

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC FORUM - MAY 28, 1998 – 7:00 P.M.
SOUTH ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL, CHINA GROVE, NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Jim Neely, Chairman
J. Newton Cohen, Vice-Chairman
Steve Blount, Member
Frank Tadlock, Member

ABSENT: Dave Rowland

Members of the Board of Education present were Bruce Jones, Kay Norman, Eldridge Williams, Stan Welch, Karen Carpenter and Vick Bost.

Chairman Neely called the meeting to order and introduced Larry Parks. Mr. Parks reviewed the ground rules for the meeting and recognized Tim Russell.

Mr. Russell presented the County's proposed funding plan to bring the schools to state funding average within two years and how the plan would be implemented.

Howard Hurt then presented the Board of Education's plan for allocation of additional funds and where their needs were.

Mr. Parks then opened the floor for those who had signed up to address the Boards.

1. Ernie Faw – supported higher quality education and facilities, added that administration needed to be consolidated.
2. Christy Sutton – 8th grade student who stated that her school did not have the same programs as some of the other schools.

3. Linda Potay – a high school counselor who stated that the alternative high school and independent high school worked very well and would like to see the programs expanded.
4. Bud Bost – stated he thought both boards had poor management and leadership.
5. Pattie Burchette – discussed students with learning disabilities and questioned that money in the county is properly spent.
6. F.D. Isenhour – stated he understood the vast differences among the students in the system and wanted the per pupil average raised so children would be higher than average.
7. Marka Jacobs – stated that PTA has become a fundraiser for schools instead of just providing support and she felt a lack of school funding affected academic achievement.
8. Janet Roth – stated that an effective system must have everyone working together.
9. Joe Wilson – stated that the problems in the schools haven't occurred overnight and can't be fixed overnight. He said the two board should not fight each other but work together.
10. Ann Corriher – said that student scores couldn't be raised while they are in overcrowded classrooms.
11. John Sims – supports education but wants to get the most for his money. He said he felt the school administration was bloated and wanted assurance the school board would use the money wisely.
12. Donna Johnson – suggested basing our school system on the successful programs around the country. She said she could support a tax increase if the money was used wisely.
13. Shirley Demby – concerned that schools lack funds to provide the basic teaching aids. She added that teachers perform very important work but are grossly underpaid.
14. Nancy Broom- stated that she saw many different children with many different needs in the school system. She said you can not downsize education when growth has not stopped.
15. Kathy Dayvault – stated that children face greater challenges today and aren't prepared for technological changes. Supported increased funding and accountability plans proposed by both boards.
16. Libby Staton – concerned that teachers had to use their own money to buy classroom supplies and asked the Board to fund more tutors.
17. Kathy Overcash – stated she felt the County was not committed to excellence if it wasn't committed to education.
18. Holly Lowder - a teacher who spoke about her concerns with achieving higher test scores in overcrowded classrooms. She stated it was hard to get help for students in the medium low range and needed more tutors.
19. Patsy Evans – concerned that children will fall through the cracks if funding isn't provided to implement remediation programs.

20. Lee Snow – concerned about the possibility that they will not be able to replace teacher who leave because of funding. She also questioned the practice of combined classrooms.
21. David King – stated that this was a critical issue and results could only be achieved through teamwork.
22. Cheryl Hooper- stated she was a reading tutor and the program had been very successful. She asked to have reading tutors at each grade level.
23. Cindy Beeker – addressed the need for support for the alternative and independent high schools. She asked the Board to please fund more reading tutors and a remediation system.
24. Jan Harwood – spoke in favor of increased funding for the schools. She said additional teachers were needed to give the students more one on one attention.
25. Lisa Morris- asked the Board to fund the schools properly. She stated that the PTA was having a hard time trying to raise money for maintenance and materials.
26. James Second – stated that people have lost trust in the school leaders and until it was restored money would not solve the problem.
27. Mike Rogers – spoke about the exceptional treatment his son who has down’s syndrome has received. He stated they needed more teachers like the ones who have helped him.
28. David Hill – stated that state average in funding was not unrealistic adding that the world was changing and you couldn’t have an average education and compete in today’s market.
29. Penny Wooten – spoke against combination classes and stated that students needed a full day of instruction time.
30. Sharon Wooten – stated that there were many needs in the schools that were not met because of lack of funding. She stated if the County wanted higher test scores then the place of learning should be top-notch.
31. Cindy Eudy – stated that they needed developmentally special needs classes because all children deserved the chance to learn.
32. Darrell Corriher – supported increased funding so that schools can achieve excellence, but would seek funds other than through a tax increase.
33. Rebecca Corriher Daugherty – spoke against the Class of 1999 plan and the 2.0 required to graduate with a diploma.
34. Allen Pozack – stated that growth in the school demanded increased funding.

There being no further speakers, Mr. Parks thanked the audience for their participation. Chairman Neely then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC

Clerk to the Board