

County Business

VIRGINIA:

At a regular meeting of the King George County Board of Supervisors, held on Tuesday, the 19th day of March 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Revercomb Building at 10459 Courthouse Drive, King George, Virginia:

PRESENT: Jeff Bueche, Chairman
Cathy Binder, Vice-Chairman
Richard A. Granger, Member
John E. Jenkins, Jr., Member
Ruby A. Brabo, Member
Neiman C. Young, County Administrator
Eric A. Gregory, County Attorney

Mr. Chair: I'd like to call to order this meeting of the board of supervisors. Is there any amendment to the agenda?

Dr. Young: No change Mr. Chair.

Mr. Chair: At this time, I'd like to open up the floor to public comment, as if there are any comments to three minutes.

Kim Dodge: I just want to say as a taxpayer, I hope... sorry, I thought you already knew by now. Kim Dodge, 6150 McCarthy Drive and **[0:00:36 inaudible]**. Again, like last year I asked for the tax improvisation so our taxes, a lot of the taxes did go up. Property tax and of course, I understand the budgets and the demands that everybody has, and need the money. So again, as a taxpayer I do ask again for no tax rate increase because I do have to... my take home household income stays the same. So, every time anything increases, then I have less and less money. As a taxpayer and representing all the other taxpayers in King George County, I appreciate when you can work on the budgets and not increase our local taxes. Thank you.

Mr. Chair: Anyone else? Do we have anybody online? Any prepared correspondence? At this time I'll go to reports, to members on the board. Mr. Granger.

Mr. Granger: Ms. Dodge, thank you. I always appreciate your comments. I'll be brief. I attended the budget work session on the 14th, and then this past weekend on

Saturday I attended the Belgrove James Madison celebration and it was fantastic. James Madison actor was very impressive, very enjoyable. Thank you

Mr. Chair: Mr. Jenkins.

Mr. Jenkins: Thank you. Do I need a mic, I'm pretty loud. Thank you for your comment, Ms. Dodge. I certainly was talking to Ms. Dodge, to do... I think we always strive to though sometimes we do hope [0:02:23 inaudible]. I knew that I, certainly want to do all we can to make sure we don't raise those rates. I will be brief as well. I might have only have [0:02:34 inaudible] today. On Thursday the 14th, I attended the work session and then on Monday the 18th I attended GWRC [0:02:44 inaudible] with Ms. Brabo and also [0:02:48 inaudible]. That is all I have. Thank you.

Mr. Chair: Ms. Binder.

Ms. Binder: I'll be brief also. I just want to thank Ms. Dodge for her comment. I also would like to point everyone's to the nice painting that Mr. Jake Rose painted in 1976 and has been allowed to hang here by his family in his honor and I think it's a pretty cool map to show what King George was when it was founded and you know what it is today. It's very interesting to see the boundary lines of what all the way to Fauquier county. It's pretty neat, but it's an honor to him that it hangs in the board room. His family was very excited that it got to be here and thanking Mr. Vic Mason and the artist's guild for making that happen. My last thing is I would like to appoint Mr. Joseph Gaborow to the planning commission.

Mr. Granger: Second.

Mr. Chair: Any discussion? All those in favor.

All: Aye.

Mr. Chair: Any opposed? Chair votes aye, the motion passes.

Ms. Binder: That's all I have. Thank you.

Mr. Chair: Ms. Brabo.

Ms. Brabo: On the 15th, I participated in the Virginia Association of Counties Rural Action Caucus conference call. The conversation centered around challenges and opportunities of rural life, looking at the creation of a rural ideas lab, going beyond the typical issues that we have discussed in the past, leaning towards more discussing things such as the loss of volunteerism in rural areas. We're

looking at creating a podcast that would examine aspects of rural life. There was a discussion of actually, which was kind of new and interesting around elected school board members and how there's so little participation at their meetings by the community and there seems to be a perception of a lack of accountability and instead everyone blames the supervisors and holds them accountable for the scolds.

Anyway, the point is, we're trying to be calm at the state level, more of a collective voice, looking at the success that the National Association of counties has had over the last eight years that they have grown and the impact they've been able to have on the federal legislation. So, some of the issues we're going to be looking at going forward is the veteran and farmer suicide rates in rural areas, which are extremely high nationwide. Looking at county veteran service officers and the upcoming census, the 2020 census. Last night I attended the GWRC and FAMPO meetings as well. Of course, discussions continue related to whether the two organizations will remain intertwined or whether FAMPO will break off and become a separate organization.

At the end of the meeting, majority came to the consensus that we will pursue redrafting a new MOU and hopefully, this will resolve a lot of the concerns. This morning, delegate Bob Thompson and I met with the Veteran Affairs Secretary Hopkins and Assistant Secretary Leslie Frazier. They explained to us with regards to the 32 state veteran benefit officer locations throughout the Commonwealth because we had gone down there to talk to them about implementing a county veteran's service officer program.

When they brought up the map, there is none to serve the northern neck and middle Peninsula region of this area. So, we talked about how we can implement that going forward by potentially working with counties where they could send someone one day a month to work out of our county buildings throughout this region in order to serve the veterans in our communities. The other interesting point of note. If you recall about three years ago, the Walden Cooper report came out and the representative gave a presentation for King George County and the projected population was that we would increase predominantly in the age 55 and older over the next 30 years and our school-age population would basically remain stagnant and slowly declined.

So, it was interesting to look at the report that was provided in this meeting. King George County, out of all the counties located in the Commonwealth is projected to increase the most in our veteran population between now and 2033. We are projected to increase in our veteran population by 72%. So that falls right in line with the projections from the Walden Cooper predictions. I still

don't understand why people want to move here when there's not really any medical to serve them at this point. But, this afternoon I did participate in the White House conference call on combating opioid crisis and that's all I have. Thank you

Mr. Chair: Ms. Dodge, thank you for your comment. On the 14th, I attended the budget work session at Company One and on Saturday the 16th, I attended the birthday celebration of Belgrove for President James Madison. I was highly impressed with the reenactor and he said a lot of things that really spoke to me that I take to heart. To hear someone give a speech, a representative republic in the constitution and the federalist papers. I really enjoyed the speech and a lot of people take it for granted, but we are the gateway to the northern neck and the northern neck is just so rich in history from our nation's founding. So, I was really honored to be able to attend that event. That's all I have. I'll entertain a motion on the consent agenda.

Mr. Granger: So moved.

Ms. Brabo: Second.

Mr. Chair: All those in favor?

All: Aye.

Mr. Chair: Any opposed? Chair votes aye. Officials, reports, a report from the county attorney.

Mr. Gregory: No report this time Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Mr. Chair: Presentations and reports. King George County Services Authority capital improvements projects. I'm Mr. Jonathan Weakley and Service Authority, general manager. Mr. Weakley.

Mr. Weakley: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you, members of the Board of Supervisors, for allowing me to be here tonight. I come before you to make a request, for consideration for capital improvements. We too are working through our budget work sessions and trying to identify where... I think we were talking a bit earlier trying to be a little more self-sufficient and what that looks like, with rates or we currently ask or we make the project. We haven't set that online yet or what new rates could project. We have not said that online yet on what the new rates could like that is obviously I would make a recommendation that the board was set those. Beyond what we have in our revenue and expenditures,

we have some additional capital needs that we believe are beyond our financial abilities at this time because we don't want to raise rates too sharply, even though it's smaller, it's still constituent base, not only customers but of the county.

With that being said, the consideration I bring forth tonight is for two specific capital items. We're looking at a request to funding some generators, which speaks to the DEQ class one reliability, which is not part of the feasibility study that came before us tonight. This is part of a consent order item that we have to meet. We do not have an established deadline from DEQ yet, but they are very highly anticipating we complete this item soon. The second item for consideration is the rehabilitation of Ninde Store well house. I did not bring pictures with me tonight. I'd be happy to share those. That facility is in real dire need. We do have some cost estimates. On the high end its \$198,500. So, if you take the summation between the high end and the 225, you're looking at a little over about \$423,000 worth for capital request for the county.

Again, we respectfully ask for the consideration of this. We realized that there are many requests that come before the Board of Supervisors. Again, this will be a capital outlay, above and beyond of where we're at right now. We're looking to cover a delta of a little over 400,000 in our existing budget. That's where we have to have some hard looks and great considerations. So again, this is outside of the budget that I put forth before the Board of Directors. This is just the capital consideration a request that the Service Authority is asking the board of supervisors to consider funding for this upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Chair: Ms. Brabo.

Ms. Brabo: So, with regards to our Board of Supervisors assisting there are some pretty strict criteria with regards to, you must demonstrate future economic development or as we had also sort of dabbled in, is the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens. So, number one falls under the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens. But how does number two fit into either one of those categories?

Mr. Weakley: Very good question and I'm thankful Ms. Brabo that you covered the public health. That is something we ask for consideration. So, the well house, although it's not our largest number of connections, there are 36 connections there. The problem is, is that you're looking at potential massive failure. So you'd be putting... and I don't have the exact number of 36 connections, doesn't equate to 36 people. That's all... how many folks are in each household. But you will have folks without water at that location, which is the Ninde's well system.

Again, public health and providing a resource of water it's in our everyday makeup services that's needed. It's just unfortunate that the system has got a couple of components. You're essentially looking at a major, basically an overhaul of that system. But I think it does speak to the public health and welfare as well by providing customers with water. If that were to fail today we would still be required to somehow whether it brings in vault storage while we address those other needs and correcting it, you would still be required by the health department to provide a service

Ms. Brabo: So, the Service Authority implemented a capital improvement fee last year. So are you asking for the full amount for these items or will the Service Authority be applying what they have collected over the past year towards this cost?

Ms. Weakley: A very good question. For me, we normally we would like to put some of that capital or if all necessary towards that project, the capital, the \$2 fee right now brings in a revenue of about \$48,000. That fund right now would be earmarked for other repairs that we have. Primarily we have a lot of pump failures. So, it's getting pumps up through **[0:14:17 inaudible]** of which you approved tonight, for example, to get a station up and actually running. We have multiple facilities or pump stations that have one pump. So, while normally I would answer that question. Yes, we would apply those funds because we want to have some spare equity as well. That 48,000 that we currently generate would be funding other needs.

Dr. Young: Yes sir. And I should make the board aware of two distinct points. Number one, this would be an expenditure out of our capital fund versus our General Fund. That's rather than because of course, that's going to impact with our CIP budget looks like for the fiscal year 19/20. I do believe that we can afford expenditures but that will require some tightening of the belt for some of the county departments for the budget but it is indeed doable. The second, Mr. Weakley, Mr. Bennett and Ms. Binder and myself have talked to Davenport and Associates.

Public health is definitely are a reason for us to assist the Service Authority but I must advise the board that it's a bigger lift than just have the votes tonight and we are actually signing a warrant to transfer the money. We have of course currently we're working on how we can feasibly make it happen? It may come in the form of a low-interest loan, it may come in the form of a gift we're not sure yet. We're supposed to be having a follow-up phone call with Davenport and Associates next Monday. But what we need to know from the board tonight for the Service Authority purposes is will the county consider committing to this expenditure. So the Service Authority can complete their budget.

Ms. Brabo: Here

Mr. Chair: Yes ma'am.

Mrs. Brabo: Are any of these items that you've requested mandated under the consent order?

Mr. Weakley: Number one, there is a consent order is just based off of one regulatory body, which is DEQ. It's the number one, yes ma'am. Number two, which would get us in trouble with the other regulatory body but we're not currently under consent and that would BDH.

Ms. Brabo: So, I would at least be willing to entertain moving forward for future consideration. I like the idea of maybe a combination, maybe a portion of it is paid for, and maybe a portion of it is low-interest loan.

Mr. Chair: Well, just for me it's 28,500 that can't be absorbed by the Service Authority. The second item...

Mr. Weakley: I think sir, very good question. We would definitely go back and look. That's a small request out of the whole amount so we will definitely go back and look at that. This request, there are some options that are not in front of you, 145 and 198 is a range of... we looked at three different options. One was could you even possibly rehab what's there, which is sometimes you're beyond the cost

Mr. Chair: I don't see a 145 to 198 that you are talking about. I see a...

Ms. Brabo: Number two.

Mr. Weakley: Number two, I apologize sir.

Mr. Chair: Okay.

Mr. Weakley: So, the 285 in scenarios one and two of that range from 145 to 198 would include the storage tank in there. We are looking at a third option would put some bladder in there which would actually reduce our cost of a hydro tank, which that money would good look at the urban storage tank. So, just to answer your question, if the board would consider, we would look at all of it except for 285, we just have to go back and sharpen our number. We are anticipating we don't know what it is but I'm going to bring a recommendation to the Board of Directors that we up that capital fee because regardless of this capital across the 49 we have more capital. It's just these are ones that are... have to go this year. One is consent driven. The other one you're looking at that scenario.

We do know that the hydrant pneumatic tank that's in that Ninde's well system right now and it's all by the company that comes out and certifies as pressure vessels, it will not pass in November when its schedule and the storage tank that's there, it's 285, it's listed, it's currently leaking. I guess the polite way to put it is you couldn't just well the spot you have to gut that whole bottom of the tank put in new pieces of metal. But either way, to answer your question, I'm sorry I'm taking a long way home we would be happy with any consideration honestly. You know, if you could fully do it would be great if you're asking, hey, can you pick up a small portion we just have to go back and adjust some brakes, to be honest with you, to recover that.

Mr. Chair: Ms. Binder.

Ms. Binder: [0:19:14 inaudible] mentioned this, but we looked at the options too, of attaching the Ninde systems to one of our current systems and the price tag is quite extensive. Mr. Weakley, you have the exact numbers.

Mr. Weakley: I don't have in front of me, but working off memory, I can see that too. I believe that the price tag was around 900,000 and that option would be connecting the Ninde's well system to our circle water system. I don't have the exact mileage of pipe but that was the number.

Ms. Binder: One second, the second one was also I've seen the pictures of what the Ninde system looks like. It needs to be fixed and repaired and replaced. You can't fix it.

Mr. Chair: Ms. Brabo.

Ms. Brabo: Just something to consider because number one it is mandated under the consent order. That could potentially be all funding from the supervisors that can be well justified, under the criteria. Just had a thought. Economic Development Authority is always looking for ways to make money, maybe taking out a low interest loan through the economic development authority is a win-win because it allows, as the interest is paid back with them to generate some revenue and yet at the same time it gets the service authority, the ability to cover the costs of number two. Just a thought.

Mr. Chair: Mr. Granger.

Mr. Granger: That's an interesting idea. I'd be interested in looking into that as well. As you said on Monday, you were looking at a meeting to kind of determine the vehicle that could be used to fund this from the board level, is that correct?

Dr. Young: Yes sir. Because basically Davenport's trying to wrap their head around this and they're going to bring us those options and tonight we just wanted to see if the board would entertain that and if not, then I tell Davenport to stop. If, so they would continue moving forward and we'd bring the board directly in the vehicle to accommodate the Service Authority.

Mr. Granger: Understood. So the only reason I was asking about Monday is I know our next work session is Monday and I know the budget [0:21:18 inaudible] it's always good to try to not only continue to keep along, would that information be available for the board to then entertain at that work session or we have to push it out to the following week?

Dr. Young: Yes. Actually, the final decision for it would have to be made during the CIP cycle. However, I would hope that Davenport would have those options available Monday. I will definitely to discuss it with more detail with the Board and maybe we wouldn't even have to wait to the completion of the CIP process depending on how pressing this issue is for the Service Authority, but we'll have our information on Monday and I'm glad to bring it to that work session and discuss it with the board.

Mr. Granger: Very good, I appreciate it and with that in mind, I'll just say I'm definitely willing to entertain this and see how we can move forward with [0:22:12 inaudible] Service Authority.

Mr. Jenkins: I don't really have anything that important to say. I concur with most of the comments, I like the idea or at least looking to interview having the assets speak like we're part as a gift and part of it as a loan, of course, look at all the options we can. I don't know if that fits for you here it's certainly something to look into, but either way, I'm in favor of doing that. Also whatever we can do to ease the burden on fees and everything, [0:22:58 inaudible] already have fees. That's all I have. Thank you.

Mr. Chair: I think we're in a position since it is a safety and health issue, where we have to basically forward this. So, I'd be interested to see what the options are but again I'll say economic development for expanding water and sewer to bring in businesses, I look at that as a return on your desk. That's something that I fully support. Outright subsidizing the Service Authority, I have issues with, I think our business model is broken and I think we seriously need to take a look at restructuring, so I'll just throw that out there. But besides that, I think we have consensus to move forward. Do you need a vote on that tonight? Okay, so you have consensus.

Mr. Weakley:

Thank you Mr. Chair, members of the board.

Mr. Chair:

Thank you, sir. At this time I'd like to invite our colleagues on the school board and the citizen Budget Advisory Committee to come up. We're going to move into the school board budget presentation by Dr. Robert Benson, superintendent of King George County Schools.

Mr. Collins:

I'd like to call to order this meeting of the King George County School Board March 19th.

Dr. Benson:

Thank you very much, sir, Mr. Chairman and members of both boards and the citizen budget advisory committee. I appreciate the opportunity to present to you on behalf of the school board this year's budget proposal for your consideration. What I'll do is... much as we did last year, I'll use this opportunity to affirm for our community some information about our school division we had an opportunity to meet with you just once a year in this setting so we like to take the opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of our school division, share some good news scores with you and doing so, again affirm that our school division can use to thrive, that the investment you make on behalf of the taxpayers of our community we are good stewards of those funds and we understand the importance of that, the reports of that financial support and you see the results, you'll have a chance to see some of the results here in just a minute.

After that, I'll review for you proposed expenditures in summary and I'll also then get into the revenue and I know that's where we have most of our interests because that, of course, is what we rely on our local revenue to help make our budget whole. I've included some information for you tonight. Let's talk about comparative perspective with other school divisions around the commonwealth to give you a third dimension to your consideration and all the time we have one year to the next in terms of school funding. I thought I'd expand that before I report to you and give you some other perspectives. Then finally, we'll summarize for you and again, we request your kind consideration with our budget.

So with that said just some information for our community and about our school division. We do have our five schools, preschool and head start program. Our student's involvement is 4,478 students that include all the middle, high and our preschoolers. You see the percentage of our students who are categorized as disadvantaged, we've got 33% this year, teacher salary range, the percentage of our teachers with master's degree is 29%. I'd like to point out that the school board, why is the investment in trying to help offset some of the tuition costs

and helping teachers attaining their master's degree. We also, if you remember a couple of years ago was strategic we were talking about teacher retention. One of the strategies we put in place was to actually offer a stipend that was not a flat amount for teachers with master's degrees, master's degree, but that was a percentage of their base salary. I believe that has helped us to retain teachers at a much higher rate, which is much less costly in terms of the training.

You see our student's to teacher ratios for each of our levels, our academic performance, we continue to like, well this is just an overall division snapshot in terms of the percentage of students who are passing their standards of learning examinations in the years. You see that we continue to outperform in science, math, reading, and writing. Those are state averages, the **[0:29:20 inaudible]** bar and then a history of we was right there like percentage points above the state average **[0:29:26 inaudible]** we have opportunities there to improve. Some other division accomplishments, just a reminder that we are accredited by like I said and we earned it division-wide accreditation, not just our high school through that external accrediting body. All of our schools have earned and continued to earn the high state of accreditation rate. Our preschool earned a Virginia quality grading level four to them that's been a three-year process.

Increasing their quality and qualifying to that rating. VSBA, Virginia School Boards Association has recognized our division or our agreement, so to speak, for our initiatives in terms of being environmentally friendly. This year we were elevated to the silver award. We are proud to host the Rappahannock Regional reading specialist of the year **[0:30:26 inaudible]** of King George middle school, perhaps you've read it or heard about it from the Freelance Star, thank you, Ms. Dyson, but we had the highest graduation rate of our neighbors who passed in 2018. Some statistics about the 2018 graduates we had 320, a dropout rate of 3.3% 169 and those 320 studies wholeness provided a breakout of 40 in terms of their post-graduation plans.

We have many programs for organizations and our schools are all active do here. As you know, there's the Commonwealth governor's school and we also have students who attend the Chesapeake Bay governor's school. We have thriving in NJROTC program, our career, and technical education programs, we invited 12 organizations such as **[0:31:32 inaudible]**, future farmers of America, the skills USA contest. We have many, many students who excel through these organizations and co-curricular activities. We're very proud of them and they're often highlighting in our school or the statistic for you. Look at it in terms of a 10-year look back as far as scholarship money earned by our students. You can see that these four years of college scholarships continue to grow exponentially.

We're very proud of our students and graduates and their ability to earn a scholarship, money through their education. Athletics we had another banner year, just to highlight a few district champions in volleyball girls, employee swimming, girls' basketball. In fact, our girls' basketball team is undefeated in the regular season and they were the district title champion, we have region team accomplishments, girls' basketball, there were semi-finals, girls swimming regional runner's up, wrestling was third places the team in the nation and then at the state level, our girls swimming, we had five who were all-state, wrestling had three who were all state and interesting we had a state champion, 170 was our weight and become the very proud mom of that state champion is at this very table, so congratulations Ethan Indseth. In music, our band and chorus to do quite well in terms of their competitions and the assessment festivals.

We attended part of those **[0:33:20 inaudible]** to check out and all those organizations and all the students in their hard work. Our third phase, regional Virginia School Boards Association, art placement **[0:33:38 inaudible]** a senior is our work there. You also see that some of the other accomplishments they are there for you in theater, if you have not been to one of our theater productions. I would encourage you to have to see it every year they put on productions that are the high-quality important team. They also have a service aspect through their proceeds from their performances helps support each year they dedicate their proceeds to a non-profit organizations \$1,900 went to summer Lunch Bunch options. We're very proud of our kids. You should all be very proud of our students at King George.

We felt all the things that go along with our students. We have a large end year NJROTC program, fantastic instructors. The youth is 13th of 57 at the end of the drill and academic rank **[0:34:12 inaudible]** champion for the precision air rifle team each year and they advanced to the national championships. **[0:34:58 inaudible]**. I mentioned DECA once before, we had **[0:35:05 inaudible]** on to the school recently and I've listed for you there accomplishments, they attended their state conference again this year helping students who are represent us nationally, internationally. So about our process and this is... the public should know this as well. Kind of the process the school **[0:35:30 inaudible]** with the staff survey, I'll share some of the results with you.

We use that staff survey as part of our needs assessment and that information is helpful to the department heads and principals as they then you might as well be called as a budget builder, it's a plain expenditure for the... in this case the 1920 school year. At the same time, then we explicit from our school board, the preliminary budget **[0:36:00 inaudible]** in terms of drafting the first draft, the budget builder I've included in my **[0:36:12 inaudible]** the all-time version of the

presentation [0:36:15 inaudible] you can click that and you can open up the actual budget, spreadsheet, the zero base each year we'll pull up the amount in department to Department or school then you should go back and [0:36:29 inaudible] expenditures so it was a very robust tool for us.

It's a very helpful tool to communicate across departments to ensure we're not duplicating requests but we rely on that as a primary school [0:36:44 inaudible] expenditures and also provide some accountability and transparency for you all and to our taxpayers, you can see what the taxpayer money is going to purchase what we plan to use their tax money for. [0:36:55 inaudible]. In March and February, we presented the initial draft to the school board, on the 13th we held our public hearing. The last thing as part of your consideration.

As far as our staff survey, we use the staff survey not only to get input as part of the process but also to kind of gauge how well are the previous budget work will be on target but we need to identify the ultimate funding. The first question there are three questions to the survey and responses are there 95 are the public response of the survey and we strongly agree to pay for our teachers to have the supplies necessary do their job. That was a five percent increase in satisfaction this year. Again, 95% of the response agreed or strongly agreed that access to the programs and services necessary either a nine percent increase from the previous year, both positive indications that we felt that our budget is on track. It's doing what it needs to do—it's fulfilling needs. 86% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed there was access to the equipment necessary to do their job.

This was a five percent decrease from 2018, so we went up to look closely at some of the comments that were made in that section of the survey. Some of the themes that were pervasive, talk about more laptops, chromebooks for classrooms, the Smartphone, tablets, phone books, and other stuff. I know the school, increased devices for schools to test assessments. All of these, these comments here are verbatim from the survey and we use those to try to then you're better than you. So, the budget goals that the school board adopted for this year. The, of course, one maintain competition for all of our employees to do that, we are required to call adjustments. We have each year prior to the 1.6 this year. The Federal is 2.85 so about retain our salary scales to be adopted for several years and provide that increase from employees on their corresponding scale.

The second goal was to ensure that our staffing needs are met efficiently, appropriate. Lastly, we wanted to make sure that the instructions on the support resources that are needed are provided. So each of the next six slides

are dedicated to each of the six appropriation used for the school's operating budget. We get into this, I'll go over some other five categories that are federal grants and school lunch but the 250 is the operating budget for our colleges. That's why these six slides address that aspect of our budget as a whole. In the instruction, which is the largest appropriation unit, we do have staffing needs that are there. We would like to expand our CTE program and have a thriving nursing program.

The school board is very interested in, I think locally there's been great conversationally, lengthy career and technical education. These are students, so this is one area we are staying in the camp. The students who have the interest to take health care sciences there is a half time teacher and a full-time teacher. We do need a special education teacher in our high school. I'll just say that all of our special education staffing needs are predicated by our supervisor of special education needs to be as an in-depth analysis, the school board spends time with one of their planning sessions, how you are supposed to present all the methodology used to then determine staffing needs per school overall and if it requires a reduction of one school, we'll then transfer staff from one school to another. It requires more staff then we'll make that recommendation from the budget.

All of our staffing is... especially limitations based on IEP or individual education plan needs social Felton matrix for each school of all the needs. They need to be service desk for those students. Then we also looked at what they call caseload point. Each of our special education teachers is also a case manager. In that, he or she manages the IEPs the eligibilities for the students on their caseload. A maximum number of points that we've been assigned in each of the caseworkers. So special education staffing is a tricky task in which the excellent job plan each year is when you see there's a need for special education or professional future, you know that that need is defined through that type of that process that should go through each of our schools in the study year. At the middle school district...

Ms. Brabo: For clarification purposes, so I understand there has been a methodical process gone through to determine those positions but are they mandated?

Dr. Benson: In a sense they are, they are mandated through the federal, a legal responsibility providing a free and appropriate public education for students who have an IEP. So that's why we go through each, everybody IEPs to basically lists all the services that can be covered at that school for the next year and then we'll match up what's happening at [0:42:58 inaudible] services.

Ms. Brabo: So, but there's.... so, while I understand you identify a need, there is a difference because my understanding, I'm saying not in this day to day, my understanding is, but there are specific mandated numbers. So I'm asking you are these mandated or are some of these potentially above and beyond because you feel there is a need that has been identified? To me, there's a difference.

Dr. Benson: I don't know, as far as mandated I have to check where that comes from, none of them were above and beyond. All of them are a made up matrix and we count the number of sections and the number. That's why you'll see in fact this is a para-pro versus a special education teacher. If we were going above and beyond well, we just hire nothing but teachers but we do utilize para-pros and teachers to pinpoint and appropriate efficient staff all the special education needs. At Potomac Elementary, at the General Assembly, there is funding that has been champion there to try to help with mental health and the school council apparently do not have two councils at one of our elementary schools. **[0:44:31 inaudible]** elementary school s we would like to maintain a level of We hope that Potomac Elementary can take advantage of the funding from the general assembly.

Mr. Granger: I was just curious; on the previous slide you pointed out that you were going to do the 2.5 percent total up, for all staff? Is that captured on this slide, the dollar figure or is that like a sum?

Dr. Benson: Well, the 2.5 pull up it's going to be embedded in each of the different population since we have employees who work...

Mr. Granger: Across the different departments?

Dr. Benson: That's right.

Mr. Granger: So it will show up... the portion for the teachers would fall under this current structure?

Dr. Benson: That's right.

Mr. Granger: Okay. Just wanted to make sure I understood.

Mr. Jenkins: I have one question about the slide that's there. The Algebra Ray, this teacher says a state granted supported state grant supported public. How much of that is supported by the grant aid? Like what's needed from us to fund it?

Dr. Benson: The state grant is an Algebra Readiness grant. I can teach you the specific dollar amount, but I think that portion of the salary, the benefits is included in that

grant up to now. However, we have embedded Algebra readiness services into the General Ed classroom and then we would try to differentiate instruction and try to lower class sizes in the middle school to try to address anyone that way. The recommendation now is that we've gotten to the point where we need to address more students that can actually reduce that rate, dedicate an additional period of time for children to have access to that resource. What we built [0:46:23 inaudible] math teacher from the existing rights so then start working with a group of kids for the division.

Mr. Jenkins: So, if I'm understanding you correctly, that sort of teaching is a [0:46:35 inaudible] is just that you need more staff that specializes?

Dr. Benson: More staff needs more intensive services. Therefore we wanted [0:46:44 inaudible]...

Mr. Jenkins: As far as the grant, how long does that grant last for, into perpetuity. Okay, thank you.

Dr. Benson: The second preparation used is technology. Then you might wonder, why are these appropriation separated out? That's because the state has a system where they have these separate appropriation units so they can track across all divisions in Virginia. Technology use all of our staff surveys the disciplinary we'll leave additional Chromebooks for our students are necessary, we also have a elementary school, it's time for their second try to stay on the cycle. That's an importance with the technology advisory committee plan ensure that the technology you are offering is current. Five years cycle so we are going through five, six years with a piece of technology before it needs to be refreshed with a more updated version. That updated version will probably be more current and appropriate for the student.

Ms. Binder: I have a question on the Chrome books, are they allowed to be taken home or are they only for a class member?

Dr. Benson: Currently they do not take the Chrome books, out of the classrooms they stay at a charging station or a place where they'll store them so that they charge. This is the third appropriation unit demonstration. A truancy coordinator will be added to our budget. As you may know, the accreditation system for the state is changing and our attendance will be a variable on whether or not schools are accredited through the school. So, we recognize that attendance quite frankly can be a challenge and in a couple of our schools. This is an opportunity for us to get the word out that our schools will be adjudicated on attendance in addition to the student's performance helps support that [0:49:10 inaudible].

Mr. Chair: How will they go about that? How would a truancy officer in their position be able to do that? Would they be going to the kid's house, knocking on the door, taking them to court things like that?

Dr. Benson: Yes.

Mr. Chair: I'm of the opinion, just my opinion, that's a parent's responsibility. If your kid's not going to school, you got... there are much bigger issues and I don't think we should be... I mean we're there to educate but we are not there to raise kids. My humble opinion, but I definitely don't see the justification for that.

Ms. Cleveland: What's the system that you have now to manage this?

Dr. Benson: Well, we have the one insurance coordinator for the entire division one person, and because we only have one person then this is not uncommon and we are a small division. Some of our staff, that's not all that that person does it just go knock on doors and report when its necessary, for mainly that person will also try to craft a plan, try to acquire resources and support services or cooperating with our local community services board and sort of services to try to address these. Because often times and I understand Mr. Bueche is saying often times you'll find the fact go beyond a simple refusal to go to school there'll be other issues that we need to work with other agencies to try and overcome in getting kids back to school.

Ms. Indseth: I also want to remind the board that our ADM is dependent on whether the students are in school. Have the insurance officer can help with that as well, if your ADM is not projected to get money from the state.

Ms. Binder: I think in the handbook I'm I correct on page 16 or 18 that specifies that the students have to be in school, can't be out of school more than 18 days. They have to be held back if I remember correctly. So this would factor into that also, you would go to the houses of the students that would be over those 18 days. Correct?

I'm just saying that's part of it. I know somebody complained about it to me that I looked it up in the handbook. My other question on this is, and I don't know if this is still this way because I had a long conversation with many principals ago about how the accreditation happens and there are so many steps that go into accreditation. You can choose which ones you want to. Is this one that we've - this was a long time ago. Is this one we've chosen, or is it mandated by the state with this has to be included?

Mr. Chair: Well, it's measured by the state the position itself is required.

Ms. Binder: But I mean the attendance as a component.

Ms. Cleveland: In comparisons to other counties, what's the ratio to be officer per student? Like is it normal that you would have two per x amount of students in this county or?

Dr. Benson: I'd have to find out what the county has to fairly answer that, I'm going to be guessing at this point. I only know we have one person in that position right now, and we have 5,000 students.

Ms. Brabo: I just wanted to clarify; you're saying you already currently have one. So, this would be an additional it's not that you don't have any?

Dr. Benson: That's correct.

Ms. Hock: I do you think if you were to add most of the **junior delinquency and truancy begins, criminal behavior** begins as attendance issues. So, again, as **[0:53:55 inaudible]** if we can reach it early and stop the behavior and earlier stage in their life, then we end up saving money in terms of court activities, and deputies and other judicial activities.

Mr. Jenkins: I guess part fit to is how much of it is **[0:54:15 inaudible]**.

Dr. Benson: It's a good question. I think there are some aspects that we search out the students that aren't in school we don't know that they are not in school, they are not absent in other words they are truant, it's not like their suddenly missing a few days. These are potential students in many cases, who have been absolutely truant, they've never even stepped foot in a school they don't know absolutely they're holding all together. We could estimate what that may be, there's a portion of the case again like this **[0:55:02 inaudible]** outright refusal to-.

Mr. Jenkins: I'm just trying to understand sorry I didn't mean to cut you. Again I mean without numbers how many know **[0:55:18 inaudible]** especially communities. Why are we were talking about **[0:55:42 inaudible]**.

Dr. Benson: I can certainly bring numbers.

Mr. Chair: So, it was said earlier, free and appropriate education, we were talking about special education. Again, free and appropriate education, not tracking down kids that maybe would fall under the social services world. Last year, two SRO in the school we were able to get a third one last year. We gave that money to the

sheriff's office to put that. When looking at needs. We're trying to make this a needs-driven budget year. I absolutely agree this would be nice to have. But in the whole scheme of things, I don't see it as a need, we're educating, we're not raising. There's always problems that need to be addressed and all these things we need to then we can plug into to make a difference. But is that truly education? I think that's in someone else's will house, not mine.

Ms. Brabo: If they've never set foot in your school then they are not impacting your ADM because they were never there to begin with.

Ms. Binder: My question with that I was going to ask is how do you know that they're not in school? Like how do you identify them?

Ms. Binder: Yes, sure, and his home school work. Maybe they might be home school.

Dr. Benson: That's the example where you could have someone painting one [0:56:59 **inaudible**] turns out not to be the case. I think I feel we have a moral obligation if let's say the parental issue that's keeping the child from the school that we need to go and intervene to ensure that student is...

Female Speaker: Social services.

Ms. Binder: I was just going to say what's the moral equivalent, there.

Ms. Hock: I would now add that a home school was very clearly followed by statute, either religious exemption or a typical homeschooling curriculum. They are accounted for and the home school community works very actively with us, and would not be part of that truancy community.

Mr. Chair: One thing I just want to point out is while we're having this discussion, ultimately at the end of the day we give you a pile of money. You decide what the priority is and if this is important to you more than something else. You fund it's that simple. So you're just showing us some things. Same thing with Special Ed. There may be questions with that, there may not be, but at the end of the day, if that's mandated or if that's your priority, you're going to find it and you're going to cut on the back end.

Mr. Jenkins: I'm sorry one more thing before you move on. How much is that position as far as?

Female Speaker: \$80,000.

Male Speaker: \$80,000.

Dr. Benson: As you know our transportation department has 62 bus drivers driving 252 routes each day delivering our students safe at school and at home. We have no open positions there. Operations and maintenance, chance to say thank you. Right now, a key was in cost avoidance [0:59:05 inaudible] to this Board of supervisors, that ultimately approve roughly [0:59:10 inaudible]. That funding than was folded back into that deposit that we have that was supposed to begin [0:59:23 inaudible]. That's a pretty big story. Facilities, again, this is where the PC often come from. This is also covered with capital parts that are not covered by the contract services and our facilities. I mentioned those were the six appropriation things in terms of [0:59:54 inaudible].

Mr. Jenkins: I'm sorry [0:59:56 inaudible]. Is the HVAC that you mentioned or this is facilities in general? You mean... I'm talking about briefly give just for instance when we were here at parks and Rec was here and they said they couldn't even have a program anymore because the roof was leaking too much. So that won't fall under your current budget for...

Male Speaker: It's not an operating budget.

Dr. Benson: Someone asked me, do you receive funding and the new budget each year for expenditure of the federal brands under titles 1 2A 6B, called Perkins funding posted for you. Then the areas for each of those different funding sources. We also have food service programs and the last portion of our budget is categorized as debt service. There're a good news story that protect service for fiscal year 19 was \$5,214,983 I do believe as a result of board of supervisors and financing, and the school board's support and protect school property that savings. For fiscal year \$581,829 that's just savings from the [1:01:26 inaudible].

That's just a summary for you and what I just went over. I'd like to get to revenue... that's really what we're setting the foundation for your consideration [1:01:46 inaudible] and it is a critical component of the budgeting process. We have to estimate the number of students or the average daily membership that we have next year, because that is the multiplier in terms of state funding. So as an example, this year's budget is based on the projected ADM 4,360 students we do not believe we're going to hit that.

We will be closer to 4335 students. At the end of the day we are working within our operating budget and trying to [1:02:23 inaudible] that was planned to be expensive to make sure that we don't overspend our budget and we don't want to come to the board of supervisors and say hi, we didn't meet the ADM mark our budget is going to need additional funding. We're working within to try and rectify ADM shortfall for this year we do believe the fiscal year 20, we'll pull that

back a little bit. Part of our conversation was, some of our school age population back on our fiscal year 20 ADM projection 2050.

Mr. Granger: This is what was projected for this year?

Ms. Brabo: So, the state has been projected **[1:03:13 inaudible]** and you just said this year **your'e looking at**.

Dr. Benson: **[1:03:37 inaudible]**. If we get into fiscal year **20** then that's not **[1:03:44 inaudible]**.

Ms. Brabo: I should remind you **[1:03:49 inaudible]**.

Mr. Chair: So let's say, you'd like to be promoted. **[1:04:05 inaudible]**. What is a person...

Ms. Brabo: **[1:04:10 inaudible]**.

Dr. Benson: **[1:04:15 inaudible]** in Virginia, so for the 2016 and 18 our local positive index was 3664. **[1:04:34 inaudible]** local positive index is calculated as a 50/40%, and 10% split. It looks like the counties **[1:04:42 inaudible]** property tax gross income. They use that information where they calculate this **[1:05:04 inaudible]** in Virginia. Simple explanation is that what that really stands for is that state then expects the locality will cover case 2016 and 2018 37-ish percent of the a operating budget. For every state dollar, 37 cents is expected to come from the locality in terms of a match or a local support, a local effort, part of the funding equation.

That's the way Virginia works and I think that's important for our community. We come to you for the request to make the budget whole. We need to understand that the fundamental way that our budget, our funding scheme works in Virginia is that there is funding that comes from direct aid from the state, but the state clearly recognizes this is only a portion of the funding that's necessary. There is this local composite index view to then require a local effort to make budgets whole. I think that's an important thing and the shakes and size comparative viewpoint. For 2018, our local composite index elevated 43,721, so the local economic indicators that it's moved our local positive index **[1:06:23 3 inaudible]** which means the state is expecting our locality to pick up more of the funding for the share of the funding necessary to make the budget whole.

We've talked a little about the federal revenue, state revenue, so the four categories, there's data, so fewer **[1:06:58 inaudible]**, incentive program funds,

technology there is a Virginia public service school authority or technology [1:07:11 inaudible] categorical program funds for the specific programs, and then we have this thing to us. Often times its Medicaid reimbursed, so I put that there for you to kind of show you that our revenue is not just a single stream it comes from various sources and so it's very difficult then to project as the year progresses. Consistent funding we do estimate will be realized in terms of different revenue. I mentioned before the local fund, it is a state-local partnership funds schools in Virginia eventually impact that SCR index. We had the... our funding granting George locally being 40%, 42% of the school's operating budget, [1:08:10 inaudible].

This year, his request, there's a 1.5 million dollar difference as some of you pointed out in the first draft [1:08:23 inaudible] that is unusually high, well let's do the budget. [1:08:38 inaudible] go back to make sure that we understand that the state, the General Assembly this year has taken it upon ourselves to score, it's to move more funding and try to keep with teacher compensation. So the state really for... has a significant impact in terms of funding. Remember that relationship where the state was willing to educate the expectation that is how the data has to do provide, their fiscal effort in accordance with the state or [1:09:12 inaudible]. So whenever you see a bump and then state after, there's the assumption that every little county in Virginia, will also be able to make that budget whole, if you don't have that funding is not what's been very calm this year. The school divisions to have a larger than normal funding gap between what the state is providing and what would be necessary locally to make that budget whole.

I want to point out their relationship. This is not closed be in isolation. This factory that [1:09:49 inaudible] this year, Virginia. I've provided for you a summary of the different revenue sources for each of those sources. It's a good question. These are pupil expenditures and then use the most recent financial data available from the state, which is fiscal year 17. What I'm trying to provide for you a comparison with other school divisions, regions. We've all had competitiveness with other school divisions. This is a book [1:10:25 inaudible] pupil expenditures by 17 for ourselves. We're the very first one there. The other schools have been provided.

Ms. Brabo: Can I make a comment?

Dr. Benson: Sure.

Ms. Brabo: Provided you, I think there's a better picture. So if you look at the required local effort side of the sheets and King George County, it's almost 60% of all required

local effort. While Westmoreland only goes 25% above the required local effort. When you only have a thousand students, it's pretty easy to divide it out and make it look like they're making a larger investment in their students. So, quite honestly, I think looking at this sheet that I provided to you with the required local effort and the required local match gives you a truer representation of who is investing in their student's required local match. King George County provides almost 53% above the required amount in Westmoreland only gives 15%. So your slides are skewed in my opinion.

Dr. Benson: That's a fair point if I can expand a little bit there are some other sides to help add that, these are per people expenditures, what I tried to do is I look at school divisions in Virginia that have similar LCI in other words among other school divisions, the five above us, and the five below us with local policy index. That's a proxy from the state that says this is what locality should be as far as supporting funding. We're right there in the middle and then again the five school divisions that are above us and five that are below us in terms of local deposit index and provided that as a [1:12:22 inaudible]. Just provided for you in terms of the index.

Ms. Indseth: So, Dr. Benson do you know the local composite index for Westmore county? Isn't it significantly lower than ours?

Female Speaker: It is [1:12:31 inaudible].

Ms. Indseth: So that plays into locality contribution to the budget.

Dr. Benson: These are overall expenditures State money and local money for the next five and a half [1:12:51 inaudible]

Ms. Brabo: [1:12:59 inaudible]. This is for 2019. [1:13:12 inaudible]. Correct. On that, I don't know.

Dr. Benson: Here's what I tried to do with [1:13:34 inaudible] in the same group of...

Ms. Brabo: My point in the [1:13:37 inaudible]. You have for 2019. It's 0.37 for King George, which was multiple years as you demonstrate, that means for 2018 Westmoreland 0.47 [1:13:49 inaudible]. [1:13:54 crosstalk]. So, it is 0.47 for 2018 so they have a higher positive index than we do.

Dr. Benson: So, let me introduce this one. We have to look at just the [1:14:08 inaudible] expenditures. Looking at the same cohort of school divisions five that are just above us, five that are just below us. I wanted to break down and say, okay, well

let's look at the total, which is the long bar went out to the right. Let's look at the [1:14:25 inaudible] expenditure as a portion of the total expenditure. That gives you a comparison, but then I want to take you out to the right show you that then is the percentage of the budget of the localities supporting. For the operating budget for that year inking George, we have per pupil expenditure of... locally of we have 3,985, we have a total 10,040 per total student expenditure. You'll see right there as an indicator of what we're saying. That 0.37 local composite index. You gave for \$3,985, so we're not too far from that 37% or \$10,000 overall expenditure.

Ms. Brabo: So how did you come up, and again, just help us understand the 3,985, is that based off of the total contribution, whether it was 17 million or is that based off of what the state... is that based off of the 10 million number or the 16?

Dr. Benson: This comes straight from table 15 of the state superintendents.

Ms. Brabo: I'm just trying to understand what your budget or are they using the required local effort that's mandated or are they using what we actually gave you?

Male Speaker: There are no separate budget and we dont budget local dollars for certain specified purposes. And then budget state dollars [1:16:08 inaudible].

Ms. Brabo: Let me clarify this. So is that based off of the total budget or is that based off of the assumption that this was to contribution? I'm trying to just clarify that because obviously that will make a difference in what that number is and that number will be perceived lower if it's only based off of the required local effort versus the actual contribution. I'm I making sense? So did they take your total... the actual budget?

Dr. Benson: Yes.

Ms. Brabo: Okay. Thank you.

Dr. Benson: The actual expenditure is not the...

Ms. Brabo: The actual expenditure.

Dr. Benson: Right. Our calculation was actually [1:16:59 inaudible].

Ms. Woodring: If I give you 37 cents, you still owe me 63 cents. Where's the state? 63 cents?

Ms. Brabo: Thank you.

Dr. Benson: That's the remainder... that's [1:17:11 inaudible].

Ms. Woodring: [1:17:13 inaudible]. I only have \$6,000 first by \$7,000. That's.... the math doesn't add up.

Dr. Benson: What I'm trying to build for you is then was that number we had. The percentage of the budget. The budget that's recorded locally. The point of this slide [1:17:35 inaudible] that there's a total per pupil expenditure [1:17:40 inaudible] local for people expenditure that part of that total. That they can be geared to [1:17:49 inaudible].

Mr. Chair: I think what's not reflected, and it should be pointed out is that the school system does not happen to absorb the cost of school security via SROs. That money was given from the county to the sheriff's office. Also, we have a very large home school population in King George County, and a lot of money goes to support other activities that help them. Half a million dollars to the Smoot Library. Just some things to consider, the support towards education goes much beyond just what the local contribution effort is.

Dr. Benson: My purpose for sharing those slides with you try to end at 40% and with the just trying to help those in context that this year because again, we understand that at 1.1 million with much different than years past, but when we looked at our relative to previous fiscal years, in terms of percentage of local effort required to make the budget whole. It remains in line in terms of the percentage of local support [1:19:07 inaudible]. The third point, third vantage point, rather than just closing thoughts [1:19:17 inaudible]. Some closing thoughts, we do appreciate your consideration. Again, our goals are to maintain competitive compensation insurance for our employees. Insurance that [1:19:40 inaudible].

Mr. Chair: Thank you, Dr. Benson. I will open up the floor for discussion, questions. Yes, sir.

Mr. Crnarich: Just a quick question on the level of contribution [1:20:13 inaudible].

Dr. Benson: The school board has had one work session to look through [1:21:06 inaudible] I'm required to present the school board budget meeting. They looked at that and then they did some work to then identify positions or [1:21:15 inaudible].

Mr. Crnarich: I appreciate; I just wanted [1:21:32 inaudible].

Dr. Benson: I understand that there are a lot higher, but again I want to them on relationship that whenever the state then increases their effort, then every

locality that there's an assumption because the way Virginia is designed, there's an assumption, there's a [1:21:57 inaudible].

Mr. Crnarich:

[1:22:00 inaudible].

Mr. Jenkins:

Perhaps there's already in the [1:22:21 inaudible], but also before you ask about... Despite all of the questions. I really appreciate it. I was just curious like how maybe it was up there and I just missed it, it's highly possible, how much does it take to fund the positions?

Dr. Benson:

I can get you over a broken figure in terms of the total number of positions, I just didn't we a level of detail here, but the last couple of meetings with the school board, that level of detail has been discussed and presented. We have those figures.

Mr. Jenkins:

Do you have any kind of offer to me like that's of all the things I saw it there like that wasn't as important to me and that's what's been the way on my decision.

Dr. Benson:

I'd say you're at 71,000 for a special education teacher, but does that includes salary and benefits.

Male Speaker:

What about the para professionals?

Dr. Benson:

That would be 35 to 40 somewhere in there. Again, that includes VRS [1:23:38 inaudible] insurance.

Mr. Jenkins:

I appreciate it. Thank you.

Male Speaker:

[1:23:48 inaudible]

Ms. Cleveland:

I have a question about the IEP program. Who is it that if financed who goes into that program?

Dr. Benson:

[1:24:04 inaudible]. That is the action plan is developed educators and the families and with the student themselves, so the determination as to whether they qualify for the development [1:24:17 inaudible]. Typically it again then there was, there could be a series of tests, testing that's done to try to infer whether or not that child qualifies for services through Special Education. If they're found eligible. Then at that point there will be a team of people to develop strategies, resources or [1:24:43 inaudible].

Ms. Cleveland:

Is that done within the county, just the county teachers and that [1:24:57 crosstalk].

Dr. Benson: ... provide student information on a student who already have an IEP we're obligated to fulfill... that can happen and does happen [1:25:17 inaudible].

Ms. Cleveland: Do you feel, are you guys alarmed that you're requiring more students in this programs and there aren't more teachers in the program?

Dr. Benson: I wouldn't categorize it as alarmed I think [1:25:42 inaudible] will be also very pragmatic about making sure we understand the needs that must be filled.

Ms. Cleveland: I absolutely agree, I'm just wondering, are we seeing more students get into that program, and how old are they when they're... has it increased? Are we seeing more students needing it? At what level are we seeing them need it? That's what I'm thinking about.

Dr. Benson: [1:26:15 inaudible] to make sure that we're finding interventions [1:27:10 inaudible].

Mr. Chair: Okay. I'm not going to talk about positions because that's for you guys to determine what your priorities are, but from what I observed in the slides, it seems that we have a very low, which is a good teacher to student ratio. We're obviously well within what we could be providing. So, I think there could be some absorption, through that as far as hiring new positions. I think maybe that can be absorbed by maybe shifting that ratio a little bit. Still staying within your bounds. But I think we need to look at a phased-in approach. Everything you all are asked before I think is just fine. No doubt about it. But you can only give so much because there's a lot of needs out there. What I'm seeing is we just finished the county side of our expenditures, and we increased 1.76% that's countywide.

So we were looking at the schools. This is an over 6% increase. So last year we gave 17.2 million dollars in our local contribution, which a 2% increase would equate \$345,000. And right now we're looking at 1.1 million. I'm looking at this from numbers. You guys have a great presentation. There is absolutely no doubt. Our schools are stellar. You all are fully accredited to governor's schools. You're spectacular, but truth be told, when you look at the county as a whole, the schools are in the best place. We have a lot of needs to address. So I'm not saying that every, what you're asking for isn't important. I just have to prioritize. Just like I assume you're going to have to prioritize when you get back what positions you need, which you don't, or what can be phased in. We're not here to tell you that you all were... I'm looking at this from dollars and cents period.

We had to address positions that we needed, some of you may not, some requests that people wanted and they were redlined. I have to ask her how to do the same. So, does anybody else have any questions, discussion that they like to bring up? While the school board is here? With that Dr. Benson, thank you very much. My friends on the school board, thank you very much for everything you all do in our schools. I mean we have an amazing school system. This is just dollars and cents. Thank you.

Mr. Collins: Move to adjourn. Any discussion? All those in favor?

All: Aye.

Mr. Chair: Do we have new action items? County administrator's report.

Dr. Young: No report sir.

Mr. Chair: Is there anything else to be brought before the board?

Mr. Granger: I actually [1:31:06 inaudible] you called me and I'm under the impression you've reached out to all the other supervisors. When are we going to discuss the intern position to support the board of supervisors meeting?

Mr. Chair: I believe Dr. Young needed his determination this evening. Do you need a determination? For the budget that you need everything done tonight for the budget.

Dr. Young: [1:31:29 inaudible].

Mr. Chair: Okay. Is there... do we want to discuss that this, this evening? I did contact all board members. All board members are aware of the subject, but do we want to approach that tonight?

Mr. Granger: I'm going to believe there might discuss it tonight or we'll discuss it at the work session on Monday so I'll get it up to the rest of the board. [1:32:00 inaudible].

Mr. Chair: Okay. So I give you some background. I contacted each board member because there was a discussion amongst board members about, our intern position that is scoring board of supervisors. If we were going to use that money to fund another position requests from the county or if there was justify justification in keeping the position. I guess we need to make a determination if we want to keep that position underneath the board of supervisors.

Mr. Granger: I'm of the opinion that I think we should have moved that position from the board and, we showed that that money you didn't make a creed that we wouldn't be able to use that another need across the county.

Mr. Jenkins: I've had a discussion with you Jeff [1:33:08 inaudible]. Do you think that the [1:33:13 inaudible] service. I look at; the cost part is asking you for, for the department, it's similar. I'd rather, even though we're not technically internship of... I'd rather use [1:33:30 inaudible] that money even though we can probably have it, I'd rather save the money [1:33:37 inaudible].

Ms. Binder: Part of my question Mr. Jenkins, but the person in that position has done a great job in that position. It is over the service but I look at it as we've been making cuts all over the place, and I may [1:34:06 inaudible].

Male Speaker: [1:34:13 inaudible].

Ms. Binder: That passed quite a few times, correct?

Dr. Young: That's correct, ma'am.

Female Speaker: If we're doing what we're saying we're going to do, and fulfill our county's needs [1:34:25 inaudible], we need to make sure that you need... don't skip them over anymore because they really do need it. So, that's my concern.

Mr. Chair: Ms. Brabo.

Ms. Brabo: I guess my first question is I wasn't aware there wasn't money in the budget to fund a position. It was one of your recommendations to ensure there was money for the school. So I guess I'll start with, was their money in the budget to actually fund the Commissioner of revenue position.

Dr. Young: Yes there was.

Ms. Brabo: I don't understand why we need to cut a position. It's just a matter of whether we choose to fund it or not.

Mr. Jenkins: Are we all using our services a lot or could we... can we justify having that position? I would say in my opinion, but like I know I don't ask for her service much or I don't recall asking for the position outright we're voting on or anything like that. So

Ms. Brabo: Position was voted for by this board. Now, Mr. Bush and Ms. Binder were not...

Male Speaker: [1:35:33 inaudible].

Ms. Brabo: It was voted, it was presented by Mr. Quincy Barry in the budget, and it was voted on because [1:35:41 inaudible], part of the board vote. I'm just reminding you.

Mr. Chair: So, that was posed to me and I had Mr. Quesenberry has come back with that, it wasn't presented to the board and then it wasn't voted in that it was created as an intern position. That's what Mr. Quesenberry has going on [1:36:01 inaudible] because someone asked me to look into how the position came about and I did. Mr. Quesenberry, who was the county administrator at the time, this was 2016. After he... it was added. Initially, it was created as an unpaid intern position and then after a period of time, Mr. Quesenberry realized that an intern because of the hours had to be paid. After that then the person started serving as an administrative assistant and working with HR. And then when the person who was filling that position went to fill another full-time position, which was created by the board, the intern position remained vacant.

And that's how we were able to make the current hire now. But according to everything, the position, and I found this out today, the position is still technically an intern position and not part-time because I was looking at being able to shift a part-time to fill up our time and save us from having to create another position and expenditure. But being it's an intern position. We technically can't do that. So it would just be... we would be manifesting, or realizing that savings of \$24,000 that would just go into our contingency fund, is basically what happened in that with the kind of cover some of the expenditures from the newly created part-time position within the commissioner of revenue.

Ms. Brabo: So I will just simply say that it isn't about funding. Dr. Young stated the money is there if we choose to fund the position. So, it's not about funding. I would ask you what is it about then?

Mr. Chair: For me, just like I told you when I talked to you on the phone, its dollars and cents.

Ms. Brabo: But it's not dollars and cents.

Mr. Chair: Well no, to me it is. Just because we have money doesn't mean we need to spend money. If there's a way to realize the savings. I'm all about putting that in the contingency fund waiting until the next year rolling it into our debt mitigation, but ultimately saving money.

Ms. Brabo: Okay. So then...because you guys in January as we went through the list of boards and commissions due to your work schedules. I graciously took on the bulk of them because I recognize that there was a legislative aide to assist. So, I will assume at the next board meeting, you all will be able to take up the equal share of those committees and use your vacation time or sick days in order to attend those meetings. Since I will no longer have someone to assist me because I already give more than 40 hours a week on behalf of the county and I'm certainly not compensated for it.

Mr. Granger: If you identify the positions that you would like to drop off of. I'd be more than willing to take on board.

Ms. Binder: I would like to know which ones are mandated as a county that we have to... all the regional ones...

Mr. Granger: The ones we vote on are the first to go work at the first board meeting. So it's a whole package.

Mr. Chair: Yeah, I think it absolutely should be fair and equitable across the board. And I've had to take leave to attend things. That's what I was saying before, but from what I saw, I thought they were pretty much fair. The ones that we see...

Mr. Granger: I'll be honest [1:39:39 inaudible], I am at least, so I just have no problem. I'll take on some more. So if you identify ones, if JWRC, FAMPO, Military Affairs Council, let me know.

Mr. Chair: I think maybe that's something we should put on the agenda and have a discussion. Let's pull up all the assignments and then we have an open and honest discussion and we'd be fair and equitable about it.

Mr. Granger: Agree.

Mr. Jenkins: Be clear as the position they end until July.

Mr. Granger: This is for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Granger: This is for the next fiscal year. Then there's no effect for the position as now. This is still through July.

Mr. Chair: I will entertain a motion to adjourn. Move to adjourn until March 25th at 6:30 PM in company one.

Male Speaker: All those in favor.

All: Aye.

Mr. Chair: Any opposed? Chair votes, aye. We are adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]