

OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA
March 29, 2021

The Members of the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina met in a special joint meeting on Monday, March 29, 2021 at The Mary Potter Center of Education, 200 Taylor Street, Oxford. The purpose was to meet with the Granville County Board of Education to hear a presentation regarding possible renovation scenarios for G.C. Hawley Middle School

Present were:

Chair: Sue Hinman

Commissioners: Tony W. Cozart Jimmy Gooch
Zelodis Jay Timothy Karan
Russ May David T. Smith

County Manager: Michael S. Felts
Assistant County Manager: Korena Weichel

County Attorney: James C. Wrenn, Jr.

Present from the Granville County Board of Education were:

Chairman: David Richardson

Board Members: Ethel Anderson G. Thomas Houlihan
Amanda J. LaBrecque Dr. Gregory McKnight
Leonard E. Peace, Sr. Glenda Williams

Board of Education Attorney: Eva DuBuisson

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Richardson called the Board of Education meeting to order and Chair Sue Hinman called the Board of Commissioners to order at 4:34 p.m. Mrs. Ethel Anderson had the invocation and Commissioner Russ May led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME AND UPDATES

Chairman Richardson and Chair Hinman welcomed everyone and made remarks. Chairman Richardson said the purpose is regarding the campus of G.C. Hawley.

HISTORICAL REVIEW AND TIMELINE

Dr. Stan Winborne, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Human Resources with Granville County Public Schools, gave a historical review and timeline and spoke from a document entitled “*Granville County Public Schools Efficiency of School Facility Use and School Reorganization.*” The report included information including average daily

membership, charter school enrollment, school capacity data, and recent efforts and future strategies. He noted that there are new members from both boards and that this meeting is to catch everyone up with the information.

BOARD HEARD PRESENTATION FROM ARCHITECT

Mrs. Katherine Peele, LS3P Architects, gave a presentation of the potential renovation of G.C. Hawley at a preliminary cost of \$22,797,500 and approximately \$29 - \$30 million with the roof and auditorium add-ons.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Commissioners and Board of Education members asked questions and made comments about the cost of the G. C. Hawley project, athletic fields in project, school capacity, possible building expansion in the future, use of funding to improve other schools rather than renovate Hawley, poor condition of G.C. Hawley, working together, consolidation of schools for efficiency, attracting students to GCPS, doing better for our students, not doing a bond referendum, possibly of remote options going forward, schools receiving approximately 40% of county budget, condition of other schools, phased approach to renovations, limited budget, competitive academic schools with funding that we have, hard decisions are ahead and change is hard, laser focus work with K-3rd grades, Tar River Elementary built so it could be expanded, and supporting our students and laying foundation for the future. Clarification was made that there are no original buildings on the Hawley Middle School site. The idea to go back to two high schools and make Granville Central High School a middle school was mentioned.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Hinman closed by saying that the schools are very important and Board of Commissioners have also had to say “no” to others when they asked for funding. She noted that if funding is not available and we overspend, then property taxes will have to be raised to generate revenue. She noted that Granville County’s taxes are the 9th highest out of 100 counties in the State at this time. She said this is not an easy decision and we have to work together. She said we need to make Granville County the best it can be and draw people and businesses into Granville County to generate more taxes so we will have funding for our schools, Sheriff’s Office, fire departments, Granville Health System and others.

Dr. Houlihan said he was glad to get together formally for the first time since he has been on the Board of Education and hopes to do it more often. He said even though they heard

some things they did not want to hear, they now have clarification from the Board of Commissioners as well as Board of Education members to move forward.

When asked where the North Carolina Education Lottery money is, it was noted that it is used debt consolidation.

Chairman Richardson thanked the Board of Commissioners for meeting with them to discuss some hard decisions that are ahead. He thanked the Board of Education members for the work they have done for the last few years regarding consolidation and stewardship of funding for the school system. He also thanked staff for their work.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Leonard Peace, seconded by Mrs. Glenda Williams, and unanimously approved, the Board of Education adjourned.

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra A. Weary, NCCCC, MMC
Clerk to the Board