

Joint Meeting – April 3, 2018

Graham County Commissioners and Graham County School Board

The Graham County Board of Commissioners and the Graham County School Board met Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for a joint meeting to discuss the upcoming budget year. All boards was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Eller asks Manager Garland to begin the discussion. Manager Garland stated that she has been speaking with Superintendent Angela Knight and School Finance Officer Lester Greene about their upcoming budget year and the shortfalls that they are expecting. Manager Garland stated that the board of commissioners approved the school to have \$570,000.00 general funding; \$60,000.00 in contingency in the event that the SRS funding went away and \$16,500.00 in capital outlay. Manager Garland stated that we released the \$60,000.00 to them in October 2017. Manager Garland stated that the Board of Education re-appropriated \$85,000.00 in sales tax reversion money for current expenses as well. Manager Garland stated that we did receive some timber money but it was less than anticipated. Manager Garland stated that Mr. Greene had predicted that their school fund balance at the year-end would be \$14,000.00 and this is a scary place for the school board. Manager Garland stated that the board can access the ADM and Lottery money which is around \$70,000.00. Manager Garland turned the meeting over to Lester Greene.
4. Mr. Greene gave a background of the financial situation and how everything occurred. Mr. Greene presented the board a projected cash-flow-local current expense fund sheet. The school has restrictions on state and federal funding and are only allotted so much money to spend in a school year and expenses keep increasing yearly such as utilities. Mr. Greene stated that he has unfunded mandates from the state which included salary increases which causes the school to match FICA, insurance, etc. Mr. Greene stated that for the fiscal year 2017/2018 their expenses are greater than their revenues. The boards discussed the pots of money that are available to the school which includes restricted money. Mr. Greene stated that the cost to run a school system has risen each year and we are told that this could get worse due to unfunded mandates by the state.
5. Ms. Knight stated that on page two is the central office reductions, the teacher assistant's reductions and the mandated matching benefits. Mr. Greene stated that the central office costs have increased over the years. The board discussed Impact Aid and Fund 8 Grants.
6. The board discussed the money needed to last through the end of the school year. The board discussed small schools funding and how this has been cut as well.
7. Principal David Matheson stated that they have to work with \$7,000.00 instead of the normal \$20,000.00 for computer software, field trips and clubs and this is very hard to do. Ms. Knight stated that the school bought the school supplies this year for the students but did not think this could continue.
8. Assistant Superintendent Robert Moody stated that our kids needed a football field which is handicap accessible, larger bathroom facilities that are safe and handicap accessible. The school is making plans to construct new bathrooms where the concession stand is now located and to move the concession stand to the press box. The school stated that Brandon Lovin is doing all the demolition and fencing for free which they are very grateful for. The boards discussed the repairs to the cheerleading deck and to the visitor's stands and fencing.
9. The boards all agreed that we needed long term plans on repairs and this gives a better understanding of the needs for the school.
10. The boards discussed the mandate from the judge on new court facilities and the strain that this will put on the county budget.
11. Principal Hooper stated that our teacher's assistants are shared among the teaching staff because of the cuts. Principal Hooper stated that it is very hard on a teacher that has (18) five year olds all day by themselves. The boards discussed the need to expand classrooms and where they would be located.

12. The board discussed the cost per class and the need to add three new classrooms. The board all agreed that we need to take care of our schools and they would figure something out for everyone.
13. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Dale E. Wiggins, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board