

Joint Meeting, Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: AUGUSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael Shull, Chairman
 Jeff Slaven, Vice-Chairman
 Gerald Garber
 Butch Wells
 Pam Carter
 Scott Seaton

ABSENT: Steve Morelli

STAFF: Timothy Fitzgerald, Augusta County Administrator
 Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
 Misty Cook, Director of Finance

PRESENT: AUGUSTA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Nicholas T. Collins, Chair
 Mike J. Lawson
 David R. Shiflett
 Timothy M. Simmons
 Timothy Z. Swortzel
 John M. Ward
 Donna H. Wells, Vice Chair

STAFF: Dr. Eric W. Bond, Superintendent, Augusta County Schools

VIRGINIA: At a joint meeting of the Augusta County School Board and the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247th year of the Commonwealth....

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Mr. Shull, Board of Supervisors Chair, and Mr. Collins, School Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UPDATE

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator reported on the following:

Courthouse project:

Moseley

- Meetings continue with stakeholders on developing their space, including furniture and fixture placement in offices and courtrooms. Includes audio/visual equipment.
- Meetings with the Sheriff specific to security requirements in inmate and bailiff areas. Includes space requirements, furniture and fixtures and security technology equipment.
- Plans are nearing 100% design complete.
- County IT will now be involved in county data and phone needs for IT rooms.

March 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UPDATE (CONT'D)

- We are on schedule for beginning construction early 2024.
- Order requires design to be submitted by April 15 to the Commonwealth for review.

Construction Manager

- Draft received from the (outside) attorney and is currently being reviewed.
- Draft will be sent to Skanska as soon as it is finalized by the County.

ECC / Parks and Rec project:

- Pre-construction meeting held March 13th
- Construction is scheduled to begin March 27.
- A construction trailer and sea containers will be located near the dock. These locations are not specific yet. Traffic will need to be aware. Notices will be sent to employees. Employees will need to park away from the dock. (I think some of ACPS may park against from time to time)
- Construction may extend to June 2024.

Animal Shelter Relocation project:

- VES renovation will be paid by three localities per their intake percentage.
~56.9% County, 25.5% Staunton, 17.6% Waynesboro (CY22)
- Feasibility Study completed September 2022
- Signed contract with Lineage Architects for design, January 2023
- Design is approximately 50% complete
- Staff and architect has toured many existing facilities and design guidelines to incorporate standards
- Renovation is scheduled to be bid by the end of 2023 with construction in 2024

Reassessment Progress:

The County hired Wampler Eanes to conduct the assessment of real property. They will be in the field through the end of the calendar year. The assessments would be effective 1/1/2024. Notices and hearings will be held early 2024.

March 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UPDATE (CONT'D)

Broadband:

There are two County grants outstanding:

VATI 2021 is with MGW and Lingo Networks in three project areas of the County: Middlebrook, Morris Mill and Deerfield. The project is 56% complete. This project is slated to be completed in 2023.

VATI 2022 is with All Points Broadband, a regional project of 8 localities that partnered with electric companies for use of overhead lines. Design is underway with make-ready work (pole upgrades) to start in Augusta in the near future. The project will serve different areas of the County and is slated to be completed in 2025.

Budget:

The County is providing \$49,028,505 in school operating funding in accordance with our funding agreement. \$7,256,250 million will be provided for debt service and \$1,080,000 million for school bus capital funding.

County Admin will be presenting a balanced budget of \$118,980,727 on March 27th. In order to balance the budget \$11,125,579 million in requests were cut to match available revenue.

ERP Project:

The County is working to replace the financial software that is end of life. A committee of county and school staff have reviewed proposals and sat in on software demonstrations. A contract is being negotiated with Tyler Munis for Finance, HR, School Finance and HR, and Community Development modules. Demonstrations continue with Avenity for the Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer's office. After award, implementation is expected to begin and will take a couple years.

Comp Plan Update:

The County has issued a request for proposals to update our comprehensive plan. After selection of the consultant work will begin likely in June. It will take about a year to get through the process. Schools will be involved in the process.

Mr. Shull requested a summary of the upgrades to the County's emergency radio system.

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March 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

Dr. Eric Bond, Augusta County Public Schools Division Superintendent presented the following:

A. Buffalo Gap Middle School/Riverheads Middle School Construction

1. Both projects are progressing
2. Foundations have been poured
3. Most of the walls are being erected
4. New gyms are going up and close to being under the roof
5. Scheduled for a Fall of 2024 opening, Nielsen Builders is doing a great job and they are aware of and trying to stay ahead of the
6. supply chain issues that most construction projects face these days.

B. Proposed 10-year Capital Plan

1. Stewart Middle School and Stuarts Draft Middle School
2. Garage
3. Valley Career and Technical Center (VCTC) - We do not own the building, the three school divisions own the facility: 50%, 25%, 25%

C. VCTC Renovation Project

1. Going out to bid (end of March) on a smaller \$4 million project on much-needed upgrades
 - a) Boiler replacement
 - b) Infrastructure upgrades including intercom system
 - c) 4 additional classrooms to remove students from the mezzanine
 - d) Welding and Ventilation/Exhaust
 - e) Completed by May 2024
2. The bigger picture—Phase II
 - a) Renovate and expand the remainder of the building including the back building. Approximately \$23 million
 - b) Due to funding scenarios, we may have to break that down into phased-in projects as well.
 - c) Ex. Next priority would be Diesel Lab with appropriate and additional space as well as Vet Science with appropriate and additional space. This would be approximately a \$3 million project.
3. Investigating the Competitive Grant process approved by the General Assembly and the Virginia Department of Education.

D. VCTC Programs - applications have increased by 23% this year and by 51% in the past 2 years

1. Top 6 areas for applications, next year
 - a) Nurse Aide
 - b) Welding
 - c) Cosmetology
 - d) Criminal Justice
 - e) Culinary Arts
 - f) Carpentry

2. VCTC Foundation has been approved and companies have already started to donate to the Foundation.

E. Field Light Project

1. Fort Defiance High School Softball, Wilson Memorial High School Softball, and Baseball are all completed.

March 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE (CONT'D)

2. Stuarts Draft High School Softball will take place this summer
3. Buffalo Gap High School and/or Riverheads High School will be next

F. Instruction

1. Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Workforce Readiness
 - a) As of March 15, 2023, we have 263 students completing a paid internship across the five schools. Currently, we are working with 122 employers for our paid internships
 - b) We currently have 339 credits that are being earned by students for Work Based Learning
 - c) VCTC also has an internship/apprenticeship program with 80 students placed in the workforce. Some of our Business partners include:

A.G. Stacker Inc.
 ACPS Food Service
 ACPS Maintenance
 ACPS Wilson Elementary School, Clymore
 Elementary School, and Stuarts Draft High School
 Augusta Regional SPCA Spay Neuter Clinic
 Auto Body Pro Shop
 Bear Creek
 Blauch Brothers Inc.
 Blue Ridge Lumber
 Blue Ridge Machine Works
 Charlie Obaugh Chevy GMC
 CMA Valley CDJR
 Dave Brooks Electric
 Draftco
 Evermore Construction
 George Owen Construction
 Industrial Machine Works
 Liphart Steel
 Metfab International
 Paul Obaugh Ford
 Pride Electric
 Quick's Bus Company

- d) In addition to these 80 students, 33 Nurse Aide Students and 10 Dental Careers students are placed in local offices.

G. Mentorship Programs - ACPS currently has 61 students in our Mentorship Program and we anticipate about 87 students to enroll in next year's mentorship program.

1. Some of the businesses included in our Mentorship program are:

ACPS
 Augusta Health
 Sentara RMH
 Augusta County Sheriff's Office

March 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE (CONT'D)

Staunton Police Department
 Augusta County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
 Augusta Fire-Rescue
 Augusta County Emergency Communications
 Center
 Augusta County Circuit Court
 Colman Engineering
 Wassenaar Winkler Architects
 Dynamic Aviation
 Augusta Medical Group
 American Shakespeare Center
 Mountain View Equine Hospital
 Commonwealth Veterinary Clinic
 Staunton Veterinary Clinic
 Westwood Animal Hospital

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BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Carter asked for clarification on the difference between an internship and a mentorship. Dr. Bond responded that internships are sometimes paid and typically mentorships are not paid and there are not as many hours.

She then asked for clarification about earning credits for internships. Dr. Bond clarified that what was presented was specifically for the internship, but credits can also be earned through the mentorship program.

Dr. Seaton asked if there have been any conversations with Staunton City Schools about a combined bus garage that could be shared between the two school divisions. Dr. Bond shared that he has brought this topic up with the Superintendent of Staunton City Schools. It is Dr. Bond's understanding that Staunton City Schools has a plan to meet their needs that they are invested in pursuing.

Mr. Collins asked a question about working on 200 cars and if they are from other parts of the county. Dr. Bond explained that we had an agreement with the Sheriff's office, Augusta County Service Authority, and some other entities of the county. On a smaller scale, we still repair some vehicles, but due to rapid turnaround needs, some repairs have had to be outsourced.

There was discussion about the Brownsville Grant that could assist with the cost of tearing down the old bus garage when the time comes. This grant could possibly assist with the demolition of the old Riverheads Elementary School. Mr. Fitzgerald shared that he has requested his staff to assist with gathering information to share with Dr. Bond who stated that this information will be carefully reviewed and utilized.

Mr. Shull inquired about a piece of property on McPheeter's Road that was to be deeded from the Augusta County School Board to Augusta County. There is a private citizen who is interested in purchasing the property from Augusta County. Dr. Bond will research the status of the deed.

Mr. Slaven shared about a recent conversation he had with Mr. David Shiflett, ACPS School Board, about a grant for the VCTC Foundation that Dr. Bond mentioned earlier. Mr. Slaven acknowledged that the foundation was recently approved and money has already been deposited. Mr. Shiflett shared that the State Corporation

March 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (CONT'D)

Commission processes were completed efficiently. Dr. Bond shared that VCTC administration has a long-term, strategic plan to build this foundation and utilize business and industry resources in the community to enhance it.

Ms. Carter inquired about how internships are developed for students. Dr. Bond shared information about how the Work Based Learning Coordinators and Blue Ridge Community College Career Coaches work to support students with internship placements.

With no more questions from the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Michael Shull, Board of Supervisors Chair, turned the meeting over to Mr. Nick Collins,

Mr. Collins was expecting this meeting to include discussion about revenue sharing from Augusta County Board of Supervisors to ACPS. He thanked the Board of Supervisors. He also wanted to go on record to say the legislators in Richmond have let the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia down by not having a passed state budget.

Mr. Collins asked if any Board of Supervisors member was willing to discuss revenue sharing this evening. He asked if there are concerns about how revenues are currently shared. Mr. Shull replied, "If it's not broke, don't fix it." Mr. Collins shared that he welcomes any future questions or conversation from the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Wells stated that his past professional experiences inform his appreciation of the positive working relationship that exists between Augusta County Administration and Augusta County Public Schools Administration. The partnership makes him proud.

Mr. Shiflett spoke about the school division's dependence on the Board of Supervisors for funding of capital projects. Being able to depend upon the annual funding from the Board of Supervisors allows for plans to be made and implemented to continue to improve buildings in ACPS. He appreciates the consistent support from the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Slaven stated that the past few years have been complicated by COVID and other factors that challenged the conventional budget process. He stated that he hopes the School Board can understand there are multiple departments in Augusta County that need funding and support.

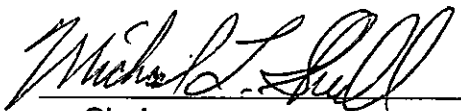
Dr. Seaton offered comments in support of collaborative efforts with Staunton and Waynesboro to attempt to save money by combining services. He mentioned this would free up money to directly benefit students instead of spending it on things like transportation. He stated that recent changes in the makeup of those city councils may provide opportunities for increased collaboration.

Mr. Shull closed by expressing thanks to the board members and staff who are here today. In the past, the relationship between the two boards was contentious at times. He appreciates conversations like today's that are cooperative and productive. He shared that, in the past, his constituents have generally been willing to increase taxes by a cent or two in order to support and fund the school division. Anytime the public has expressed support for increased funding to schools, the Board of Supervisors has responded. All citizens benefit from increased support of the school system. He is looking forward to seeing the next 10-Year Capital Plan the School Board approves.

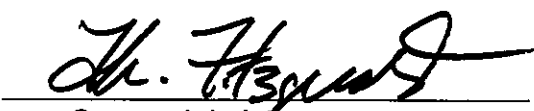
March 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned.


Chairman

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County Administrator