

Perquimans County Board of Education
Joint Work Session – April 16, 2018

The Perquimans County Board of Education met with the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners for a joint work session on Monday, April 16, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the Central Office, Hertford, North Carolina. Board members Amy Spaugh, Dr. Anne White, Russell Lassiter, Leary Winslow and Arlene Yates were present. Ralph Hollowell was absent.

Mr. Cheeseman provided a revised document of capital outlay budget needs for 2018-2019. He explained the three categories of needs: safety, personnel and curriculum/instruction.

In regard to safety, having four SROs, one in each school, is very important to the district as safety is a big issue. Recently, our three SROs have decreased to two as a deputy was injured and an SRO had to be pulled from the schools for the rest of the year. Mr. Cheeseman mentioned that there will be a joint armed intruder training with the Sheriff's Department and EMS on June 12th at Perquimans Middle School. With the imminent closure of the S-Bridge, there is concern about not having an SRO at each school, noting the distance and time for getting from school to school.

In addition to the fourth SRO, the district will ask for additional funding for metal detectors and metal wands for each school and sporting events, approximately \$16,000. Rather than using deputies from the Sheriff's Department, Wallace Nelson asked about other alternatives such as contracted services or retired law enforcement.

Following a discussion regarding school security, Mr. Cheeseman presented information regarding personnel needs. Last year, the district was able to raise classified staff to 70% fair market value. The district would like to raise that number to 80% this year and 90% next year. The cost to raise classified staff to 80% would be approximately \$120,000. In addition, the district would like to increase the teacher supplement. This year, the supplement was increased to 3%. Next year, the district would like to increase that to 4% and then 5% the following year. The cost to move from 3% to 4% would be \$90,000. Teacher supplements are sometimes the tie breaker when trying to secure high quality professionals for our students. A discussion pursued about teacher recruitment and retention. After further discussion about the Commissioners possibly sharing their thoughts on the district's use of local funds, it was the consensus of the Boards that the Board of Education would provide a quarterly financial report to the County Commissioners. The viability of the PCHS auditorium was again discussed. Mr. Cheeseman stated he does not favor demolishing the building at this time because of the cost to rebuild it versus the amount that is being requested for upgrades in the 2018-2019 budget. These upgrades would provide life in the building; it does not mean that funds would be requested each year for the auditorium. Rebuilding the auditorium would be a multi-million dollar project. In addition, the facility is on the historic list of buildings. The building is used each day; it is a living classroom.

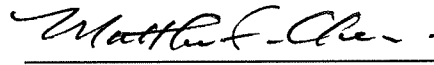
When asked about the loan payment on the high school gymnasium, Mr. Heath shared with the Board that the debt service is \$836,000 per year as the gym was a \$10 million project. Mr. Cheeseman added that there is a set-aside of \$160,000 for the 1:1 initiative. Mr. Heath stated that the \$160,000 is actually part of the capital outlay funding. When asked about low wealth funding, Candy Tilley noted that the district has been notified it should begin receiving low wealth funds again, possibly \$90,000; however, Title I and Title II funds are expected to drop.

The meeting continued with a discussion about the gym floor at Perquimans County Middle School and the request for a backup generator. Mr. Nelson also asked if the Board of Education planned to entertain a resolution for the bond referendum for school construction. Moving from Tier II to Tier I, Mr. Cheeseman stated that the district missed out on some construction monies since the district could not apply due to tier status. However, he would look into it.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.



Amy G. Spaugh, Board Chair



Matthew F. Cheeseman, Superintendent