

October 3, 2018

A special convened meeting of the Giles County School Board and Giles County Board of Supervisors was held at 5:00 p.m. on October 3rd, 2018 in the School Administration Office Building. Persons present were:

Marion C. Ballard
Melissa R. Guynn
Phillip A. Pennington
Stephen M. Steele
Mark A. Wilburn
Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Jeff Morris
Richard McCoy
Larry Jay Williams
John C. Lawson
Paul "Chappy" Baker
Chris McKlarney
Missy Bray

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ballard and Mr. Morris.

Mr. Morris said that he was glad that both groups could meet together today and he is hopeful that everyone could get something put together as a group. He hopes everyone can work together as a group. Mr. Ballard thanked the Board of Supervisors for having them. He has heard some negatives going into the meeting. He is not angry with anyone on the Board of Supervisors. He has been disappointed several times, but he is not angry. The focus on this side is on the students, teachers, administrators and support staff. He stated that they have worked together for health insurance and on the compensation committee. Mr. McCoy stated that they have heard from some individuals that may not have understood the insurance and some had the insurance cost numbers incorrect. He feels like the insurance committee was a positive and hears that the compensation committee is positive as well. Mr. Steele stated that Mr. McKlarney is doing a great job with the compensation committee. The meetings have been fantastic. He is hopeful that we can get the teachers caught up on their salaries. Mr. Wilburn stated that he was glad to see Mr. Morris at the GEA Town Hall meeting to help answer questions – it meant a lot to them for him to be there.

Mr. Ballard first discussed school board member legal responsibility. He handed out the budget meeting schedule that is coming up in the next few weeks and extended an invitation to the BOS members and Mr. McKlarney to attend any of them that they can. We meet with the staff to see what their needs are.

Mr. Ballard discussed a few needs such as school buses, track, new lifts at the high schools, etc. He stated that some of these items can run into legal issues if not corrected. Mr. Steele stated that we would like to know more information about expected revenue so we know how to build our plan for school system needs. Mr. Steele asked if they knew what the anticipated revenue might be in the next couple of years. Mr. McKlarney stated that we have natural growth of about \$200K per year, but most of that money is spent across multiple agencies. Mr. Wilburn stated that our elementary schools are overcrowded right now. He stated that we need money to conduct the facility study to see the needs of our buildings and if we need to restructure. He stated that we need a middle school because we don't need 13 year olds with 18 year olds in one school. We need to do this for our kids.

Mr. Steele discussed that we are two types of service providers. The services in the county are different than what we need for the school. He stated that there is concern about not having enough custodians. They do a great job when they are in there, but we need more of them. Mr. Williams stated that if the School Board needs more janitors, then they should have asked. Mr. Steele stated that we have asked and Mr. Ballard stated that we want equal services as to what we had before the shared services contract. Mr. McKlarney stated that we (SBO) are paying \$250K less today for reimbursement than when (SBO) we handed over maintenance and custodians (none of the raises have been calculated), we (SBO) pay \$70K per year for the finance department and the school system didn't reimburse the \$120K at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Williams stated that an employee of the school system was here and stated that the Board of Supervisors are not doing their job. He stated that they don't get credit for what they have done. Mr. Williams asked if the school system was doing everything they could to

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save money. He stated that the Board of Supervisors has given the school system \$3 million in the last 9 years. Mr. Steele stated that we need to keep pushing forward for the kids.

Mr. Ballard stated that we would like to have the finance position back, probably an A and a B. Mr. McKlarney stated that it's not as simple as just wanting it back. Mr. Ballard stated that the School Board has discussed the concerns. Mr. Morris questioned where we would get the money from for the position(s). Mr. Ballard has a concern with having a combined finance department. Mr. McKlarney asked if we had a different finance director, whether anything would change. He is wondering what would change if we hired our (SBO) own finance director. Mr. Steele stated that we need a zero tolerance for not getting along. Mr. Steele would like for the school system to be able to pay someone to manage our budget. Board members will discuss more on this at the next work session.

Mrs. Guynn expressed the need to get the lifts fixed in our schools due to liability. She stated that we really need to do something for our teachers. Mr. Steele stated that we really need to evaluate our facilities so we have a plan to fix them when needed.

Mr. McKlarney stated that we are getting closer to have to do some major renovations on the schools.

Mr. McKlarney stated that he would love for a couple School Board members to meet on a regular basis with a couple Board of Supervisor members to keep things worked out among each other.

Mr. Williams had a concern about why we have kids on buses so early in the morning. Board members encouraged him to contact the proper individuals.

On motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Clerk