

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 9, 2012 – 6 P.M.
CALLED MEETING
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The County Manager welcomed those in attendance and noted the primary topic of the evening would be the upcoming budget. Chairman Corbin then called the meeting of the board of commissioners to order at 6:11 p.m. at Fat Buddies Restaurant in Franklin, N.C. for the purpose of holding a joint meeting with the Macon County Board of Education. Chairman Tommy Cabe then called the meeting of the Board of Education to order and requested a moment of silence before turning the meeting back over to Chairman Corbin. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director and County Attorney were present, as were all members of the Board of Education, the Superintendent, School Finance Officer and Board of Education Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING CAPITAL FUND (LOTTERY DISTRIBUTION): Chairman Corbin noted there was one item, an application to the Public School Building Capital Fund, for both boards to consider. County Finance Director Lori Hall explained that the application (Attachment 1) is a request to draw down \$413,384.58 in lottery funds, with the money going toward debt payment, and that the application required the signatures of both the commission chair and school board chair. Upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted 5-0 to approve the application as presented. This was followed by a motion from Board of Education member Gary Shields, seconded by Jim Breedlove, and the Board of Education unanimously approved the application as presented, a copy of which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

PRESENTATION BY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: Chairman Corbin recognized the school superintendent, Dr. Dan Brigman, who made a PowerPoint presentation. Among his comments, Dr. Brigman noted that there have been three sources of federal funding that have helped the school system “keep up” in recent years, but all of that funding will be gone by the end of the fiscal year. He also pointed out that Gov. Bev Perdue is seeking a 3/4-cent sales tax increase in the upcoming state budget, with the revenue targeted for education. Statistically, Dr. Brigman explained that the school system has an average daily membership (ADM) of 4,400 students spread over 11 different schools in three separate geographic areas, with the range of school operational cost per student going from \$5,618.05 at the Macon Early College to

\$13,871.96 at Nantahala School. He said that, since 2010, budget challenges have required a reorganization that included two school closings, four school consolidations and an ongoing redistricting effort. He explained that since the 2008-09 school year, 22.5 positions have been eliminated through attrition, along with a 50 percent loss in Pre-K programs, plus cuts in drivers' education. Due to a loss of state funds, the schools' technology plan is at a nine-year replenishment rate for computers instead of the normal five. For 2012-13, Dr. Brigman said the schools are looking at a \$1.4-million cut due to the "discretionary reversion" by the state where money is allocated and then has to be returned, resulting in a greater burden on the local portion of the budget to sustain necessary levels of service. Dr. Brigman pointed out that the "discretionary reversions" have grown each year since 2009-10. In terms of requests for 2012-13, he told commissioners that the school system was asking the county to:

- Restore the county appropriation to \$6,911,000, up from \$6,705,750.
- Add a 2 percent supplement for all employees which would require an additional \$100,000.
- Restore capital outlay funding in the amount of \$1,851,705 to maintain older buildings and to replace some outdated equipment.

Members of the two boards discussed a number of topics stemming from the presentation, but no action was taken. Dr. Brigman pointed out that he is working to have a formal budget request to the county by May 1.

Following discussion regarding the public library at Nantahala, the future of the mobile units at Cowee School, and the goal of having the new Iotla Valley Elementary School open by August 9, 2012, there was a motion to adjourn by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, and the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:33 p.m.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman