

**ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Essex County School Board met in the Essex County School Board Room on February 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Larry Bullis
Ray Whitaker
Liz Martin
Carl Slaughter
Kim Hodges, Clerk
Joseph Melvin, Superintendent
Sharon Saunders, Deputy Clerk
Valerie Taylor
Annette Thompson
John Clickener
Jennifer Lyons
Erin Kelley
Sandra Gladding

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Clickener voiced his concerns about cuts in certain areas such as band, forensics/debate, TES paraprofessionals as well as materials and supplies. He also noticed no fuel or electricity increase in the upcoming budget year.

Mrs. Talyor asked when the staff would be notified of cuts to the budget.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Bullis stated that the division would be posting information of the division website. He also stated that most school divisions are facing shortfalls. There are two choices, salary increases and retirement contribution, to consider in the upcoming budget. He mentioned that all reserve line items were eliminated. If additional funds are given then the budget would be addemended and positions would be added back as well as an additional 1% salary increase.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENT

Dr. Melvin reminded the public that the Governor's budget has not been approved and there's no decision from the General Assembly. He noted that in previous years cuts were made in maintenance, secretarial and central office positions. This time cuts will be done through attrition. He also stated that a \$30,000.00 increase was added to the fuel line item.

Mr. Slaughter stated that because of re-organization administration cost is down by \$80,000.00.

Mrs. Martin mentioned that the Board will make sure no curriculum programs will be cut. She noted that the quality of teachers is important so by prioritizing items (such as salary increases) they are working toward that goal.

Mr. Bullis and Mr. Whitaker informed the Board that they did a surprise visit to the schools. They were impressed with the cleanliness of the buildings and the professionalism of the teachers.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Board decided on March 9, 2012 as the next budget work session.

CLOSED SESSION

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

2.1-344.25	Personnel
2.1-344.26	Pupil Personnel
2.1-344.7.1	Legal

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Whitaker and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, 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.

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Regular Session

VOTE

AYES 4

NAY 0

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

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

Chairperson

Clerk/Deputy Clerk