

**COUNTY OF CARTERET
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JOINT PLANNING WORKSHOP: CARTERET COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AND CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
107 SAFRIT DRIVE, BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 10, 2020**

The Honorable Carteret County Board of Commissioners held a Joint Planning Workshop with the Carteret County Board of Education on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at 107 Safrit Drive, Beaufort, North Carolina. Commissioners present were: Chairman Bill Smith, Commissioners Robin Comer, Bob Cavanaugh, Jimmy Farrington, Mark Mansfield, Jonathan Robinson, and Ed Wheatly. Carteret County Board of Education members Melissa Ehlers, Travis Day, Jake Godwin, Kathryn Chadwick, Clark Jenkins, Brittany Wheatly, and Chair John McLean were also in attendance.

I. WELCOME

Chairman Bill Smith, Carteret County Board of Commissioners and Chair John McLean, Carteret County Board of Education, welcomed attendees.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Chairman Smith called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion: Commissioner Robinson Comer made a motion to adopt the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Wheatly. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Richie Paylor, Interim Superintendent of the Carteret County Schools, noted that he appreciated the partnership and the Commissioners' support.

**Joint Planning Workshop
March 10, 2020
Carteret County Commissioners and Carteret County Board of Education**

Welcome	Bill Smith, Chair Carteret County Commissioners John McLean, Chair Carteret County Board of Education
Review of Agenda	Richie Paylor, Interim Superintendent
Carteret County Health Department Update	Stephanie Cannon, Director
Review of School System Capital Projects Needs	Richie Paylor
Sales Tax Discussion	Carteret County Officials

III. CARTERT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Ms. Kim Davis, Public Health Nurse, provided an overview of the COVID-19 virus:

- Virus has been around for a while, from a common cold to respiratory issues
- Currently not widespread in North Carolina
- Spread through coughing, touching objects, etc.
- Elderly are more susceptible as well as those with other health issues
- Most of the cases have been mild
- Prevention – hand washing, cover your cough, use of hand sanitizers

Ms. Stephanie Cannon, Health Director, shared information on the procedures that would be followed should the County have a confirmed case.

Ms. Davis shared that the Health Department is sending out guidance from the State; info such as screening, identifying people at risk or information on travelers. Testing will be at the State level and the State has to provide permission to test patients; specimens will be shipped to the State. Ms. Davis shared that they are fielding calls from providers to determine if a patient needs screening; providers will work with the Health Department to get the patients tested. LabCorp is another option for testing.

Ms. Cannon shared that from a School System perspective, they do not have specific guidance from the State at this point should schools have to close; the Governor is working on that now. Ms. Cannon stated that the Public School System has been great and very proactive in reaching out to get the most accurate information. Ms. Cannon asked that the School System look systemwide at their absenteeism and let the Health Department know if that number increases significantly.

Ms. Cannon shared:

- Guidance being provided to the general public includes press releases, Facebook comments, responding to calls from the public and medical advisors, sharing general information
- Working with community partners to share information
- Suggested that everyone use reputable sources for information, such as the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) website, the North Carolina Division of Public Health; website, or there is also a toll-free number to the State for additional information: 866-462-3821

Ms. Cannon and Ms. Davis responded to questions.

IV. REVIEW OF SCHOOL SYSTEM CAPITAL PROJECTS NEEDS

Mr. Paylor thanked Ms. Cannon and Ms. Davis and noted that the School System relies on them for their guidance.

Mr. Paylor reviewed the list of capital needs for the Carteret County Public School System, by school, totaling \$37M as shown below, and responded to questions.

**Carteret County Public School System
Capital Needs**

Atlantic Elementary School –

- Replace interior classroom doors with new code compliant doors

Beaufort Middle School –

- Enclose existing walkway from main building to 8th grade building with masonry and glass
- Replace ceilings in main building and renovate HVAC system and update lighting
- Construct covered walkway to car drop off/pick up area

Bogue Sound Elementary School –

- Renovate HVAC system from 2 pipe to 4 pipe to improve dehumidification and efficiency
- Construct covered walkway from school to Croatan High School

Broad Creek Middle School –

- Construct 14-classroom addition
- Remove curved walls in cafeteria to allow for more seating and improve security
- Construct covered walkway to bus parking lot
- Construct new entry/exit driveway
- Resurface track

Croatan High School –

- Construct 16-classroom addition
- Construct free-standing gym for school/community use with bleachers on one side, dressing area, restrooms, storage, office space; shelter ready - generator, showers and serving line
- Construct six new tennis courts
- Convert HVAC system from 2 pipe to 4 pipe to improve dehumidification and efficiency
- Replace football field press box

Carteret Pre-School Center –

- Replace old unusable house portion of facility with activity building

Down East Middle School / Smyrna Elementary School –

- Enclose existing walkways from main building to elementary building and from elementary building to cafeteria
- Install new exhaust hood and renovate ceiling in kitchen
- Construct covered walkway to car drop off/pick up area
- Construct covered walkway to bus drop off/pick up area

East Carteret High School –

- Upgrade/improve/modernize athletic facilities:
 - relocate fields on campus
 - construct six new tennis courts
 - rearrange and/or relocate band practice field
- Enclose existing walkways between two main buildings
- Construct auditorium addition with dressing rooms, prop storage, work space areas
- Construct free-standing gym for school/community use with bleachers on one side, dressing area, restrooms, storage, office space; shelter ready - generator, showers and serving line
- Resurface track
- Pave activity bus/auxiliary parking lot

Harkers Island Elementary School –

- Construct front entry canopy and walkways
- Enclose existing walkway from main building to gym
- Replace interior classroom doors with new code compliant doors
- Construct covered walkway to bus lot

Maintenance/Transportation Building –

- Renovate HVAC system for efficiency
- Construct storage building for equipment

Morehead City Elementary School –

- Install security fence on north side of campus made of masonry and fencing
- Construct masonry entry corridor for outside classrooms
- Renovate main entry into office
- Install new exhaust hood and renovate ceiling in kitchen
- Pave faculty parking lot
- Construct covered walkway to bus parking lot

Morehead City Middle School –

- Renovate HVAC system from 2 pipe to 4 pipe to improve dehumidification and efficiency
- Enclose walkway from main building to cafeteria/classroom building with masonry and fencing
- Construct covered walkway to car drop off/pick up area

Morehead City Primary School –

- Pave employee parking lot and improve bus parking lot

Newport Elementary School –

- Replace roof on cafeteria
- Construct covered walkway to the left of main entrance
- Renovate ceilings and exterior walls in kindergarten building
- Construct enclosed hallway from main building to kindergarten building with access to bus parking
- Construct enclosed hallway from kindergarten building to cafeteria

Newport Middle School -

- Construct covered walkway to bus drop off/pick up area

West Carteret High School –

- Expand existing locker rooms
- Construct new band room
- Replace interior doors with new code compliant doors and hardware
- Construct free-standing gym for school/community use with bleachers on one side, dressing area, restrooms, storage, office space; shelter ready - generator, showers and serving line
- Replace chilled water piping in HVAC system, and heat and air condition corridors
- Construct dining room addition with restrooms
- Install new exhaust hood and renovate ceiling/ventilation in kitchen
- Convert six existing science labs into regular classrooms
- Construct six-classroom addition with two complete science labs and restrooms, and connect to main building
- Upgrade/improve/modernize athletic facilities:
update three tennis courts and construct three new tennis courts
renovate band field; relocate girls' softball field; renovate practice fields
- Renovate/update auditorium
- Construct a new bus parking lot behind school
- Resurface track

White Oak Elementary School –

- Renovate main entrance and office area for safety

Safety and Security At All Sites –

- Installation of security doors and access controls
- Installation of new intercom systems to voice over IP for safety

Estimated Total - \$37,250,000

Construction of a New Elementary School in
western end of county

Estimated Cost \$22,000,000

Estimated Total - \$59,250,000

Commissioner Comer asked if there was information that showed the price, by school. There was general discussion around the importance of not showing potential prices of projects that would be going out to bid.

Commissioner Comer asked if they were considering a trades school; Mr. Paylor shared that they are looking into that option.

Commissioner Comer asked how many classes were added at White Oak; the response was 14, but tore down ten; they netted four, with an increase of approximately 100 students.

Commissioner Mansfield asked how many mobile units were there at White Oak; Mr. Paylor responded that they are using five. Commissioner Farrington requested that they verify that the mobile classrooms are being counted in School capacity; Ms. Nance to respond.

Commissioner Mansfield shared that the ADM ("Average Daily Membership") has been down over the last couple of years; we had a conversation ten years ago when the White Oak area was developed; there has been no significant growth and unless we get jobs,

we are adding retirees. We have to be proactive, but we also do not want to build it and they do not come.

Commissioner Farrington asked what was done with the construction of Cannons Gate and Marsh Harbour. Mr. McLean shared that the formula was 1.5 kids per single-family.

Commissioner Comer asked if the items on the list were all needs or wants. Mr. McLean responded that the items have been vetted for a couple of years; they are a list of needs.

Ms. Ehlers suggested that there be a breakdown of the expense of those items associated with security.

Mr. Paylor confirmed that operating costs would go up with the increase in number of classrooms.

Commissioner Robinson asked if the construction of the new school was associated with anticipated military growth. Mr. McLean responded no; they are at capacity now and could accept ten students, but not 50.

Commissioner Comer shared information concerning the Military Community Infrastructures Project that was discussed at a recent meeting in D.C., and could potentially help with funding.

Mr. McLean asked Commissioners if there was a project on the list that raised a flag. Commissioner Comer shared that he was concerned about the money for a school in the western part of the County.

Commissioner Wheatly shared that the School System has explained the list; however, it will take time to look at it more closely. Commissioner Wheatly questioned if a temporary relief could be to utilize Bogue Sound Elementary; we need to digest and look at it carefully before we make approvals.

Mr. McLean suggested that any questions from Commissioners be sent to the School System for response.

Ms. Wheatly shared that there are a lot of people that move into the County because of our schools; a large portion of the request is modernization as well as there are needs that have not been met; there are a lot of repair items.

Commissioner Comer asked what needed to happen with the School System's maintenance program to stay on top of the issues. Mr. McLean shared that the maintenance department is understaffed and they may need to add staff in that department.

Commissioner Cavanaugh asked if there was a maintenance schedule; the response was they had a schedule, but not a preventative maintenance model due to lack of sufficient staff.

Mr. Burns shared information on the schedule for a general obligation bond referendum. Mr. Paylor shared that Commissioners would need to adopt the School System's Resolution; the referendum would be November 30th.

**CARTERET COUNTY
SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFERENDUM
NOVEMBER 2020**

- By 5/04/20 School Board adopts resolution requesting School Bond Referendum
- 5/18/20 BOCC adopts (1) Resolution directing publication of notice of intent to apply to the Local Government Commission (the "LGC"); (2) Resolution authorizing the Finance Officer to apply to the LGC and making certain findings of fact
- 5/21/20 Publish Notice of Intent in *Newspaper of General Circulation* [have to wait 10 days after publication of Notice of Intent before applying to the LGC]
- 6/01/20 File Application with LGC and prepare Sworn Statement of Debt [receive letter from LGC confirming receipt of Application which must occur before the Bond Orders are introduced]
- 6/15/20 File Statements of Estimated Interest
- 6/15/20 BOCC (1) Introduces the Bond Order(s); (2) adopts the Resolution setting a public hearing on the Bond Order(s)
- 7/09/20 Publish Notice(s) of Public Hearing on the Bond Order(s) in *Newspaper of General Circulation* [at least 6 days before public hearing]; File Sworn Statement of Debt with the Clerk
- 7/15/20 File Notice with Joint Legislative Commission [not needed if only doing school projects]
- 7/20/20 BOCC (1) holds public hearing(s) on Bond Order(s); (2) adopts the Bond Order(s); and (3) adopts the Resolution setting a Special Bond Referendum
- 7/21/20 Clerk delivers certified copy of the Resolution setting a Special Bond Referendum to the County Board of Elections
- 7/23/20 Publish Bond Order(s) as adopted in *Newspaper of General Circulation*
- 9/01/20 LGC approval of Bond Order(s) [or LGC might do this in October]
- by 9/25/20 Publish first Notice of Special Bond Referendum in *Newspaper of General Circulation* [Not less than fourteen days before last day to register to vote for Bond Referendum]

- by 10/02/20 Publish second Notice of Special Bond Referendum in *Newspaper of General Circulation* [Not less than seven days before last day to register to vote for Bond Referendum]
- 10/09/20 Last day to register to vote
- 11/03/20 Referendum
- 11/13/20 Adoption of Certificate of Canvass by the County Board of Elections
- 11/16/20 **BOCC adopts Resolution Certifying and Declaring Results of Special Bond Referendum**
- 11/20/20 Publish Statement of Result in *Newspaper of General Circulation*

*Prepared by: Scott Leo, Esq., Partner
Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP*

V. SALES TAX DISCUSSION

Commissioner Comer stated that there has been general discussion around a quarter-cent local sales tax referendum which would require approval by voters. The tax would generate approximately \$3.6M and there was some discussion around splitting the proceeds between School capital projects and waterway dredging. Commissioner Comer stated that it would provide flexibility with school capital, would require public support and buy-in and questioned if the School would be in support; we cannot do all that we need to do at the Schools with tax dollars. Mr. McLean shared that he feels they would unanimously support the referendum.

Commissioner Wheatly shared that there would need to be discussion around the amount to cap funding for the waterways. Commissioner Comer stated that the amount might be \$5M, but suggested that Mr. Gregory Rudolph, Shore Protection Officer, and Mr. Gene Foxworth, Assistant County Manager, work with the Waterways Committee to determine a potential cap.

Commissioner Wheatly stated that the School Bond Referendum and the Tax Referendum would be at the same time.

Ms. Chadwick asked if the bond passed, what would it cost someone with a \$150K home. Ms. Meshaw stated that two cents would be approximately an additional \$30; 3.2 cents would be approximately \$48 for a \$150K home.

Mr. McLean shared that he appreciates the relationship with the Board of Commissioners and what the Commissioners have done throughout the years – recognizing Commissioner Robinson's time as a Commissioner, and his help with assisting the schools.

Mr. Burns stated that it was a tight deadline and suggested that the two Chairmen discuss further.

Commissioner Comer stated that he is not comfortable placing a blanket number for the construction of a new elementary school in the western end of the County and suggested that the School System put together a more accurate estimate, including materials cost. It was noted that the amount shown was from an estimate the School System received in 2018.

Ms. Wheatly asked the capacity of the new proposed school; the response was 600-650.

Commissioner Mansfield shared that Commissioner Robinson was part of the group years ago that decided to build the new schools in the County and recognized him and others that have worked to make our School System what it is.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Robinson made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Farrington. **Motion carried unanimously.**



Bill Smith, Chairman



Rachel Hammer, Clerk to the Board