

## MINUTES – APRIL 8, 2013

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in special session at the Caswell County Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2013. County Commissioner Members present: Cathy W. Lucas, Chair, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Larry G. Hamlett, and N. Kent Williamson. Absent: Jeremiah Jefferies and Kenneth D. Travis, Vice-Chairman. School Board Members present: June Dailey, Chair, Gladys Garland, Vice-Chair, Mel Battle, David Byrd, Betty Sartin, Sylvia Johnson and Ross Gwynn, Jr. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, Dr. Doug Barker, Schools Superintendent and Angela Evans representing The Caswell Messenger. Paula P. Seamster, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

### MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chair Lucas opened the meeting of the Caswell County Board of Commissioners with a Moment of Silent Prayer.

Chair Lucas stated “First of all welcome and it is a pleasure to have everybody here. I see a lot of familiar faces. I would like to welcome everybody and I looked forward to this opportunity to get together and to discuss our mutual concerns especially when it comes to our upcoming budget.”

Chair Dailey opened the meeting of the Caswell County School Board.

Introductions were given from both Boards.

### WATERLINE FROM TOWN OF YANCEYVILLE TO NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Chair Lucas stated “The item on the agenda tonight is the waterline from the Town of Yanceyville to North Elementary School. At this point I think the Board of Commissioners need to be brought up to date to exactly where we stand with this particular issue.”

Commissioner Hall stated “Perhaps Kevin can give us an overview of what this is because everybody may not know for the record.”

Chair Lucas stated “Let me back up because there have been discussions the water line from the Town of Yanceyville to North Elementary School. It initially started out as an emergency water supply for the Town of Yanceyville and subsequently there have been discussions ongoing I should say and a couple of meetings have been held with the School Board, Kevin Howard and the Town of Yanceyville concerning the possibility of North School tapping into that line.”

Mr. Howard stated “The whole purpose of the line to my understanding is the Town of Yanceyville wants to have an emergency water connection with the City of Danville. There was one meeting with Ms. Dailey, Mr. Barker, myself and some town officials discussing it, the location of the pump station. I have not seen anything in writing about the current location I know they had some concerns that they wanted it to be north of the drive instead of south of the

drive if I remember that correctly so not to interfere with traffic flow and due to the general aesthetics of the lift station. I have talked with the City of Danville, I know that the Town said they had talked with Mayor Dunkley and he basically reiterated what they said. They don't mind giving it up if we feel it is in the best interest of the county to move forward and give our line to them and the school gets water from the Town of Yanceyville. The concern talked about was the sewer and what he said they would do is the same thing for VIR if we did that they would just get the water bill or the water reading from the meter and bill based on that reading."

Mr. Battle asked "Did you say that the purpose was for Yanceyville to have an emergency supply from Danville?" Mr. Howard responded "Yes sir." Mr. Battle continued "This has been going on for twenty years at North School, why is there an emergency?" Mr. Howard responded "To get a secondary water supply so if something happens to their water plant and they can't get water they can get water from the City of Danville. It will be an emergency supply from the City of Danville. The State is actually pushing these; I do know that, for the towns and cities to interconnect because of the droughts we had a few years ago it has been a big push on that because some places ran out of water. What they have done is apply for a loan to make that connection." Chair Dailey added "And they got grant money." Mr. Howard responded "Yes it was mostly loan and some grant money." Chair Lucas stated "But the issue with the grant money I understand was that it was applied for the purpose of an emergency line not to supply users for water, just as an emergency water supply for the Town of Yanceyville. So it was sort of applied for under different circumstances." Mr. Battle responded "That is kind of like a by-product of it. If you do one you get the other." Chair Lucas continued "Well no that is not my understanding as far as applying for this grant." Mr. Battle stated "That is what I don't understand."

Mr. Howard stated "I can't speak for the Town of Yanceyville but in most cases when you get that you are allowed to, if folks want to tap on and use that system they can do that."

Commissioner Carter stated "I will just give a little oversight on this since I have been in this for a long time. A lot of the cities now in the state like the City of Greensboro, they buy water from Burlington and Reidsville and High Point due to summer time their lakes get low and they can't supply the lakes. A lot of the cities are doing the interconnecting for emergency water lines. If there was something to happen to the water treatment plant here then they could simply open a valve and get water from the City of Danville or vice versa if something happened to the south side of Danville Yanceyville could supply water up to the hospital. You have other cities that interconnect with other cities and one thing on the 86 line over there, the trailer park over there across from the school they have been having some trouble with that and the State would like to get that hooked onto the water system. To get them hooked on now the County would have to run a line across the road and up the road. There is another problem over at North Elementary in which I have talked to Kevin, if the County decides to keep the line we are having low chlorine residuals over there because the school is the only connection on that Danville line and it does not have any other customers so the school is the only customer on it. It requires a lot of flushing out there to keep the chlorine residuals up."

Chair Lucas stated "Commissioner Carter I spoke to Barry Dunkley this afternoon and apparently the line from Yanceyville to North School would be a dead end like it is coming out

of Danville to North School, it is a dead end and they will have the same problem with chlorine residuals. I guess my question would be what is the position of the School Board at this point after meeting with the Town? You are with the understanding that well what is your understanding?" Ms. Dailey responded "Well right now the county owns that line." Chair Lucas stated "Exactly." Ms. Dailey continued "It was our understanding from that meeting that the run was going to be run by the Town of Yanceyville and there would be a pump station located somewhere probably on our property, on the school's property and the Town of Danville would really like to get rid of us as a water customer." Chair Lucas responded "That is contradictorily to what Barry Dunkley told me this afternoon. They have a surplus of 10 million gallons of water right now so we just have a difference of opinion and probably our Board needs to discuss it further because we really have not discussed it a lot."

Dr. Barker stated "Ms. Lucas we were told at the meeting that we don't have a choice with it." Chair Lucas responded "Oh were you?" Dr. Barker continued "And we were told that the water line was going to be run. That the county, the Town of Danville and the Town of Yanceyville had signed an agreement what three or four years ago, that they signed an agreement that they would be able to run that line. They are running the line on the right of way, the highway right of way and that they were going to tie into that and that the School District could either decide to if they wanted to get their water from the Town of Danville or they could get it from the Town of Yanceyville. They were hoping that we would get it from the Town of Yanceyville because there were supposedly issues with chlorine. The Town of Yanceyville's manager told us that he had already contacted Danville and that Danville was willing to give us up as a water user if we wanted to get it from Yanceyville and that they would still provide sewer for us. We asked if we could get some type of long term assurance that they would not drop us as a sewer customer because we have no way of having sewer on that site. We have not talked to anybody up until that point in time as a school district." Chair Lucas asked "When was that?" Dr. Barker responded "Kevin was that a month or so ago?" Mr. Howard responded "It has been about a month or three weeks ago."

Commissioner Hall stated "Madam Chair I guess my issue is not necessarily what is going to happen but will there be a negative impact on the school. That is my only concern. These other decisions can be made with the organizations involved but will it impact you guys negatively in any way with whatever happens? Is one worse than the other?" Ms. Dailey responded "As long as we have assurance for sewer that is our biggest concern is the assurance that we will have sewer from the City of Danville."

Mr. Howard stated "The water rates would be higher than Danville's rates." Mr. Byrd asked "So that is going to cost us more money?" Mr. Howard responded "The rates are higher. The only pro I would see is more water pressure on that line with Yanceyville as far as that goes."

Chair Lucas stated "It is good to know what your understanding was about that meeting because the Town I think called for the meeting with you folks and Kevin was in at the last minute so and we sort of got the information after the fact." Ms. Dailey responded "Well I went by today just to see where we were because my understanding was that they would be forwarding a layout and what the pump station would look like, the lift station, but I was told by the town manager that they were about 2 months behind. They are not that far along to where they can tell you what

they are going to do or how it is going to be laid out.” Chair Lucas stated “Our Board has not addressed it as a Board.” Ms. Dailey stated “We were still waiting for more information.”

Chair Lucas asked “Is there anymore discussion on the water line? Any other questions or concerns?”

Mr. Byrd asked “I have a question for Kevin. Who owns Farmer Lake?” Dr. Barker responded “The County owns it in theory.” Mr. Howard responded “We own the lake. We maintain the lake but the town gets the water out of it for free.” Mr. Byrd continued “The town gets the water out of it for free but it is the taxpayers that own it.” Commissioner Carter stated “Now wait a minute Kevin, years back when that lake was built the Town put up or the Sanitary District put up \$220,000.” Mr. Howard asked “On the lake itself?” Commissioner Carter responded “Yes.” Mr. Battle stated “There is a written document that says Farmer Lake belongs to Caswell County. I know that for a fact.” Mr. Howard stated “What I was trying to say is they don’t pay us for water.” Mr. Byrd asked “Are you all paying a water bill for this building?” Mr. Howard responded “Yes sir.” Mr. Byrd continued “With your own water?” Mr. Howard responded “Yes but it is treated when we get it.” Commissioner Hall stated “But the important thing here I think is to understand is whether we agree with it or not the commissioners at that time made that deal. They made the deal. We investigated and investigated and the commissioners made the deal and gave the Town the water in perpetuity.” Ms. Dailey asked “When you get more information can you pass it along to us?” Chair Lucas responded “Absolutely.”

Dr. Barker stated “We were also made to believe that the school district would be given the choice of tying onto the line from Yanceyville or keeping it with Danville, which ever was most advantageous to the school.” Chair Lucas asked “And right now your thought process is you need more information, is that what you are thinking?” Dr. Barker responded “We would have to know the rates. We would have to have an agreement with the sewer and all of that stuff. I still don’t think that affects from what I was told if that affects whether the line is run or not going to be run.” Chair Dailey added “It is going to be run.” Dr. Barker continued “I don’t think the school system has anything to do with that nor the county commissioners based on what I was told is going to be able to do anything except tie on to that. Now whether we chose to tie on to it or not the line is going to be there.” Chair Lucas stated “It is a question as to what happens to the line from the school to the Virginia line because we own that line currently so I think that is going to be the question in the future.” Dr. Barker stated “Correct me if I am wrong but I was lead to believe that the county commissioners had already signed something saying that they were in favor of having this done.” Mr. Howard responded “No the contract you are referring to is a contract to purchase water. That is all that contract is. That is just the agreement to purchase water.” Chair Lucas added “An emergency supply.” Dr. Barker stated “It can’t be an emergency line unless it is tapped onto that line.” Mr. Howard stated “They can attach to the line. What the issue is whether or not we are going to give them the line to where they run to the state line.”

Mr. Byrd asked “But this Board as a whole has not discussed it?” Chair Lucas responded “Not as a Board. After learning that there was a meeting we just needed to know what your understanding was on it.” Dr. Barker stated “Our situation works well right now. We don’t

know what the new situation may bring and I don't think anybody can tell you that until it is done."

Mr. Byrd stated "This board as a whole has not discussed it. The chairman and the superintendent have talked with them." Chair Lucas responded "That is pretty much the same situation we have here as well. There will be more information forthcoming."

#### SENATE 236

Chair Lucas stated "You folks that the opportunity I believe to meet with Senator Woodard." Ms. Dailey responded "We did." Chair Lucas continued "Did he have any particular thoughts on this Senate bill?" Ms. Dailey asked "Do you mean pros and cons on whether he thought it was going to pass or not?" Chair Lucas responded "Right." Ms. Dailey responded "I did not get the impression from him that he thought it was a good idea but I will say that I did get the impression that he thinks it is going to pass." Chair Lucas asked "It is in committee right now, is that right? Let's go back to what it is and I will just read a brief summary of it here. This bill would give to counties the option to decide how deeply they want to get involved in school construction on issues such as land acquisition, construction management, and repairs and renovations. This bill does not mandate any changes in the current set up of which school boards make these decisions instead it does give counties the option to decide if they want to become more involved in determining how and when school construction funds are spent. In January counties adopted the legislative goal to give counties the option to decide if they would like to have control of deciding acquisition of land and building and/or maintaining the public school facilities since counties are the entity that actually pays for the school construction. That is pretty much a summary from our perspective I guess."

Ms. Dailey stated "It is our understanding that even if it passes each county's commissioners decides whether or not they want to take that on." Chair Lucas responded "It is an option, right." Ms. Dailey continued "And if you do it is for a 10 year period. And it also goes on it is not just the siting and the construction of the new, it's the maintenance, the repairs, the equipping, the acquiring, the maintenance, your maintenance personnel and from our perspective in looking at trying to do a budget we needed some idea from your Board what your thoughts were. If this is something if it does pass is this something that your Board is going to say yes that is something that we want to do because it will affect how we do our budget." Chair Lucas responded "Of course it will. I guess as far as the pros and cons of what that would do or what it would mean to this Board, it is a question mark. It is sort of an unknown area. We have not discussed it as a Board how to proceed. That is something that we need to do."

Mr. Byrd asked "You all signed on with the resolution to support this bill, is that correct?" Chair Lucas responded "At the legislative goals I think we did." Commissioner Hall added "Yes." Mr. Battle asked "In theory do you agree with that, if you signed off?" Chair Lucas responded "In theory without knowing all the particulars and the pros and cons." Mr. Battle continued "There are pros and there are cons." Mr. Battle asked "I guess what I am asking is which side are you leaning on? It is like I am giving you a gift, do you want it?"

Ms. Dailey stated “I think it really interjects a whole new set of problems that you have not had before. Typically when we get ready to build anything which we don’t do real often but even in the renovations it is talk the education community and you see what design is best. What will work best for getting across the education of the children. When you all look at construction what you have going through your mind is not those same types of things that we have. The other thing in maintenance and repair, right now our buildings are in really good shape. We have been able to float along to where right now everything is in good shape for the most part. But when you have maintenance people and you all take a building, the county’s maintenance is county people on our property well it’s your property but in with our staffing it is just a whole different set of problems. I don’t think it would be a good thing for us and I don’t see what the benefit would be for the county commissioners to do that. That is one thing that we need to know in order to go forth with trying to budget.”

Commissioner Williamson stated “Even if it did pass there would have to be some discussions between us and you all before it could even happen so as far as this year’s budget this should not affect this year’s budget. It might be a couple years down the road but at the same time if you work with us we can work with you all so it could stay as it is. For some counties, I think this bill started out as a Wake County thing. Some of the small counties may see things differently so I don’t think it is a problem right now as far as this year’s budget. If we were to do something like that we would definitely have to take time to discuss this and talk with you all. I don’t think we would jump and do something like this. I am sure our Board is not that way.” Chair Dailey responded “So do you think in working with our upcoming budget is it safe to say that we can stay like we have been in years past?” Commissioner Williamson responded “On my part, yes. I can’t speak for everybody.”

Dr. Barker stated “I just want to remind this Board and it is not something that I am going to deal with but right now the school district is able to pick up all the costs of the custodians that we have in each of the buildings. If in fact those school buildings no longer belong to the school district the funds that we get to do that would either go to something else because we would not be allowed to take state funds to fund county positions. If you look at the number of positions that is a huge payroll. Right now you basically fund the five or six individuals that we have for maintenance out of the budget from the county commissioners. That bill also gives you the ability to take over those the responsibility for renting those facilities to anybody that wanted to rent them.” Chair Lucas asked “So what is your maintenance staff currently?” Dr. Barker responded “We have six employees in maintenance without custodians.” Chair Lucas continued “And how many custodians do you have?” Dr. Barker responded “I would have to go back and check but right off the top of my head we have at least four per school so that would be at least twenty or twenty-five people that you would have to pick up, their salaries, their benefits and those kind of things.”

Ms. Johnson stated “I thought that I heard or read that if this bill did pass that it would go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>. Do you know when that would have to start?” Ms. Dailey responded “If it passes I don’t know.” Chair Lucas stated “It would be with the option to support or not support by this Board.” Ms. Dailey stated “To exercise that option to take them over or not and it is on a 10 year cycle. That is what is proposed.” Chair Lucas asked “Would it be reviewed again at the end of the 10 year cycle?” Ms. Dailey responded “Yes.” Chair Lucas continued “The option would

become available again at the end of the 10 year cycle?" Ms. Dailey responded "Yes, that is my understanding."

### SEQUESTRATION ISSUE

Chair Lucas stated "As far as the county is concerned Kevin has an overview."

Mr. Howard stated "I guess our concern was how it would affect the school system when you come to us next year. How it is going to affect us, Meals on Wheels, EMS and anything that is affected by Medicaid is affecting us as far as that goes as far as reductions in reimbursements. It depends on where Medicaid comes in."

Chair Dailey stated "Well our finance officer had sat down and of course this is just a projection because that rate can still vary but based on a 8.2 and he said it could be as much as 12 but anyway at a 8.2 projected cut in Title programs and career/technical education would amount to \$154,851 for the coming year. Of course the following year would be a little less because you have already been cut that 8.2 but it would be 8.2 the following year. Now how it actually shakes out I don't know but this is actually a projection of what he sees."

Commissioner Hall asked "What programs would that impact?" Chair Dailey responded "Career and Technical Education, Title VI, Title I Basic Programs, EC Programs, State Improvement, Improving Teacher Quality, Rural and Low Income Schools, and Special Needs. All of them are important programs. We are kind of on a wait to see how it all shapes out." Chair Lucas asked "And he got an 8.2 projection from?" Chair Dailey responded "Talking to different people. That is what they are thinking it is going to be." Chair Lucas continued "My understanding was 5 but I don't know." Dr. Barker responded "We have heard anywhere from 4.8 to 12% so we kind of hit in the middle. I don't think anybody knows at this point in time." Chair Lucas stated "It is speculative right now. It is just a wait on see." Chair Dailey responded "It is for everybody."

### NJROTC FUNDING/TEACHER'S SUPPLEMENTS

Chair Dailey stated "The teacher's supplements is one of the things that we have had on our budget request for several years since you have cut it out. Every year we are seeing more and more of our young teachers who get jobs here and will teach here a year or two and then go to a neighboring county when an opening comes up because they are able to get a supplement there. It is hurting us. It is hurting the kids. And the other program there, the NJROTC funding that we have had help with we got notification that we will no longer get help with that program which means either we are going to have to pick up the half that we had been reimbursed for or we are going to have to drop the program." Chair Lucas asked "Is that through the Department of Defense where that money comes from?" Chair Dailey responded "It's Naval."

Commissioner Hall asked "How much money are we talking about?" Chair Dailey responded "I think the estimate that we had was \$144,000 and some odd dollars. And that is a program that some kids will fit into that don't excel in anything else and it teaches discipline and those kids are always volunteering for parking you know for all kinds of community service type things. It is really a good program." Chair Lucas responded "So you got a letter saying you were being cut

50% is that what you are saying?" Chair Dailey responded "No we got a letter saying that they would no longer fund any of it and what they had been funding was not at 50%." Chair Lucas continued "Did all school system get cut?" Chair Dailey responded "No they cut quite a few, that is my understanding. They had a certain number that they had to cut because of the federal budget." Chair Lucas asked "How did they pick and choose who to cut?" Chair Dailey responded "Well I think they looked at the numbers, the size of your school and your amount of participation. Of course our population at the school has dropped over the last few years and of course the numbers have dropped in that program so I think that was part of the criteria." Mr. Battle added "It is not a mandatory program. It is one of those that we feel that it does help some kids and there are a lot of benefits from it but it costs." Chair Lucas asked "Is there any way to advocate to get the funding back in place?" Chair Dailey responded "We tried." Mr. Battle added "If we did that we would not have the sequestration. We would not have the cuts that we have or the furloughs coming. All of this is in the same pot basically."

Commissioner Hamlett asked "How many kids do you have in the program?" Dr. Barker responded "About 80 right now. We fluctuate between 68 and 74." Commissioner Carter stated "It is a very good program." Chair Dailey responded "It really is." Commissioner Carter continued "So you are saying June around \$147,000?" Chair Dailey responded "That is the estimate that we got from the Navy guy. And the teacher's supplements we used the figures we have used for the last few years which is close to the figure the last year that you did fund it was about \$210,000."

Chair Lucas asked "Can you clear something up for me because I just recall when I was previously here and we were funding the teacher's supplement it was in a separate line item and then it changed some time after I left and the money was still the same but it went into general operating I think." Chair Dailey responded "It was still a separate line item." Chair Lucas asked "It was." Chair Dailey responded "Yes." Chair Lucas continued "So the money was never cut, it just went into..." Chair Dailey responded "No that line item was completely cut out." Chair Lucas asked "But the funding was still put in place is that not right?" Chair Dailey and Mr. Battle responded "No." Mr. Battle added "There was discussion one time to give the School Board x number of dollars for them to make a decision but the separate line item was deleted." Chair Lucas stated "So the funding was cut?" Mr. Battle responded "Yes." Chair Dailey responded "You did not give us the \$210,000 and we used it for something else, no I can assure you." Chair Lucas continued "But I remember it being a separate line item all together." Chair Dailey responded "And that is what we have always done. The last two years we have actually put it on a separate piece of paper so that you could see exactly what we were requesting that had not been included, that had not been funded in the previous budget. I don't think anything on that list for the last two years got funded."

Commissioner Carter stated "I would like to see if we could keep the NJROTC program if there is any way possible."

Commissioner Hall asked "Let me ask this kind of related question, what has been the high school enrollment for the last 3 or 4 years? Numbers? It does not have to be exact." Mr. Battle responded "Less than 1,000." Chair Dailey added "It has dropped some." Commissioner Hall continued "Year by year?" Chair Dailey responded "I don't have that with me." Mr. Battle

responded “I will give you an example about 10 years ago we had right around 1,100 students, that was my last year there and it has dwindled down to 780 now or 800 or somewhere in that range and it has continued to drop every year.” Commissioner Hall stated “So this is 2012-2013 you have almost 800 students. Well 2011-2012.” Mr. Battle responded “Right.” Commissioner Hall continued “Do you know what it was a year before that or is that something you have to look up?” Chair Dailey responded “I can look it up but I don’t have that with me.” Dr. Barker stated “We have been losing in the total school district 30 – 40 student per year over the last few years now. If you will look back at your kindergarten enrollment and follow that through that stabilized about 4 years ago so your numbers should be about the same from here on out for the next 8 to 10 years.” Commissioner Hall asked “How about the dropout rate, has that changed very much?” Dr. Barker responded “It is actually better now than it was 2 or 3 years ago.”

Chair Lucas asked “I think I was reading where there was a bill introduced to raise that age from 16 to 17 is that right?” Mr. Battle responded “It was introduced yes.” Dr. Barker stated “Last year there was one introduced to raise from 16 to 17 and one was from 16 to 18 but it did not pass.”

#### SCHOOL BOARD NEEDS/FUNDING FOR 2013-2014 BUDGET YEAR

Chair Dailey asked “Where do you want me to start?” Chair Lucas asked “Do you have a list?” Chair Dailey responded “No because I thought we were just talking about sequestration until this morning and all we have done is preliminary you know as far as looking at the budget because of the not knowing what would happen with some of this other stuff. One of the big things that we are trying to work on is our safety issues because there has been so much concern about safety in schools we have tried to identify some areas where we could put in place additional measures to enhance the safety of the students. Some of that we have been able to do out of our current budget. Some of it we are getting estimates on that may require some county funding or match with ADM for those projects but we won’t know that until we do get some estimates.”

Chair Lucas asked “What would that be June as far as examples?” Chair Dailey responded “For example you have Oakwood School over here. That campus is very open. When you come up to the front you have two front doors and then you have the cafeteria that is not enclosed with the building. It is just an open walkway. You have to the left there you have a sidewalk that goes to the kindergarten buildings. All of that is open. Those outside doors to all of those buildings. We tried to think what would make that more secure to where somebody would have to come in the main entrance and be buzzed in. In order to do that we are going to have to put up some kind of barrier to where the sidewalks going to the kindergarten building is not accessible and also where the open walkway there between the building and the cafeteria so we are going to have an architect that is going to look possibly at the open brick wall something that would still look nice but would secure those buildings from just anybody walking up and being able to walk into them. That kind of thing. The camera and the buzz in those kinds of things we are trying to work into our current budget but there may be some larger things in the high school campus.” Chair Lucas asked “Do you already have the buzzer system in place at any of the schools?” Chair Dailey responded “We have the buzzer system at North and at South.” Chair Lucas continued “And it works well there?” Chair Dailey responded “Yes it has. They have been please with that.” Dr. Barker added “We have it on the front door and on one of the back doors.

We don't have it on the whole layout of the school. We started at the front and we also put one on the back so the teachers could come in with their kids from the playground and that kind of stuff. But if you will look at all of these schools there are multiple doors and if they are not kept locked at all times or if something gets in there is no camera system on any of those. At the high school there is not a camera system around behind the school so if anybody comes up from the backside there is no way of knowing that unless someone comes to the front desk."

Commissioner Hall asked "Have you all considered a security study?" Dr. Barker responded "Well we have our principals looking with staff." Commissioner Hall continued "I mean professionals?" Dr. Barker continued "I know. They are set up to be doing that now so that we can identify areas that we know needs to be funded to do that. They are going to a training session in May that the State is putting on with EMS and we have coordinated that with you EMS people here on what we need to be looking for on your campus. We thought we would do what we could do first before we brought someone in and say what are you going to do. We know we need fencing. You can walk on Bartlett Yancey's campus right now just about any time you want to and they won't know you are there for a long time. It is such an open campus. We know that there are thousands of dollars of security needs that we have without going out to get a consultant firm to come in and tell you that it is going to cost one hundred million dollars to put in this security system and you need to do that." Commissioner Hall stated "I was not thinking so much about the costs but all of the possible options. I think we need to know those options to what could be done, to what some outside person thinks needs to be done because sometimes we are too close to these situations and we don't see the possibilities, the negative possibilities and we don't think like criminals." Chair Dailey stated "That is one reason that we had the EMS and law enforcement that we going to help do this training on what to look for and to identify some of those needs that we might not see." Dr. Barker added "Unfortunately Mr. Hall with school business and the issues that we have had there with the mass shootings almost every case these individuals that have done that were not identified as criminals. They had no criminal record until they do what they do." Commissioner Hall responded "I understand that. That is why I suggested some type of professional look see to hear all the options." Dr. Barker stated "The board has looked with us also on some of those issues. The board has said that they want us to look at it from the standpoint what do we know that needs to be done right now and fund out of our existing budget and what do we need to bring to you as far as the cost of things that we know needs to be done. We are trying to do this in a cost effective manner and then go from there." Commissioner Hall stated "That is a sensible approach."

Mr. Byrd stated "One source we have is the ADM funds but we need the dollars figured out so we can get that from the county. That is a source that we can use to provide some funds." Commissioner Hall asked "Are you aware of all the various proposals with the ADM funds that are on the table right now? They might go away."

Dr. Barker stated "Ms. Lucas one thing that is extremely important to us we need to if at all possible to get back the \$150,000 that the county commissioners have chosen to cut out of our capital budget for the last two years. Those things are continuation things that we need to continue to have. We can't continue to absorb the \$150,000 cut in that budget of what it was 3 years ago. We have been asked to do that for two years running and transportation costs as far as gas is concerned and fuel to go in the schools has gone up and up. Things that are having to be

funded out of that budget and to take \$150,000 out of that budget the board cannot continue to keep the schools up at the level that they are now let alone try to improve them any at all unless we get that money back. It is senseless to get the buildings in the shape that they are in now and let them go back down to where they were not many years ago.”

Chair Lucas asked “So how many different funds right now do you pull from for capital needs?” You have your Lottery and your ADM and what else?” Chair Dailey responded “What you all fund.” Chair Lucas continued “Exactly. I don’t know if you have it with you or not but do you have your fund balance, what is available right now?” Dr. Barker responded “The fund balance I think is the board agreed was \$275,000 for what we were supposed to keep in the capital outlay budget from what the county commissioners gave us. I think this is probably eight to one hundred thousand dollars over that in the budget right now.” Chair Lucas asked “Your overall general fund?” Dr. Barker responded “That is it for capital.” Chair Lucas continued “For the school?” Dr. Barker responded “That is correct.”

Chair Dailey stated “Some other things that we are facing are is technology and the fact that textbook funding is about dried up and it is not going to be many years that all of these kids are going to have to have some kind of electronic device in order to get their books and that is going to be up to the School Board to fund the ones that can’t.”

Chair Lucas asked “How does that work now I mean as far as the high school with technology needs? Do they have computer labs? You are saying...” Chair Dailey responded “I am saying that each individual is going to have to have their own. Right now we have a few mobile labs which are classroom work on a cart because some of our testing that is the only way you can test is online so that cart goes to that classroom for that exam or that testing. It is going to come to the point to where instead of a textbook that these children have they are going to have to have a device in order to have the material for the textbook to even do homework or study. Even right now with the common core we don’t have textbooks that are aligned with any of the common cores that the State says that you have to teach. Our teachers and students are looking when they have the opportunity for anything online that will enhance and get across the points that they have to teach but that is going to be a tremendous pot of money.”

Commissioner Hall asked “Do we have a ballpark figure of what that is going to be?” Chair Dailey responded “No sir because we have not even looked at what kind of device is going to be the best. I know that Rockingham County got a grant for Kron books a couple of years ago for all of their middle schoolers, I believe. They are already having problems because of the capacity of some of those devices. We have not gotten to the point where we have investigated what device and what age groups are going to be the most effective and last the longest.” Dr. Barker added “What we are looking at now is the Notebook or what they call a Notebook that the kids use. If we buy those the State contract is between six and seven hundred dollars so you can just multiple that by the number of kids we have which is 2800 roughly or 2880, roughly 2900 times \$600 per kid that is what the kids would have in their hands but the school district on top of that has to put infrastructure with the schools so that they are Wi-Fi connected and wireless within the schools so all of those devices have to be put in and additional ones that we need to have as well as routers to route from one place to the other so you are talking a half million dollars or more.” Commissioner Hall continued “Well I can’t do that kind of arithmetic in my

head but I am thinking probably a couple million. Personally that is where education is going and we might as well get ready for it.” Chair Dailey added “That is right because we are not going to have a choice.” Commissioner Hall stated “That is right. The idea of textbooks is well textbooks are over. They will be \$1.6 million so we are still talking \$2 million up front but afterwards a lot of textbooks can be downloaded and these things can be reused. We are going in that direction so we need to get some numbers from somewhere so we can start finding the money.”

Chair Dailey “I wanted you to be aware that that is where we are headed and what it may mean is you put this much aside this year or you start out small with one school or two schools as you can afford to. Anyway I wanted you all to be aware of what was coming with that.”

Commissioner Williamson asked “Do you have anybody to search grants out for the School System?” Chair Dailey responded “We don’t have a grant writer.” Commissioner Williamson continued “Maybe that is something that you can join with the county, the Town of Yanceyville and everybody to try to find some grants for this. We are not huge individually but we can put all of resources together to search grants out and write some grants to get some of this money for these types of things. Some of the larger counties apply for these grants. We need to get some of these grant monies.” Ms. Dailey responded “They have the money where they can pay a grant writer on staff all the time which is something that we have never done.”

Commissioner Hall stated “I think we need to refocus our priorities some and look ahead because we are short changing our kids. Once they leave Caswell County they have to compete with those kids from Wake and everywhere else so we have to look at that and some way or another between the two boards and everybody else we have to do what is necessary to get our kids prepared to compete and we just have to do it.” Chair Dailey responded “I agree. There are also some charter school bills that have been introduced that could have a negative impact on the funding that we have available too. I don’t know if any of you all have been keeping up with those but there are several.” Commissioner Hall asked “I have been keeping up with them but are there any charter schools in the county right now?” Chair Dailey responded “Not located in this county but we do...” Commissioner Hall asked “Are you compensating some?” Chair Dailey responded “Yes we have kids that we pay for from this county that we pay for.” Commissioner Hall asked “Are the other Board members aware of what I have just asked Ms. Dailey? We do have to pay for kids, part of their tuition, if they chose to go to a charter school.” Chair Dailey added “So out of what you fund us we have to send a portion of it depending on the numbers to those other schools.” Commissioner Hall stated “There is a bill pending that will allow us if we so desire to help construct charter schools and I have to smile when I say that but some of these things are going to move pretty fast in the next two or three weeks.” Chair Dailey stated “And the number of new applications for charter schools is 70 this year.” Mr. Battle added “They just approved 23 last week.” Chair Dailey continued “And some of the legislature that has been introduced takes dollars in addition to the dollars you all send us that we send them and there will be other dollars that we will have to send if this gets passed. That is another thing that could and Dr. Barker talked a little bit about the fuel and how that is costing us. Are there other things Dr. Barker that you wanted to touch on?”

Dr. Barker stated “We have a number of buildings that the paving around the building is to the point that if we don’t do something either about repaving it or sealing it somehow we are going to lose the investment that we have in those parking areas and bus areas that we have. As you well know the cost of asphalt and what it is costing you know to do that is a tremendous amount of money to just do a parking lot where the buses park or to do a teacher’s parking lot or the road coming into the school and we are in desperate need to be able to fund that at a decent level. The money we have been putting in the budget over the years if you look at last year’s budget for example in paving we put in that budget about \$70,000 and that does very little paving on a large scale like we have been having to do. There are hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of paving needed in order to keep the pavement that you have got.” Chair Lucas asked “So have you prioritized your paving projects? Say for this year what would be your priorities?” Dr. Barker responded “Well I think we have talked about it, we have got to reseal Dillard School. It is 11 going on 12 years now and it has not been resealed and if you don’t reseal it about every 10 years you are going to lose it to the point where you have to start doing major repairs compared to sealing it. You can reseal it far cheaper than you can pave it. The second part would be the driveway and around the front of the school and the teacher parking lot we have at South Elementary School. This is one of the ones that we have looked at. We have also looked at North since they are at the same level but we had to do the circle part at North the other year. There are a number of issues like that that we try to look at and try to pave it as we can do that. It is expensive to do that.”

Chair Lucas asked “June how far along are you in your budget process?” Chair Dailey responded “We are not that far along. We have done some preliminary stuff but like I said we kind of held back until we talked with you.” Chair Lucas stated “I wish we would have had this meeting maybe earlier but I am just glad that we are meeting now. We are just getting started with our as well.” Chair Dailey responded “Well now that we know that this next year we can plan the same as we have before as far as our facilities go I think we can move on. There is still so much that we don’t know you know like the sequester and those kinds of things. We don’t know what the end result is going to do and even with the state budget.” Chair Lucas stated “That is true. It is a guessing game.” Chair Dailey stated “But at least we can put something together based on the information that we have at the present time.”

#### OTHER COUNTY COMMISSIONER BUSINESS

Commissioner Hall asked “I just want to ask how we sit in our Math and Sciences in the school system? How good are we doing? Do we need anything in that area?” Chair Dailey responded “I am going to be real honest with you. We are having a really hard time keeping good math teachers.” Commissioner Hall continued “So what is our plan?” Chair Dailey responded “It would really help if we had a supplement. A supplement would help because most systems, we lost an excellent math teacher around Christmas time and an excellent English teacher to Guilford County because of signing bonuses and supplements.” Commissioner Hall asked “And I asked that because we might as well recognize that we are going to have that problem and we need to try to get a plan to try to deal with it. Those excellent teachers, many of them, how many of them live in the county?” Chair Dailey responded “Those two did.” Dr. Barker added “They were in the school system since they were in kindergarten.” Chair Dailey continued “And they are gone.” Commissioner Hall continued “So again we have to figure out a way to deal with it

because we are short changing our students when they don't get the math and science basics from K through 12. We have to make it a priority." Mr. Byrd stated "We have to have money." Commissioner Hall responded "That is why I asked what the plans were. Well then we need to pay them."

Chair Lucas asked "Are you having issues on the elementary end or the high school?" Chair Dailey responded "More on the high school. Middle and high school."

Commissioner Hall stated "I understand and that is why we are having this conversation. It is just like anything else. Gas went up. Those of us that have to drive somewhere we still have to find a way to pay for it. Math and Science is too important to leave it and say we just don't have the money. Somebody should be up here talking to this Board every month until we get the money or reprioritizing something that we have because we are crippling these kids. They are crippled for life if they don't get those basics." Chair Dailey asked "And if I had stood up here every month and asked for it do you think I would have got it?" Commissioner Hall responded "I don't know but you would have got my vote and that is what it is going to take." Dr. Barker added "It should not take every month to do that. You know as well as every commissioner here that this has been an issue and having to come twelve times instead of one time ought not be an issue." Commissioner Hall responded "I agree it should not be but don't write the kids off. You are writing this off if somebody is not coming." Mr. Sartin responded "Because you have written us off."

Chair Lucas asked "Is Algebra II being taught at the high school?" Chair Dailey responded "Yes." Dr. Barker added "You have to have it to graduate." Chair Lucas continued "I thought so but I was looking at the report card and there was no numbers there." Mr. Battle responded "It is not a testing class. It used to be." Chair Lucas stated "With BY 55.3% as opposed to 70.9% in the district and 78% with the state." Chair Dailey asked "What year are you looking at?" Chair Lucas responded "2011-12. But it is good at the middle school. You are right on target with math with the district and for the state, 63%. That is good." Commissioner Hall asked "Wait what does that 63% mean?" Chair Lucas responded "Student scored at or above grade level." Commissioner Hall continued "63% you think that is good?" Chair Lucas responded "Well it is not good but it is along the lines with the state and district. Not good but tolerable." Commissioner Hall stated "I think the State is bad." Chair Lucas responded "That is why I am saying it is tolerable." Commissioner Hall continued "I think it is reasonable to expect a passing grade." Chair Lucas responded "Well I do too." Commissioner Hall stated "And we should not just accept because somebody around us is failing or the state is failing that it is okay for our kids to fail." Chair Lucas responded "Well at North it is 85.9% which is above the district and state level."

Mr. Battle stated "Just shifting gears a little bit. Something that concerns me because I have been on both sides. I know that you all get many invitations to events and we have to juggle our schedules but when we have graduation don't many of you show up. That concerns me. I think to show support because you are the funding vehicle and there is space for you on the podium and I for one would love to see you there. Now when I was sitting where you sit now everybody came but when I left that does not happen now. You are going to get an invitation." Chair Lucas asked "Well what was your secret to get everybody there?" Mr. Battle responded "I don't know."

Maybe you all were scared of me then. I don't know but we had everybody there. But I would love to have you all there."

Chair Lucas stated "The Scholars Luncheon, I think all the commissioners got an invitation to the scholars' luncheon and that is an impressive event. I think it should be attended by everyone as well." Chair Dailey added "Those kids need to know that we support them because they have done well." Chair Lucas continued "It is well put together and whoever is responsible for it should be commended."

Chair Dailey asked "I would like to ask a question before we adjourn. At what point does your Board expect our proposed budget?" Mr. Howard responded "I would like to present the Board with the budget the first meeting in May." Chair Dailey continued "The first meeting in May." Mr. Howard responded "Last year it was the second meeting in May because of the state budget. That is what I am shooting for." Dr. Barker stated "But we want our prior to that." Mr. Howard responded "Yes, preferably a couple weeks prior to that. With you just starting on it that may not be possible." Chair Dailey asked "And at that time is it your expectation that the board would come and go through it with you with what we have increased and what our needs are?" Mr. Howard responded "The way it work is that is the proposed budget or it is my budget that is given to the Board. They set up meetings after that usually between mid-May and mid-June to meet with whomever they so desire." Dr. Barker stated "We have met, myself, your finance director and Kevin here and gone over the budget. Once he gets it to the county commissioners they decide whether they want anybody to come and present anything or not." Chair Dailey stated "I know the last couple of years we have not come and presented anything." Dr. Barker responded "That is correct." Chair Dailey continued "So that is why I was asking the question."

Commissioner Hall asked "Is that a preference for your board?" Chair Dailey responded "If it would do any good. If it means standing up here and saying if you will look on page 1 this is what has increased and the reason it has increased. If it is not going to do any good to do that then it is a waste of time." Commissioner Hamlett stated "That would help because we may not know what we are looking at or for."

Chair Dailey asked "Was there any information that you wanted that we did not have tonight that we can get for anybody?" Chair Lucas responded "Not that I am aware of."

Chair Lucas asked "I would like to ask which auditing firm the School Board uses currently?" Chair Dailey responded "I know what it is but I can't think of what it is right off." Chair Lucas asked "Where are they from?" Dr. Barker stated "I think Asheboro." Mr. Byrd stated "Bernard and Robertson. Chair Dailey stated "If you want that information I can get it to you."

Chair Lucas asked "Are there any other concerns or questions? If not I would like to say thank you for being with us and I think it has been very beneficial for everyone. Commissioner Williamson had recommended that maybe we set up some sort of quarterly meetings to meet with the School Board and it might be helpful so that we stay more in tune with what everybody's needs are. That is something that we can talk about.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m. Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Williamson to adjourn the Caswell County Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sartin moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson to adjourn the Caswell County School Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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Paula P. Seamster  
Clerk to the Board

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Cathy W. Lucas  
Chair

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