

Craven County Board of Education



**2015-2016 LOCAL AND CAPITAL BUDGET
REQUEST**

Some quick stats....



- Did you know that Craven County schools is the 3rd largest employer in Craven County as of 2014 statistical data, with the Department of Defense coming in 1st and Carolina East Health Systems coming in 2nd?
- Our final ADM for 2013-2014 school year was 14,311 students.
- We run 155 buses daily, transporting 8,607 kids to school at a cost of \$3,800 per day.

Additional stats....



- We employ 940 teachers, 808 are paid from various state funding sources, 75 are paid from federal dollars, 47 are paid from local money, and 10 are paid from Fund 8 which is Local grant funds.
- Our Facilities Maintenance department maintains 23 school buildings which total 2,279,499 square feet and 80 mobile units to house our students and staff. They do this with a staff of 36 employees.
- Recent cuts at the state level are making it increasingly more difficult to maintain our current level of service with a small local fund balance.

Some changes in state level of funding:



- **001 Classroom Teacher allotment – we received 656 positions from the state this year. This is an increase of 5 positions over last year... however...**
- **Our 027 Teacher Assistant budget decreased from 4,713,022 in FY 2014 to 3,790,870 for FY 2015. That's a decrease of \$922,152 in one year's time.**
- **The legislature told us we could cover the reduction in TA's from the additional teaching funds, but you can't cover (922,152) with \$285,515.**

Other Reductions



- **Our Low Wealth money has in the past helped us pay the cost of some of our teaching and TA positions. That funding was also greatly reduced this year from \$596,479 in FY 2014 to \$261,097 for FY 2015.**
- **To compound the issue, we are not receiving our Federal Impact Aid payments on a timely schedule. Normally we would receive 3 payments per year. The payments have been so delayed that we are only receiving 2 payments per year for the last two years.**

What this does to Fund Balance



- We finished the June 30, 2014 school year with a unassigned fund balance of \$1,019,239. This takes out the assigned portion which includes our annual appropriation of \$1.5 million to balance the local budget.
- We cannot continue to ‘cover’ costs out of our local fund balance any longer because we will get to the point of not having enough in reserve to appropriate the \$1.5 million going forward in the 2016-2017 budget.

Managing costs in multiple ways



- We have been careful in filling any openings as they become vacant. In some cases, positions have been dissolved as openings have arisen.
- We have analyzed staffing levels at schools and are continuing to do so.
- With redistricting, we will be looking at appropriate staffing levels at all of our schools. Adjusted student numbers at schools may create different grade level configurations. Transferring staff as needed to fill vacancies has the potential to create some savings in vacancies created by retirements, etc.

Requests to the County for funding



- **Our requests to the County this year for increases in the Local Operating Budget include the following:**
 - **Further Adjustment of Revenues** - to more accurately reflect our revenues, we are reducing Fines and Forfeitures by \$30,000 and Interest Income by \$20,000. We have worked with the County since last year to reflect a gradual reduction of these revenues. These amounts have been lower than projected for many years. We are asking the County to increase our Appropriation by the \$50,000 to help make up for this loss in local revenues.
 - **Synovia GPS Tracking software for our buses** – we are requesting the County to provide funding in the amount of \$68,000 to allow us to sign a lease with Synovia Systems. This GPS tracking software provides real live tracking capabilities for our buses for safety reasons, but also improves efficiency of routes and notifies us when buses are idling for too long or deviating from the correct bus route. Districts that we have benchmarked with about the system have realized cost savings.

Requests to the County for funding



Continued...

- **Payments to Charter Schools** – Last year we projected our costs for this year to be around \$180,000 and the County provided funding for half of this amount. Our current year costs are now projected to run around \$230,000 by year end due to increased enrollment at Arapahoe Charter School. We would like to request that due to this large increase, that the County include the remaining \$140,000 to meet this increasing cost.
- **Increases in Salaries and Benefits** – we are waiting for information from the state and will need to request funding to meet the increased costs of local employees once we receive final numbers from the state.
- **Drivers Education costs** – We are also waiting to hear the status of Drivers Education funding at the state level. Last year we were told that there would not be any funding available to pay for Drivers Education Costs. If the state does not put funding back in place for this service, then we will need to ask for assistance from Craven County. We are authorized to charge up to \$65 in fees as approved by the State, however, the true cost to provide the coursework and the driving time is approximately \$200-\$220 per student including supplies. For approximately 1000 students per year, this would amount to a need of approximately \$135,000.

Requests to the County for funding



- **Continued...**

Finally, we would like to ask for a \$200 increase in our local supplement to help us recruit and retain the best and brightest educators for Craven County Schools. This would raise the annual supplement to a total of \$2,400 at a cost of \$278,000 including benefit costs on the increase.

Total Local Budget Increases



Summary –

• Revenue Adjustment	\$50,000
• Synovia GPS Contract	68,000
• Supplement Increase	278,000
• Charter School Pmts	<u>140,000</u>
Local Increases Requested	\$536,000
Current Funding Level	<u>19,785,431</u>
Total Local Request w/Increases	\$20,321,431*

***To Be Determined – Salary and Benefit Increases and possible costs of Drivers Ed if funding not restored will need to be brought back to County Commissioners once we receive this info from the state.**

Capital Projects Requests



- **Category I Projects -**
- **Transformer Replacements (High Priority - Safety)**
 - AH Bangert Elementary 76,000.00
 - HJ MacDonald Middle 72,375.00
- **Roofing Repairs (High Priority - Preventative)**
 - New Bern High School 776,545.00
 - Vanceboro Farm Life Elem 231,625.00
 - West Craven Middle 199,470.00
- **HVAC (Improved Efficiency)**
 - Ventilator Replacement Brinson Elementary 80,000.00
 - HVAC Controls Installed Tucker Creek Middle 70,000.00
 - HVAC Controls Replaced at HHS & WCHS 180,000.00
- **Building Renovation (Safety)**
 - Bathroom addition at GAB Elementary 250,000.00
- **Lighting/Paving (Efficiency/Safety)**
 - Update Lighting - Gymnasium West Craven High 15,000.00
 - Paving Student/Parent Parking Lots at WCHS 156,000.00
- **Total Category I Projects: 2,107,015.00**

Capital Projects Requests



- **Category II –**
 - Furniture & Equip replacement \$15,000

- **Category III –**
 - Activity Bus Replacement \$85,000
 - Utility Bodies for 2 Svc Trucks 14,000
 - Utility Van for Operations Support 45,000
 - Utility Truck for Maintenance 25,000

- **Total of Category I, II, & III Requests \$2,291,015.00**
(This does not include technology replacement needs.)

Technology Needs



- **Additional Need in the Area of Technology –**
 - We would like to request assistance from the County to implement a 4 year replacement cycle for Technology needs.
 - This replenishment is necessary due to an unfunded state mandate to administer all tests online beginning with the 2015-2016 school year and the integration of technology in instructional practices.
 - Currently we have 8,795 computers that are able to be utilized for testing based on the state specifications. In order to complete all the online testing for grades 3-12 next year, we will need 10,365 units.
 - In order to all provide computers for our labs, K-2 classrooms and staff, we would need to maintain approximately 15,000 units.

Today's Student Computer Needs for Testing



Elementary 3 - 5	3161
Middle 6 - 8	3190
High 9 - 13	4014
3 - 13 Students	10365

Does not include K-2, labs, or staff

Current Computer Numbers



Operating system	Operating System	Comment
Windows 7	6219	
Windows 8	180	
Windows Vista Business Edition	87	
Windows Vista Home Premium Edition	10	
Windows XP Home Edition	684	
Windows XP Professional	2551	
Chromebooks	3167	for students use
Chromebooks	729	Purchasing now for students
	13627	Staff and Student Computers in System
Windows XP/Vista waiver	3332	
	10295	Number of Computers including staff
Staff Computers	1500	
	8795	Usable for Testing without waiver
	10365	Total number needed for testing
	1570	Number needed for students

Online Testing



- **Required for 2015 – 2016 School Year**
- **Currently the state will allow a one-time waiver of the 5 day testing window for all EOC's in high schools**
- **Elementary and Middle school testing must take place during the last 10 days of school for EOG's**
- **Test security issues require schools systems to avoid testing the same subjects across multiple days**
- **This is the last year that NC Final Exams will be offered in paper/pencil**

Technology Needs



- Currently, the County provides us \$200,000 per year in our Local budget for technology. At this rate, with the number of devices we have to support, we would be on a 25 year replacement cycle.

# of devices	Replacement Cycle in yrs	Replaced per year	cost per	Total	Current budget
12000	25	480	\$425.00	\$204,000.00	\$200,000.00

Technology Needs



- We are proposing a 4 year replacement cycle for our devices in order to keep current with the state mandates for online testing/learning.

# of devices	Replacement Cycle in yrs	Replaced per year	cost per	Total
15000	4	3750	\$425.00	\$1,593,750.00

Technology comments...



- While we realize these numbers represent a very large request, we are at the point where we have exhausted any grant funds, state, federal and local funds available to provide the necessary units, and we have made adjustments to save money in as many areas as possible, meanwhile continuing to absorb funding cuts from the state.
- At this point, our Fund Balance has been used the last two years to offset funding shortages we've received from the state, but we cannot continue to exhaust Fund Balance at the current rate. That is why we must present to you the nature of the funding shortages as well as the demands being placed on public education in our Budget request. We anticipate the pattern of unfunded mandates from the state to continue to push costs down to the local level.

Questions, comments, other...



- **Just a final point to consider, we didn't receive our actual numbers from the state last year until the week prior to school opening, so any staffing changes had already been made prior to receiving our actual allotment numbers.**

This made it very difficult to consider reducing staffing when schools were getting ready to open. We will be analyzing class sizes and school sizes in May, with the potential impacts of redistricting and making informed adjustments wherever possible this year to attempt to reduce costs while adequately staffing our schools.

Thank you



- **Thank you for your continued investment in Craven County Schools. Our students represent the economic future of our county and it is our pleasure to serve them.**