

**ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
BUDGET WORK SESSION**

The Essex County School Board met in the Essex County School Board Room on February 4, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Larry Bullis  
Keren Ellis  
Ray Whitaker  
Carl Slaughter  
Kim Hodges, Clerk  
Joseph Melvin, Superintendent  
Sharon Saunders, Deputy Clerk  
Vanessa Burns  
Valerie Taylor  
Jennifer Winkler  
Jean Sanders  
David Rector  
John Clickener  
Estelle Smith

**REVIEW OF BUDGET CALENDAR**

Dr. Melvin presented a revised budget calendar (see attached).

**GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET**

Dr. Melvin informed the Board that according to the Governor's proposed budget VRS employer retirement, group life and retiree health credit rates will increase. He stated that this would mean an additional \$631,403.00 to the 2012-2013 budget. Another cost factor to include would be the increase in health insurance cost. He stated that all school divisions are feeling the same crunch and that all are waiting on the General Assembly to make its final decision.

Mr. Bullis explained that the budget sub-committee looked at the whole budget including the fixed expenses.

Mrs. Ellis stated that the Board has to look at all scenarios until the General Assembly makes their decision.

Mr. Slaughter suggested the budget sub-committee met again to explore all areas.

Mr. Whitaker stated that the Board needs to support the teachers and asked that some sort of pay increase be given.

Dr. Melvin agreed and mentioned that he sees the hard work and dedication shown by the teachers and that they will put forth an effort to help them.

Mr. Bullis also agreed and stated that the Board has been a good steward of the budget and will continue to do so. He said that the sub-committee has other options to look at.

**CLOSED SESSION**

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board went into closed session for the following purposes:

2.1-344.21	Personnel
2.1-344.22	Pupil Personnel
2.1-344.7.1	Legal

**REGULAR SESSION**

On a motion by Mr. Whitaker and seconded by Mrs. Ellis, the Board returned to regular session.

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Essex County School Board had convened a closed meeting of this pursuant to an affirmative record vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of information Act and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.1-344(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted with Virginia Law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Essex County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

**VOTE**

<b>AYES</b>	4
<b>NAY</b>	0

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Clerk/Deputy Clerk (or Supt.) of Essex County

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Regular Session

On a motion by Mr. Whitaker, seconded by Mrs. Ellis, the Board approved Diondra Mercer as a long term substitute teacher.

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board adjourned.

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Chairman

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Clerk/Deputy Clerk