asked if there are stimulus funds available. Mr. Jeck said stimulus funding is not available for athletic facilities.

Mr. Catalano noted the meeting of the Board of Supervisors would be continued to Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Meeting Room.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Catalano', written over a horizontal line.

Steve Catalano, Chairman
Greene County Board of Supervisors