

Joint Committee Minutes
May 25, 2010

A meeting of the Joint Committee was held on May 25, 2010 at the Campbell County Technical Center.

Members present:

R. Leon Brandt, Jr.
Lewis Bryant
Barry Jones
R. David Laurell
Charles Falwell
Steven Shockley
Dr. Robert Johnson

Staff present:

Beverly Eubank

Prior to the meeting committee members enjoyed a meal prepared by the food service class at the Technical Center.

The meeting opened at 7:06p. m. with the following topics discussed:

// **Follow up on FY 2011 Budget**

Mr. Laurell opened the discussion stating he was not aware of any outstanding budget items except the purchase of school buses. He reminded the committee the Schools and County had in past years tried to make some purchases to keep up the fleet. This year due to budget constraints no request was made to purchase buses. Mr. Laurell and Dr. Johnson discussed the possibility of enough fuel savings in the School's pupil transportation line to revert for bus purchases. Their thought was to have the School submit an appropriation transfer and purchase order for buses if funds are actually available. Dr. Johnson noted the auditors would like for them to complete this before the end of June and they would have a better idea on the availability of funds after schools closed for the summer.

Mr. Falwell asked if they would rely on their bus maintenance logs to replace necessary buses or if they went by age and mileage. He noted some vehicles held up better than others and may even run better with age. Dr. Johnson explained he, Lewis Bryant, Marty Harvey and bus maintenance staff would discuss which buses needed replacing and which could continue to be used.

// **Joint Planning Session for 2010**

Mr. Laurell commented that everyone appreciated the Joint Board meeting held on May 10th. He knew it wasn't an easy meeting to have but the comments he received had been positive.

Mr. Falwell commented on how well he thought the meeting on May 10th went even though there was a controversial topic and Mr. Brandt agreed, noting he believed the Boards work well together. Mr. Falwell also mentioned he has received more positive feedback from the budget adoption than negative.

Mr. Laurrell stated the County holds a joint planning session each year and would like to focus on the schools with the School Board and administration this year. The date has tentatively been set for October 8, 2010. He asked members their opinions of having both boards meet to discuss issues and long term planning. He specifically brought up school and general funding needs, significant issues needing to be addressed and what the future of Campbell County Schools and the County may look like in the next five to ten years. He told members he did not expect to see educational funding from the State improving for several years and did not think the political atmosphere in Richmond was particularly supportive of additional funding for public education at this time.

After some discussion the general consensus was having the Board of Supervisors and the School Board meet jointly is a good idea; however several members of the committee are not available for the particular date set for this year. Mr. Laurrell noted he would check his calendar and look into which date best works for the majority. October 15th was offered as an option.

Committee members also agreed having Dr. Johnson and the School Board present when the school's budget was presented to the Board of Supervisors would allow time for questions and discussion if needed and there would be no question that everyone was not involved in the decisions about the budget.

// **Changes in VRS**

Mr. Laurrell explained the VRS change by legislators is for anyone hired as of July 1, 2010 to pay their own 5% contribution to the retirement plan ("Plan 2" employees.). He further explained there were alternate actions that could be taken by employers; however the Board of Supervisors voted to accept the employee paying the 5% contribution terms of the legislation at their May 17, 2010 meeting. The School Board will also have to make a decision on the new legislation and as of this date Dr. Johnson wasn't positive of his recommendation.

Mr. Laurrell stated the Board of Supervisors is adding to the Legislative Agenda the request to amend the legislation by allowing localities the option to require all employees to pay the 5% share as long as there is no net loss in salaries. This came from the concern over disparity in salary scales with new and current employees who will not be required to pay the 5% contribution.

// **Changes in Health Insurance**

The Board of Supervisors has adopted a plan to merge all Health Care plans now offered to one Key Care 500 plan for FY11 and migrate over a two year period into a Health Savings Account (HSA) for FY12. The HSA will have a much higher deductible and the County plans to fund the first years deductible and will have to wait to see if they may do the same in future years. Mr. Laurrell explained it has been five (5) years since there have been increases to the Health Care premiums and over the past 18 months there has been a 33% increase in claims. He noted the HSA would give more responsibility to employees for their health care and also keep cost down. A HSA plan is transferable from one year to the next and from one job to the next.

Dr. Johnson explained Matt Smith, the insurance consultant would be helping to educate and guide school employees on the new plan and also on HSAs.

Mr. Shockley asked whether or not the new health care plan from President Obama would affect our plans. Mr. Laurrell explained there may be some impact but until the plan becomes a reality no one knows for sure.

// **Matter from the Floor**

Mr. Jones expressed his appreciation to Mr. Falwell for his comments about the budget dilemma at the May 10th Joint meeting.

Mr. Jones inquired if plans for a new repair shop for buses and county cars were still on the table. Mr. Laurrell explained it is a future priority initiative and would be continued to be looked at pending availability of funds or the necessity to replace the existing facility.

Mr. Laurrell asked if the committee wanted to meet for the next scheduled meeting on July 27, 2010. Many of the members had vacation plans. It was the consensus that the meeting should be canceled and if it became necessary then convene a meeting prior to the scheduled September meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:22 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 28, 2010.