

**WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD'S BUDGET WORKSHOP
Monday, October 15, 2012 – 9:00 A. M.
Board/Staff Development Meeting Room
423 School Street – Kingstree, SC 29556**

Members Present: Mr. Joseph Lee, Ms. Norma Bartelle, Mr. James Darby, Rev. Norman Gamble, and Mr. Charles Garner

Member Absent: Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. and Mrs. Barbara McKenzie

Others Present: Dr. Yvonne Jefferson-Barnes, Dr. Bernice Davis-Cooper, Ms. Christine Green, Mr. John Thames, and Mrs. Joann Fulton

The meeting was called to order by, Mr. Joseph Lee, Vice-Chair.

Mr. Garner read the Meditative Thought; afterwards, all persons were asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. James Darby and seconded by Rev. Norman Gamble to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried, unanimously, (4-0). The Vice-Chair did not vote.

Board Finance Committee Update

Ms. Green said the purpose of the meeting was to update Board Members on the district's financial status. She addressed the following Board Member concerns expressed during the September 24, 2012, Regular Meeting:

- Financial Survey sent to employees – Ms. Green provided a copy of the survey, and informed the Board that she had been incorrect in stating some information on the form, and wanted to clarify that information, by sharing a copy of the survey with them.
- Budget Management Workshop – Ms. Green stated that a financial workshop, facilitated by a representative from one of the local banks, was being held on that same day, in an effort to assist employees in the management of their personal income. Ms. Bartelle expressed concerns about employees receiving payroll checks after Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and asked if checks could be issued earlier. Ms. Green said checks could be issued earlier, but noted the number of weeks before employees would receive a January payroll check.
- How did we come up with a deficit? – Ms. Green explained that a reduction in funding from the state, and a decrease in student enrollment contributed largely to the budget deficit. She elaborated on those two areas, as she addressed Board Members' questions. Ms. Green showed Base Student Cost for 2007-2008 as \$2476, with 5290 students; and for each subsequent school year, through 2012-13.
- There was a discussion on the decline in student enrollment, which is partly due to graduating classes being larger than those entering kindergarten. It was also noted that some students live closer to neighboring districts; and that some parents have their children enrolled in district where they are employed.

Mr. John Thames commended Ms. Green and Dr. Jefferson-Barnes for controlling costs within the district, in an attempt to conserve the fund balance. He said the Finance Department was currently working with PowerSchool staff members to ensure accurate student count. Mr. Thames explained that when student population decreases, it becomes difficult to maintain the same number of staff members. He added that some programs do not generate enough funds to self-sustaining, i.e. nurses. Mr. Thames also explained the Medicaid billing process, and identified departments that bill through Medicaid.

Mr. Thames said the district is facing a \$2.2 million deficit for the 2013-14 school year. Ms. Green added that furlough days cannot be imposed, unless the state cuts the budget during the year. She said the Finance Department wanted to keep Board Members informed of the district's financial status.

Jefferson-Barnes updated Members on the Race to the Top grant for which the district is applying.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Mr. James Darby to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried, unanimously, (4-0). The Vice-Chair did not vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a. m.

Submitted by: Joann M. Fulton

Date: 11-26-2012

Board Secretary: [Signature]

Date: 11/24/2012