

**At a Special (Budget Work Session) Meeting of the
Sussex County Board of Supervisors
Held in the Sussex Social Services Conference Room on
Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 3 pm**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith C. Blowe
C. E. Fly, Sr.
Alfred G. Futrell
Rufus E. Tyler, Sr.

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT

Susan B. Seward
John A. Stringfield

STAFF PRESENT:

Vandy V. Jones, III, County Administrator
John Broderick, Director of Finance & Business Operations
Deste J. Cox, Treasurer
Brenda H. Drew, Housing Coordinator
Ernest Giles, Sheriff
Julius Hamlin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Arthur Jarrett, Jr., Superintendent
William Jenkins, General Registrar
Kelly W. Moore, Director of Finance
Adrienne Stephenson, Director of Human Resources
Shilton R. Butts, Assistant to the County Administrator/
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Item 1. Call to Order/Determine Quorum (3:06 p.m.)

The April 10, 2019 Special (Budget Work Session) meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Vice Chairman Blowe.

Item 2. The Invocation

The Invocation was offered by Supervisor Fly.

Item 3. The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Item 4. Agenda Amendment(s)

There were no agenda amendments.

Item 5. Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR TYLER and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the April 10, 2019 Special (Budget Work Session) Meeting as presented.

Voting aye: Supervisors Blowe, Fly, Futrell, Tyler

Voting nay: none

Absent: Supervisors Seward, Stringfield

Item 6. FY 2020 Budget Work Session

County Administrator Jones stated that the Special (Budget Work Session) meeting was scheduled primarily for the Public School System to allow the School Board to issue contracts in a timely manner.

County Administrator Jones noted the school requested level funding.

6.01 Sussex County Public Schools

Dr. Arthur Jarret, Superintendent of the Sussex County Public Schools, and members of School Board staff were present to answer any questions.

Dr. Arthur Jarrett gave a brief overview of the school's budget. Dr. Jarratt stated that the school's total budget is \$19,545,786, as noted in packet provided to the Board and County Administration staff. Of the total budget, the school is requesting \$7,994,170 in local funding from the County. He stated that Local, State, Federal, and other revenues are the School's four (4) revenue sources.

Dr. Jarrett stated that the school's Federal revenue has decreased. Dr. Jarratt stated that the school was in a project called VPI+. Some years back, the County provided \$80,000 funding to start a Pre-K program. The Federal Government closed out on the VPI+ Preschool Development Grant (PDG) monies for the Pre-K program. He stated \$271,000 was cut from their Federal budget, which is funding for the entire Pre-K program. He noted, however, that the Governor was supportive of public education. The Governor included monies at State level to offset the loss at Federal level to allow funding at State level, for the Pre-K program. Dr. Jarrett stated that the school's allocation from the State is \$9,180,083. He stated their projected Federal allocation is \$1,989,678. He stated that the school's "Other" (resources from grants, Titles I, II, and IV) allocation is \$376,855.

Dr. Jarrett stated that the school's increase on the State level included biennial pay raises. He stated that last year, school employees were given a one percent (1%) pay increase. He stated in order to get the other four percent (4%), the School had to commit to a four percent (4%) pay raise for a total five percent (5%) over a two-year span. Dr. Jarrett stated that the State increase included the additional money for the Pre-K Program and monies for alternative education programs for the locality. There's additional monies included for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to assist students attendance.

Dr. Jarrett stated that the budget was based on 1,016 students which is an increase from 1,010 students currently. Dr. Jarrett stated that he and Mr. Broderick, Director of Finance & Business Operations for the Public Schools System, used the Survival Core formula wherein the actual live births in the County are viewed. Five (5) years later, they review how many of those students born five (5) years ago actually lives in the County and attend Sussex County Public Schools.

Dr. Jarrett stated that the School System's request to the Board is to remain at level funding of \$7,994,170.

There was inquiry as to whether the school had to pay additional funding for students attending alternative schools and at what costs. Dr. Jarrett stated that there's a State match and Local match received for student that's paid as a tuition for each student attending the alternative school. It can vary from year to year. Dr. Jarrett stated that there are approximately four (4) students in the whole school division currently attending alternative schools that cost approximately \$6,000 per child.

There was discussion of alternative education programs. It was projected that the alternative education program would start the beginning of the school year or approximately October 2019.

There was inquiry as to whether all four (4) year olds in the County were eligible for the Pre-K program. It was stated that there's an option in the County that every four (4) year old can be served in the County between the Pre-K Program and the Head Start Program. Parents will have the option to choose which program.

There was inquiry of getting two (2) more slots from the Governor's School if funding was provided. Dr. Jarrett advised that it costs approximately \$9,000 per student to attend the Governor's School plus the transportation. He noted that Sussex has eight (8) students attending. He would have to contact the Steering and Executive Committees at the Governor's School regarding the request for the additional slots. The process of selection for Governor's School was discussed.

There was inquiry in regards to additional slots for CodeRVA. Dr. Jarrett stated that CodeRVA is a fairly new STEM based, upper level advanced program. CodeRVA has been in existence for approximately three (3) years. There are approximately two (2) students currently attending. The tuition is about the same, approximately \$9,000 plus the transportation. Dr. Jarrett stated the school was working with Prince George and Dinwiddie for transportation. The Sussex students are taken to a meeting place in Petersburg. All the students get on one (1) Prince George school bus and are taken to Richmond. As the program grows, the school will look at adding more students.

Dr. Jarrett noted that Sussex schools works with John Tyler Community College for dual enrollment. He also noted that there are five (5) students graduating from Richard Bland College with Associate's Degree in dual enrollment program.

There was discussion of school supplies for teachers for the students, health insurance, and the school's capital improvement projects budget. It was noted that capital improvements were funded out of the Operations budget.

There was discussion of teachers' starting salaries, which was stated to be approximately \$43,000. There was discussion of how many teachers have provisional licenses.

County Administrator Jones noted that the number for the local funding should be \$7,999,170 which is \$5,000 less than what is listed. The amount of \$381,855 in the "Other" line item will be decreased by \$5,000 for an amount of \$376,855 which is the difference for the additional \$5,000 shared IT position that wasn't listed in the Local funding.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR FUTRELL and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves \$7,999,170 as the County's portion of the School's budget for Fiscal Year 2020.

Voting aye: Supervisors Blowe, Fly, Futrell, Tyler

Voting nay: none

Absent: Supervisors Seward, Stringfield

6.02 General Budget Discussion

County Administrator Jones noted that this item would be regarding any general budget discussion the Board may have.

There was discussion as to the clarity of the Sheriff's Department having the issue with the roof resolved.

Item 7. Citizens' Comments (3:55 p.m.)

Comments were heard from:

Anne Joyner (Wakefield District) – Allocation for fire trucks; Animal Control's budget.

Ernest Giles (Sheriff/Waverly District) – County spending; growth in County; new roof for building; medical furloughs; support.

William Jenkins (General Registrar) – Budget in regards to law passed "No Excuse" (early) voting for November 2020; interest/suggestion of new location or fix room in old court; parking issues.

Board comments were heard from:

- Supervisor Tyler (Henry District) – none
- Supervisor Futrell (Waverly District) – Sheriff's Department's roof and vehicles.

- Supervisor Stringfield (Wakefield District) – absent
- Supervisor Blowe (Stony Creek District) – Apologized; Board does support Sheriff; roof; staff getting information from Sheriff.
- Supervisor Fly (Courthouse District) – Inquired if each agency turned in their own budget; if a copy of Sheriff’s budget was requested, would it look the same as the budget in the Proposed Budget Book?

It was noted that the budgets can only be dealt with as they are presented. The first mention of the roof was Friday, April 5th; however, no numbers were provided at that time. The numbers were just mentioned at this current Budget Work Session. Staff advised that if there were any changes, they made the changes in the meeting with the Sheriff. The Sheriff was fine with the adjustments at that time.

County Administrator Jones would talk to the Sheriff regarding the numbers. One (1) vehicle is already listed in the budget.

County Administrator Jones noted that the chart on page 1-7 in the FY 2020 Proposed Budget, a column inadvertently left out. An updated chart was handed out to the Board members.

- Supervisor Seward (Blackwater District) – absent

County Administrator Jones reminded the Board that the next meeting is the Public Hearing on the FY2020 Proposed Budget at the regular meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2019.

Item 8. Adjournment

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR TYLER and carried: RESOLVED that the April 10, 2019 Sussex County Board of Supervisors Special (Budget Work Session) Meeting hereby adjourned at 4:30 p.m.