

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for a recessed meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the board room, Suite 209 of the Anson County Government Center.

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

Chairman Baucom called the recessed meeting to Order. Chairman Baucom felt the big issue was when and if to meet with the Board of Education. Chairman Baucom shared that they could not meet with us tonight and instead of picking a date out of thin air they suggested May 22. Commissioner Sims voiced that he was unavailable all next week and Commissioner Woodburn thought he had a hospital board meeting that night. Chairman Baucom voiced that if memory serves her at all we said we would meet with their board and their clerk but no administration. Vice Chair Streater questioned if this would be a legal meeting thinking someone had said it would not be without the superintendent. Chairman Baucom stated that they had presented their budget and she understood it would be presented with no reductions with County Manager Gatewood stating that was his recommendation. Chairman Baucom stated that the question was do we need to have a discussion with them and if so, could we put it in June. Commissioner Sturdivant shared a copy of information received at the superintendent's first forum on March 20 with board members. Commissioner Sturdivant referred to an item listed on page 4 noting one of the questions they asked in a negative way was why do they need to request county funding. Commissioner Sturdivant shared that he made a statement that they did not have taxing authority and that was the only reason he had to come. Commissioner Sturdivant shared that there was mention of furnishings for the superintendent and she questioned the need since she had been in his office and saw how nice it was and he said it did not mean furniture but it was like Attorney fees and other things. Commissioner Sturdivant shared that others around her felt it meant furnishings. Commissioner Sims voiced that the current superintendent has served in many states and each state has different rules and processes and when he came he was not familiar with North Carolina and he thinks he can apply processes from other states here. Vice Chair Streater asked Commissioner Sims if any school in the State of North Carolina had a taxing district with Commissioner Sims answering yes. Chairman Baucom noted their average daily membership goes down a little each year. County Manager Gatewood handed out an analysis showing that since 2005 we've lost 10% of our student population. Commissioner Sikes voiced that he was

bothered by the 2 hour delay every Monday morning. Chairman Baucom asked the reason with Commissioner Sikes shared that they say it's some kind of teacher workshop or something. Vice Chair Streater asked why the delay was just for the high school. Vice Chair Streater then asked what they were doing with Commissioner Sturdivant explaining that on one Monday he may implement a system to see how it works and then the next Monday they'll tell what they think about it. Commissioner Sturdivant felt they did not give the systems enough time to see if they would or would not work. Chairman Baucom felt this board had to focus on the money being taken from the taxpayers for the school system and like the other agencies we fund we just pay the money and have no authority to say anything about what they do. Chairman Baucom shared that she would like to know how much of the \$65,000 the teachers received. Chairman Baucom stated that she could do the math herself if she knew the number of teachers in the program. Chairman Baucom wondered if this money would be better spent on a program that would teach non-college bound students how to do something. Commissioner Sims felt the board needed to know if there were grants expiring this year or next. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that she wanted to know if they still recruit teachers, noting that we would lose 4 more this year. Chairman Baucom felt we also needed to know how much money they may lose in the state budget this year but didn't know if they would know that yet or not. Chairman Baucom shared that she had heard from teachers in Union County that it would be devastating so apparently they know something. Chairman Baucom again felt the immediate issue was do we want to meet with them or not and when. Chairman Baucom stated that she was not opposed to June and she wanted to meet when the board members that want to be there could be there. After discussion dates proposed were June 11th or June 18th here in the Government Center. Board members also decided to have heavy hors d'oeuvres. Chairman Baucom felt members of the Board of Education wanted to talk with the Commissioners about something and she suspects it will be a new high school. Chairman Baucom stated that several years ago she heard thirty million dollars and felt that would be hard to do. Commissioner Sims shared that we've put a lot of money out there in new facilities and renovated the older facilities and felt it fared well in comparison. Commissioner Sims voiced that he would like to see the high school gated. Chairman Baucom understands their concern but thinks they need to get themselves together and get lined up for a bond issue. County Manager Gatewood stated that the high school opened around 1961 and the middle school opened in 1968 and based on observation it was in worse shape than the high school. County Manager Gatewood stated that this may be a good opportunity with good planning to combine the two somehow. Chairman Baucom felt the middle school was where we were losing children. Chairman Baucom felt the burden would be on them to get a bond and develop a plan. County Manager Gatewood mentioned the plan we were developing for the new Emergency Services Center saying that he would expect the school board working together to come up with their plans and share them with us.

County Manager Gatewood presented a handout to board members where he summarized the last 4 joint meetings. County Manager Gatewood noted that from what he has collected we never reached a consensus on the objectives of the teacher supplement grant. Chairman Baucom voiced that we did; they did not. County Manager

Gatewood noted there was never a consensus between the two boards. County Manager Gatewood stated that in 2009 the amount per teacher was \$197, adding that this came directly from the minutes. Chairman Baucom stated that apparently there has never been a warm fuzzy between the two boards but we have not reduced our funding when other counties have. Chairman Baucom felt this would be the fourth year with County Manager Gatewood stating it was certainly the third year. Chairman Baucom felt that spoke well for this board. County Manager Gatewood mentioned the \$65,000 teacher supplement advising the board to not be too concerned about this as it's only 1.7% of the total budget we appropriate. County Manager Gatewood stated that over the past five years they've done pretty much what they've wanted with it and it was rolled into the regular budget and not segmented by teacher supplement. Chairman Baucom felt this was wise but she also felt that we had an obligation to have some accountability for the dollars. Chairman Baucom shared that this board told the superintendent what our objectives were for the money and he wanted to know the matrix. County Manager Gatewood stated that we need accountability for the \$65,000 but we need accountability on the \$3.775 even more so. Chairman Baucom asked if those dollars were not geared toward a particular thing with County Manager Gatewood answering the bulk goes towards general operating expenses, \$90,000 goes to capital outlay and \$65,000 for the teacher supplement. Vice Chair Streater asked about 2005/2006 when they had a lot of students and we only gave them \$45,000 for capital outlay. Commissioner Sims felt back then we had the daily ADM money. Vice Chair Streater asked if there was any ADM money left with Commissioner Sims feeling there may be a little and felt this would be interesting to know. Chairman Baucom asked if the lottery money took over for this with Commissioner Woodburn feeling there was still some there but it has been going away over the last couple of years.

County Manager Gatewood asked board members if they remembered Charles Vernon Smith. County Manager Gatewood shared that he used to be the police chief in Wadesboro and he also served as the Wadesboro Tax Collector. County Manager Gatewood shared that a citizen brought this to his attention. County Manager Gatewood noted that Mr. Smith was tax collector for nineteen years and during this time our collection percentage was 99%. Vice Chair Streater stated that back then if you did not pay your taxes the church probably took it up with you.

Motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Vice Chair Streater, to adjourn.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

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

Meeting time: 2 hrs.