

AUGUSTA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
 Work Session – March 7, 2019

The Augusta County School Board met Thursday, March 7, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. at the Augusta County Government Center in Verona, Virginia, for a budget work session prior to a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. All members were present:

- Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Board Vice Chair
- Dr. John L. Ocheltree, Jr.
- Mr. Timothy R. Quillen
- Mr. David R. Shiflett
- Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, Board Chair
- Mr. John M. Ward
- Ms. Donna H. Wells

Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, Board Chair, called the budget work session to order.

Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, made the School Board aware of a packet of information given to them entitled, "2019-2020 Other Fund Budgets". This information is presented now, but action will be taken at the March 14, 2019, meeting when the remainder of the budget is approved.

Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, reviewed where the budget planning stood at the last budget workshop which showed it out of balance by approximately \$2.4 million. (Blue sentence from next page WAS here originally)

Trying to tie the Board's budget goals with the dollars, the following estimated additional expenditures are reflected in the following:

To prepare a budget that is responsive to the current economic conditions and the corresponding available revenues from the local, state and federal governments. During the 2019-2020 budget development process, the Augusta County School Board will seek to:	<u>Estimated Additional Expenditures</u>
● Maintain and enhance instructional programs with an emphasis on STEM, authentic assessments, and Profile of an Augusta County Schools' graduate;	\$ 808,965
● Continue the school division's conversion to a digital platform in Pre-K - 12 classrooms;	\$ 327,093
● Continuous improvement of salary scales while maintaining/improving benefits for all employees (2% salary increase, Bus Driver health insurance, etc.);	\$ 2,818,543
● Implement a 15-year strategic plan to address school bus replacements by purchasing 12 buses per year;	\$ 1,080,000
● Address Priority I Maintenance projects and implement a strategic plan to address roof replacements.	\$ 466,159
<u>Total costs related to budget goals:</u>	<u>\$ 5,500,760</u>
Other operational expenditures: *	\$ 33,052
<u>Total Projected Increase in expenditures:</u>	<u>\$ 5,533,812</u>

The estimated changes in revenues are as follows:

State (Average of House and Senate)	\$1,848,648
County Appropriation	\$1,241,450
Federal	\$ (23,294)
Other	\$ 15,466
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$3,082,270</u>

Summary:	Costs Related to Budget Goals & Operations	\$ 5,533,812
	Projected Revenues	\$ 3,082,270
	Projected Budget Shortfall	\$ (2,451,542)
Other operational expenditures include changes in utilities, property insurance, contracted services, telecommunications, and miscellaneous expenditures.		

Since then, an approved state budget became available. Unfortunately, it showed a decrease of approximately \$99,000 from the State, but an increase of approximately \$99,000 from the Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, moved forward to the current budget situation. He updated the board on revised revenues and expenditures since the 2/21/19 budget work session. As of 3/7/19, the budget shortfall is \$2,077,233. Staff presented several options to reduce the \$2,077,233 deficit by one million dollars, leaving the deficit at approximately \$1,080,000. Staff recommended one additional option to balance the budget by removing the purchase of twelve school buses (\$1,080,000).

The following Board Members commented:

- Mr. Nicholas T. Collins noted that with staff’s recommendations, over two million dollars was cut in order to balance the budget based on the current revenues. Of the two million dollars worth of cuts, approximately one million dollars was the purchase of 12 new school buses. A high priority budget goal for the School Board. If the School Board received traditional funding based on past sharing agreements of receiving fifty percent of the projected real estate tax increase, the possibility of reinstating the purchase of 12 new school buses could be realized. He also asked if middle school sports should be left in as well as a total of four weeks for paternal maternity leave.
- Mr. Timothy R. Quillen stated that it will come down to the reassessment by the county. It might be possible to do all of the budget goal items.
- Dr. John L. Ocheltree, Jr., asked if the Board of Supervisors had seen any of the information shared today. Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, said typically nothing is shared until the meeting where a balanced budget is presented to the Board of Supervisors.
- Ms. Donna H. Wells asked about the pay for mid-day run bus drivers and was told there is no change. She asked how the bus driver incentive amount compares to pay for substitute bus drivers and was told the substitute bus driver pay was substantially higher than the incentive amount.

There was no other discussion.

Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, reminded the Board of the meeting in one week on Thursday, March 14, 2019, when the Board will take action on the School Board Budget.

Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, informed the Board of the impending weather for Friday, March 8, 2019, and how future snow/flood days would affect the calendar. Since tomorrow, Friday, March 8, 2019, is an early dismissal day, having the students be on a two-hour delay due to snow would seem counterproductive as well as play havoc with the bus schedules. Dr. Bond's recommendation, should the snow accumulate overnight, would be to close schools tomorrow.

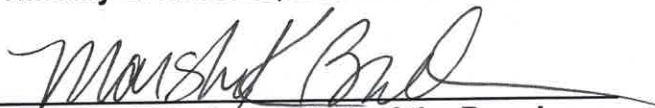
Dr. Bond went on to explain where the division stands pertaining to calendar make-up days. During first semester, banked hours were used for make-up days instead using built-in days. Starting new second semester, three built-in days have been used. One more built-in day is left. If school is cancelled tomorrow, students still do not have to make it up. At this time, if there are more days missed after tomorrow, days will be taken from Spring Break. Staff suggests changing the line-up of make-up days by switching a Spring Break day, (March 25) with April 22, which is a holiday for all. Doing this would keep the week-long Spring Break intact should parents have travel plans. Dr. Bond prefers not to use the remaining banked clock hours. Action will be taken during the regular board meeting.

On a motion by Dr. John L. Ocheltree, Jr., seconded by Mr. Timothy R. Quillen, the Board adjourned to meet at 7 p.m. in the Verona Board Room for their regular monthly meeting. On a vote of 7 – 0, motion to adjourn was approved.

The meeting adjourned.



Mr. Timothy Z. Swartzel, Board Chairman



Ms. Marsha K. Buehner, Clerk of the Board