A special (budget work session) meeting of the Gloucester County School Board was held on Thursday, January 30, 2014, in the Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center auditorium. Meeting was previously scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2014 and rescheduled due to inclement weather. The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by the Deputy Clerk, and the following persons were recorded as present: George R. (Randy) Burak, Chairperson, Troy M. Anderson, Carla B. Hook, Anita F. Parker, Charles B. Records, and Kevin M. Smith, Members; H. Ben Kiser, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; and Betty Jane Duncan, Deputy Clerk. Kimberly (Kim) E. Hensley, Member, was absent.

FY’15 SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION – Dr. Kiser presented preliminary information on the FY’15 School Operating Budget. Items discussed included the Operating Budget History; Local Funding Implications; Enrollment and Staffing Data; Enrollment Projections from Weldon Cooper Center; Federal/State/Local Revenue; Budgeted ADM; Offsets to Revenue; Staff Compensation; Staffing Requests; Initiatives – Year-Round School Full Circle Academy, Pre-School Special Education, Strategic Compensation, Virtual Learning Center, and Tablet eBack Pack; and School Calendar. (Copy of budget presentation attached to minutes)

Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments regarding the information presented. Formal presentation of the budget will be on Tuesday, February 11, at the regular School Board meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT ON FY’15 BUDGET -- At 8:08 pm, Mr. Burak opened the floor for public input from citizens wishing to comment on the budget. He asked that each person state his/her name, magisterial district, and limit remarks to approximately five (5) minutes. The following persons spoke:

Howard Mowry (Gloucester Point) addressed issues including cooperation between Board of Supervisors and School Board in developing a budget, early out retirement incentives, and feasibility of consolidation or outsourcing of county services.

Rusty West (Petsworth/GCPS teacher) encouraged citizens to speak out in support of funding the school budget and urged members of the Board of Supervisors to visit the schools and see the programs personally. He stressed the need for a STEM coordinator.

Kim Ward (Abingdon) asked that the Board consider hiring a literary coach at GHS. Dr. Wager responded that the recommended additional position of a grade 6-8 coach could possibly be expanded into the high school, if the position is funded.

David Tilley (Ware) addressed the STEM programs, line item support for the Robotics program, and need for a further breakdown in data for per pupil costs.

The public input period ended at 8:22 pm.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY CIP COMMITTEE’S PRESENTATION/RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. Anderson discussed the recommendations of the CIP Committee which had recently been presented to the Board of Supervisors. The School Board will need to be prepared to present
DISCUSSION OF COUNTY CIP COMMITTEE’S PRESENTATION/RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (continued)

detailed justification for projects during the joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Records reported that he had compiled a list of the real properties owned by the School Board, and this information is available for review. There is a definite need to budget for repairs and routine maintenance to properly maintain all properties. Board of Supervisors members had questioned what properties are available for a bus/transportation compound. Dr. Kiser noted that properties are available at both the old PAG site and the TCW site, but a site study is needed to determine the best location for this facility and to develop a design.

DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Chuck Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, stated that a total of three (3) makeup days remain in the school calendar to cover the five (5) days lost due to inclement weather. He recommended that February 17, March 10, and April 4 be designated to makeup part of the time missed, with further determination to be made regarding makeup time at a later date. A motion was made by Mr. Records, seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously adopted to accept the recommendation to use the three (3) makeup days in the calendar.

DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS-INFORMATION, AND RFP REVIEW/INTERVIEW COMMITTEE SELECTION

Mr. Burak stated that he had talked to Mr. Bill Lindsey regarding the RFP issued for the Superintendent Search. Mr. Lindsey recommended that the review committee consist of two Board members, Ms. Gamache, and Mr. Lindsey who will review the proposals and bring back a recommendation to the full Board. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Burak and Mr. Smith would serve on this review committee, and Mr. Records would be available as an alternate.

A motion was made by Mr. Andersen, seconded by Ms. Parker, and unanimously approved to form a committee composed of Mr. Burak, Mr. Smith, Ms. Gamache, and Mr. Lindsey to review the proposals from firms responding to the RFP and bring back a recommendation to the full Board.

DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 12, 2014 BY AT-LARGE MEMBERS OF SCHOOL AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. Records reported that a Town Hall meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 12, at Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center sponsored by at-large School Board members Charles Records and Kevin Smith and at-large Board of Supervisors members Ashley Chriscoe and John Meyer.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE JOINT MEETING WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dr. Kiser noted that plans are being made for a joint meeting of the School Board and Board of Supervisors on February 22. This meeting will be scheduled for the morning, and staff from both Boards will be meeting to develop an agenda.

OTHER ITEMS AS BROUGHT UP BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Board members praised staff for recent decisions regarding school closings during the days of inclement weather and for the communication available to parents and staff.
OTHER ITEMS AS BROUGHT UP BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Mr. Hutchinson asked that the Board approve the use of a school bus on February 10 to transport New Horizons students to the Youth Career Expo at the Hampton Convention Center. A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Andersen to allow the use of school buses for this purpose on February 10. The Deputy Clerk polled the Board as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aye</th>
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<th>Aye</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Andersen</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Records</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Hensley</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>Mr. Smith</td>
<td>Aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Hook</td>
<td>Aye</td>
<td>Mr. Burak</td>
<td>Aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Parker</td>
<td>Aye</td>
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Mr. Hutchinson stated that he had been approached by Mike Miller, GHS field hockey coach, for permission to develop a turf field for field hockey on an unused area behind GHS. This project would be accomplished by parent volunteers and would be unfunded by the School Board. Appropriate school personnel would be directly involved in this project, and proper permits would be obtained through county agencies. It was the consensus of the Board to support the exploration of the development of a turf field at GHS. A detailed proposal will be presented to the Board for approval at a later date.

Mr. Andersen urged the public to be vocal, attend the public hearings and meetings scheduled for discussion of the budget, and e-mail or contact elected officials to express support for the schools.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 pm, there being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Parker, and unanimously approved to adjourn the special budget work session meeting of January 30, 2014, until the next monthly School Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 7:00 pm (Open Meeting), at the Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center.

____________________________
George R. (Randy) Burak, Chairperson

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Betty Jane Duncan, Deputy Clerk

Attachments (2):

1. Agenda for January 30, 2014, Monthly Meeting; and

Note: The attachments will be bound with the official minutes once approved.

END

BJD: bjd