

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**June 8, 2015**  
**Recessed Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners recessed its regular meeting on Monday, June 1, 2015 in order to meet jointly with the Bertie County Board of Education inside the old Bertie High School. The following members were present or absent:

Present: Ronald "Ron" Wesson, District I  
Stewart White, District II  
Tammy A. Lee, District III  
John Trent, District IV  
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: None

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer  
Clerk to the Board Sarah S. Tinkham  
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston  
Finance Officer William Roberson

Board of Education: Tarsha Dudley  
Bobby Oceana  
Emma Johnson  
Jo Davis Johnson  
Barry McGlone

Bertie County Public Schools Staff Present: Superintendent Elaine White  
Executive Assistant Kimberly Cooper  
Finance Officer Pearline Bunch  
Human Resource Manager Ella-Fields Bunch

Barry Ward of the Bertie Ledger-Advance was present from the media.

**RECONVENE OF THE BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Chairman Wesson reconvened the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners has recessed their regular meeting on Monday, June 2, until today's meeting with the Board of Education.

## **CALL TO ORDER OF THE BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Board of Education Vice Chairman, Bobby Oceana, called the Board of Education to order.

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Wesson stated that he was looking forward to this meeting, and that he was proud to see both Boards together to discuss very important topics for the County. He stated that he appreciated the positive working relationship, and looked forward to continuing that today.

Board of Education, Vice Chairman Oceana, concurred, and stated that his Board was also looking forward to working together at this meeting.

All members and staff present introduced themselves to the group before moving on to the business of the day.

### **BERTIE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT – MR. SCOTT HANCOCK, P.E., S&ME**

Both Boards received a report from Mr. Scott Hancock, P.E. of S&ME. His firm performed a study at the new Bertie High School based on various concerns raised by the Commissioners regarding the structural integrity of the building.

Mr. Hancock presented his report and answered questions as necessary from both Board.

In addition, the Boards were shown various images displaying the flaws in the building upon the completion of construction including cracks in the walls and flooring, but it was made clear that these flaws presented no safety risk to the staff and students currently utilizing the building.

It was agreed that the report submitted by Mr. Hancock should also be shared with the architect, Hite Associates, as well as with the contractor, WIMCO. A plan of action would also be put into place to make the needed repairs.

### **MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENTATION – WELDING PROGRAM INITIATIVE**

Norman Cherry, Interim Director of the Martin Community College – Bertie Campus, and Dr. Ann Britt, President of Martin Community College, were present for this portion of the meeting.

Both were present to “plant the seed” for a welding program for Martin Community College. Dr. Britt and Mr. Cherry stated that this was simply to gauge interest, as well as to elicit possible funding opportunities via the school system, County, or through available grant funds.

Mr. Cherry also proposed his desire for the program to occupy some space within the old Bertie High School building, and that the majority of teaching and equipment costs could be covered by Martin Community College.

Both Boards concurred that this program was worthy of funding, but suggested that Mr. Cherry reach out to various employers including NUCOR to see if a partnership was possible to assist in sponsoring the program.

The Boards also requested that Mr. Cherry and Dr. Britt come forward again at a later date with specific figures regarding cost.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION – OVERVIEW OF CAMPUS RENOVATION**

Both Boards participated in a tour of the various areas recently renovated by members of the Board of Education's Maintenance Department. The renovations featured a new Board Room, a new conference room, and administrative offices, and is now also home to various non-profit organizations. The old Bertie High School is also the home of the new EMT Cadet program offered by Roanoke-Chowan Community College.

### **BUDGET DISCUSSIONS – SCHOOL CURRENT EXPENSE AND CAPITAL OUTLAY FOR FY 2015-2016**

Chairman Wesson stated that he would like the following discussions to provide as much clarity as possible, and he was hopeful that the discussions would remain positive.

The Board of Education agreed, and discussion ensued regarding the County's proposed budget.

After a lengthy discussion, it was requested that the Board of Education provide additional details via a spreadsheet that would specifically break down the purpose of the funds requested in excess of the budget requested in FY 2014-2015.

The Board of Education was also encouraged to attend the County's public hearing for the budget at their next regular meeting on Monday, June 15, 2015.

**RECESS OF THE BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Chairman Wesson recessed the Bertie County Board of Commissioners until Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 5:00pm. The Board will continue their discussions regarding the Board of Education's requested budget inside the Commissioners Room located at 106 Dundee Street, Windsor.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Chairman Tarsha Dudley adjourned the Bertie County Board of Education at 5:30pm.

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Ronald D. Wesson, Chairman

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Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board