

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
AND
SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JOINT WORK SESSION MEETING
6 P.M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007**

The Scott County School Board and Scott County Board of Supervisors met in a joint work session meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at the Scott County Career and Technical Center in Gate City, Virginia.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., School Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and asked Mrs. K.C. Linkous, School Board Deputy Clerk, for a roll call of members.

PRESENT (SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS):

E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., Chairman
Gloria E. "Beth" Blair, Vice Chairman
Lowell S. Campbell
David T. Kindle
Glenn M. McMurray
Joe D. Meade

ABSENT: None

PRESENT (BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEMBERS):

David S. Redwine, Chairman
D. Joe Horton
Randall S. "Buck" Kinkead
Danny S. Parks
Joe W. Herron
Chad E. Hood

ABSENT: Paul S. Fields

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; K.C. Linkous, School Board Deputy Clerk; John Strutner, County Administrator; Kathie Noe, Assistant County Administrator; Matt Smith, Health Insurance Consultant; Jim Fern, Auditor; Danny Meade, Maintenance Supervisor; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; Clifford Jeffery, Kingsport Times News; Ralph Quesinberry, Scott County Career and Technical Center Director/Principal.

WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS BY MR. E. VIRGIL SAMPSON, JR., SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMAN: Mr. E. Virgil Sampson, Jr. welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that it was a pleasure to work with each one on the school board and on the board of supervisors.

WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS BY DR. DAVID S. REDWINE, COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN: Dr. David Redwine welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that these meetings are a positive in that the school board and board of supervisors can stay more informed by open communication. He also stated that these meetings build a lot of confidence between commissions. Dr. Redwine expressed his admiration to the Public Service Authority for the job performed on the Rye Cove water project. He also stated that the board of supervisors is enthusiastic to work with the school board and that they have confidence in the board, Mr. Scott and his staff.

MATT SMITH, HEALTH INSURANCE CONSULTANT: Matt Smith, Health Insurance Consultant, spoke on the possibilities of putting the county employees and school employees together as a group on one plan. He stated that he looked into this four years ago, but at that time, the idea was not feasible. Mr. Smith explained that several factors need to be considered when making this decision. For

example, the schools are self-funded and the county is fully insured and each has a different benefit package and different premiums. The school system has four coverage tiers (Employee, Employee + Child, Employee + Spouse, and Family), the county has three coverage tiers (Employee, Employee + 1 and Family). Mr. Smith also explained that health insurance is different from other insurance in that 85% of your cost will be claims. This would not change if the two boards were to be grouped together. Mr. Smith commented that in a self-funded environment, you can save about 5% each year. He also explained that the county is probably too small to do this on its own.

Superintendent Scott, and County Administrator Strutner both stated that if the boards are serious about this proposal, we would need to start in July and work a full year on the details to put this into action by the next fiscal year.

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENTATION BY SUPERINTENDENT SCOTT: Superintendent Scott presented a brief overview on several topics as follows: School Enrollment; State and County Entitlements; Composite Index; School Allocations; Test Scores; School Debt Service; Facilities and Maintenance; and School Health Services.

School Enrollment: Superintendent Scott presented enrollment figures for the past years of 2001-2006 and actual enrollment as of January 30, 2007 and projected enrollment for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years.

State Entitlements and Local Match: Superintendent Scott presented state entitlements and the local match figures for the years 2003-2008. He explained that when the school system receives more funding from the state, the county must provide additional funding to meet the match requirements. He also explained that these matching fund requirements are based on the composite index for Scott County.

Composite Index: Superintendent Scott presented the Composite Index for the years 2006-2008. The information presented showed that the Composite Index is based on the county's true value of property, adjusted gross income, taxable retail sales, March 31, 2004 Average Daily Membership, and total population. He explained that currently Scott County's composite index is the second lowest in the state at .1962.

School Allocations: Superintendent Scott presented a school-by-school listing of allocations from the school board and the 2006-2007 Title V Grant allocations. He explained that these allocations are based on the number of students at each school. He also presented the rates paid for local and long distance service, internet access and fiber lease fees.

Test Scores: Superintendent Scott presented SOL Assessments for grades 3-8 and EOC Assessments for Reading, Writing, Math, Science and History. He also presented a comparison of Scott County Schools to Virginia School Divisions West of I-77 based on the 2005 Virginia SOL Test Results. Scott County ranked first on the Writing, second in Geometry, fifth in Algebra II, first in Biology and first in Chemistry. Superintendent Scott stated this speaks highly of the school system's teachers and administrators and commended the board of supervisors for the early approval of the school budget so the school system could pursue early hiring of the best teachers possible for the coming school year.

School Debt Service: Superintendent Scott presented a schedule of the School Debt Service payments beginning with July 1, 2005 and ending with the final payment scheduled for May 15, 2012. Superintendent Scott stated that the difference between the debt for 2007 and 2008 will save the county \$83,394.00 plus the school board will reimburse the county around \$200,000 for indirect costs.

Facilities and Maintenance: Superintendent Scott presented a detailed report of completed, on-going, and future facilities projects. He presented the cost of the completed projects and also a cost breakdown for the Shoemaker and Duffield classroom projects. Superintendent Scott explained that the Duffield Gym project should be completed this summer.

Future projects include the Rye Cove High School Fieldhouse and the Twin Springs High School Gym which he hopes is completed by November, 2007. Superintendent Scott stated that the school board will try to complete these projects without having to borrow any additional funds.

Board of Supervisor, Joe Horne expressed concern for the heating and air conditioning units at Hilton Elementary and would like the school board to put this on their schedule, if the funds are available.

School Board Member David Kindle recognized Danny Meade and his maintenance crew for their hard work on the classroom projects at Duffield and Shoemaker Elementary.

School Health Services: Superintendent Scott presented information on Scott County School Health Services. He stated that we now have six RNs, four LPNs, and two health assistants. He also stated that the nurses have worked diligently to see that our 6th grade students meet the new vaccination requirements passed by the General Assembly.

Superintendent Scott expressed his appreciation to Clifford Jeffery, Kingsport Times-News and to Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star for their fair and honest reporting over the past year.

Superintendent Scott closed by expressing his appreciation to Mr. John Strutner, County Administrator for his service and wished him well in his new position.

COUNTY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JOHN

STRUTNER: County Administrator John Strutner presented a financial overview of the county. Mr. Strutner stated that the fund balance has increased to \$6.7 million with the county debt now a little over \$1 million dollars. He also explained that the Public Service Authority debt is over \$9 million.

Future Expenses include the Landfill with a construction of a transfer station costing \$1.5 million, closure \$764,000 and post closure and monitoring for 30 years at \$670,000.

County Administrator Strutner explained that if the zoning ordinance is adopted, a zoning administrator and a clerk would need to be hired. He also stated that the need for additional office space would need to be addressed. Mr. Strutner also stated that the courthouse complex, sheriff's office and old jail are in need of attention.

County Administrator Strutner closed by expressing his appreciation to this school board as well as past boards and to Mr. Scott and his staff.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN REDWINE AND CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:

Dr. David Redwine explained that the county has some big expenses, but through foresight and preparation, the board will be able to deal with these. Dr. Redwine expressed thanks to everyone.

Mr. Sampson expressed appreciation to Mr. John Strutner and commended him on the fund balance for the County.

SCHOOL BOARD ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mr. Kindle, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the board adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., Chairman

K.C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk

