

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS REGULAR SESSION OF FEBRUARY 17, 2003 ON FEBRUARY 25, 2003 IN JOINT SESSION WITH THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ROOM, 3600 TRENT ROAD, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Vice Chairman Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner George Brown
Commissioner Bill Harper
Commissioner Perry Morris
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
Commissioner Leon C. Staton

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

Carr Ipock, Chairman
Linda Thomas, Vice Chairman
Sydney French
Becky Kafer
Beatrice Smith
Kim Smith
Joe Walton

STAFF PRESENT:

William Rivenbark
David Clifton
Ted Kaniuka
Janet Furman
Terrence Hicks
Mary Alice Swindell
David Henderson

Associate Superintendent, David Clifton, provided an update on school bond initiatives. He stated that the Board of Education has been able to accomplish all of its projects under the previous \$22 million state bond, which was available over a four (4) year period.

Commissioner Sampson cited the need for window improvements at J.T. Barber Elementary School.

Ted Kaniuka provided an overview of the “No Child Left Behind” Program and student performance indicators.

Commissioner Morris inquired about the possibility of instituting opportunities for upper classmen to earn credit for tutoring, and especially those who are going into the field of education. Commissioner Harper noted school safety and security concerns voiced by constituents and was asked to direct such inquiries to the Superintendent’s office or to School Board members.

Mr. Ipock led discussion concerning employee incentive pay.

As the Boards looked at ways to work together, the following needs and approaches emerged:

- clear communication and clear understanding between the two Boards
- forthrightness of the Boards in providing public information
- direction of inquiries to the proper sources in the School Board Administration
- appropriate follow-up and cultivation of good working relationship with the press
- public allowed participation at meetings
- discipline
- alternative schools
- trade schools
- money

In determining the next steps, it was the consensus of both Boards that there needs to be a panel to research the prospect of alternative schools. A focus group will be established. Commissioners Morris and Sisk, Mr. Ipock, Mr. Rivenbark and Sheriff Jerry Monette expressed interest in serving. Chairman Sampson, Chairman Ipock, Vice Chairman Allen and Vice Chairman Thomas will meet to plan the next steps for future meetings to address other issues.

At 5:40 p.m. Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn to reconvene at 6:00 p.m. on March 5th, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board