

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for a recessed meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 beginning at 6:00 P.M. at Grace Senior Center in Wadesboro, North Carolina.

Commissioners present: Anna H. Baucom, Chair
Ross Streater, Vice Chair
Bobby Sikes
Dr. Jim Sims
Vancine Sturdivant
Jarvis Woodburn

Staff members present: Lawrence R. Gatewood, County Manager
Bonnie M. Huntley, CMC, NCCCC, Clerk to the Board
Rita James, Data Processing
Robert Thomas, Finance Officer

Others: Scott Forbes, County Attorney

After a delicious meal prepared by Bernice Bennett and Wanda Talbert of Grace Center, Chairman Baucom called the recessed meeting to **Order**. Chairman Baucom noted the purpose of said meeting was to host our annual meeting with members of the Board of Education and cabinet.

Members of the Board of Education and cabinet present were:

Lisa Davis, Chairperson
Bobbie Little, Vice Chairperson
Russell Sikes
Beulah Pratt
George Truman
Marilynn Bennett
Carol Ann Gibson
Frank Liles
Mike turner
Michael Freeman, Interim Superintendent
Holly Berry, Chief Finance Officer
Howard McLean, Executive Director
Mary Ratliff, Executive Director
Mike Flake, Board Attorney
Anne Hyatt, Clerk to the Board

Mr. Freeman, Interim Superintendent, delivered the following address:

Anson County Board of County Commissioners:

Fortunately, children in Anson County have citizens with genuine concerns for their welfare. Citizens elect officials to serve as advocates for our community and these children, we are so proud of. Our elected officials, Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education Members develop a vision to improve conditions in our county and specifically in our public school system. This vision becomes a reality when community members and school system personnel partner to support education.

Parents display trust, as they share their most precious gift - their child; with us by enrolling him/her in our public schools. Additionally, parents expect accountability from school personnel as we accept with the process of continuous improvements to ensure learning for each and every child who attends our schools. Students look to adults - elected officials, educators, parents, and other community members to take every necessary step to ensure that they acquire skills and knowledge necessary to become successful and responsible citizens. Citizens who can one day give back to the community and become leaders of the world. A process has been utilized to develop budget requests based on resources needed to operate Anson County Schools in an organized and efficient manner for the purpose of educating our youth.

Clearly, the Anson County Board of County Commissioners has demonstrated commitment to children each year as reflected in the approved budgets. The 2013-14 school year brings another opportunity for funding allotments to be provided allowing the Anson County Schools to operate.

The requested funds are necessary to continue providing and improving in services such as:

- Recruitment and retention of quality staff - teachers, administrators and other staff must be skillfully selected, mentored, and motivated to support the retention of highly qualified staff.
- Facilities - must be maintained and improved to support educational instructional delivery needs.
- School Safety and Security - must be a top priority in today's society. We must be prepared.
- Athletic Events / Programs - serve as a strong resource to support student commitment to learning, while allowing our students the opportunity to develop skills equipping them to compete both academically and through athletics on all levels.
- Technology Services - advancements will continue so we must be prepared.
- Science Center and Planetarium - this is a fine example of how learning can and should be provided for students.
- United States Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program - a nationally recognized program provided to our students.

- Transportation - must operate in a manner to ensure safety.
- Instructional Resources - a highly effective elementary literacy and mathematics instructional program must be in place to provide the strong academic foundation necessary as a prerequisite for future academic success in all subjects.

Local resources are vital to the public schools. On behalf of our team, I assure you that each staff member of ACS will be an excellent steward of the resources provided to us to support education in Anson County.

Anson County Schools and the children we serve are dear to my heart. Educational opportunities open doors to the entire world for our students. Some students venture far beyond the geographical boundaries of Anson County while some remain here at home. These students are our future leaders both locally and worldwide. Do we have challenging situations? Yes, we do and on behalf of the ACS System I assure you that these challenges will be addressed. However, we have many success stories about students educated in Anson County. Please pause for a minute while I ask you a few questions. You do not need to respond verbally - just reflect silently in your mind.

1. Who was the governor of North Carolina the year you were in first grade?
2. What is the name of a teacher or another member of a school faculty who inspired you to be successful as your goals in life were being developed?

We may or may not remember who the governor was during this stage of our life; but most of us quickly thought of at least one if not several educators who had tremendous influence on our life.

Now, think of the many, many, young people who passed through the doors of Anson County Schools and let's pat ourselves on the back for a job well done - we have lawyers, doctors, skilled laborers, business people, clergy, service providers, leaders, etc. throughout many communities in our world. These students did not just wake one day and declare a profession. They were inspired and provided educational opportunities to be successful. These opportunities were provided at schools in Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton, Wadesboro and the smaller communities supporting each of these townships.

Anson Academy students will be involved in a collaborative effort as we partner with South Piedmont Community College to offer a school option on the campus of Lockhart Taylor in Wadesboro. I am very excited about this opportunity to create a learning environment designed to be appropriate for these students who have most recently been served through a grant funded contract with Ombudsman located in Wadesboro.

I say to you Anson County Board of Commissioners that our children deserve and need

an education affording them equal opportunities to be successful and give back to the community. Anson County students can and will stand tall in this world of opportunity we all live in. I am convinced that our partnering will result in great benefits for the entire county. Thanks for your time.

After much discussion among both boards on present and future issues, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie M. Huntley, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Meeting time: 1 hr. 30 minutes