

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION ON PROPOSED SCHOOL BOND
(CONTINUATION OF JUNE 17, 2002 MEETING)
JUNE 25, 2002 – 3:00 PM
COMMISSIONER’S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Present: Steve Blount, Chairman
Gus Andrews, Vice-Chairman
Arnold Chamberlain, Member
Frank Tadlock, Member
Leda Belk, Member

The County Manager, the Clerk to the Board and the Finance Director were also present.

Chairman Blount reconvened the meeting at 3:00 pm

Chairman Blount started out by thanking Clyde Miller, Chairman of the Rowan Salisbury School Board and Gene Miller, Assistant Superintendent with the Rowan Salisbury School System, for being in attendance.

Chairman Blount then went over the packets given to the Board, which included:

- A priority facility needs flyer
- A letter, dated February 20, 2002, to the Rowan-Salisbury School Board from the Board of Commissioners asking some questions of concern
- A letter to the Board of Commissioners from the Rowan-Salisbury School Board answering those questions dated May 31, 2002
- A revised priority list divided into two parts
- The 2002 School Bond issue
- A map of the proposed redistricting with the new high school
- A list of financial scenarios

Chairman Blount then asked if there were any questions. With no questions being asked, Chairman Blount referred to the May 28th document. The Board agreed to move the West Rowan Elementary School to the priority one list.

Chairman Blount then opened the floor up to the Board to discuss their concerns. Commissioner Belk gave a list of what she would like to see done with the entire package.

Commissioner Tadlock stated that he supported moving West Rowan Elementary to list one and the expansion of Salisbury High School.

Commissioner Chamberlain voiced his concern over the rural vs. urban high schools in the County and where 1,200 students would come from to fill up Salisbury and North Rowan High Schools. Commissioner Chamberlain also questioned the need of new multi-purpose rooms at Cleveland and Woodleaf Elementary Schools.

Commissioner Andrews then asked several questions referring to the maintaince cost at Salisbury High School and the water line and stadium repairs at West Rowan High School.

After reviewing the list and much discussion the Board unanimously passed the following modifications to the 2002 bond list:

- Changing the North Rowan High School vocational classrooms to standard classrooms costing \$394,000
- Deleting the multipurpose room at Cleveland Elementary School saving \$631,312
- Deleting the multipurpose room at Woodleaf Elementary School saving \$631,312
- Add infrastructure to the new high school to increase capacity to 1,500 costing \$1,500,000
- Add a West Area Elementary School costing \$8,907,877
- Expand Salisbury High School to 1,200 capacity costing \$716,000
- Expand North Rowan High School to 1,200 capacity costing \$1,497,000
- Delete West Rowan High School water line saving \$300,000
- Delete West Rowan High School stadium repair saving \$50,000
- Add three classrooms at Erwin Middle School costing \$300,000

After a brief break, it was concluded that the total additions to the package added up to \$10,909,235. The original package was \$58,913,684 bringing the total package for Rowan-Salisbury Schools up to \$69,822,937.

The next item of discussion was how much money to appropriate to the Kannapolis City School System. Previously the Board had based the amount given on ADM's (Average Daily Members). The system requested \$4,131,754 from the Board to cover the cost of the students in the system who live in Rowan County. This equals approximately 25% of the students in their system. After some discussion, the Board agreed to give the Kannapolis system the full amount they requested bringing the *total proposed bond package up to \$73,954,691.*

The following graph shows the final decisions made by the Board on the entire package:

| School | Amount | Add or Delete | Reason |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| North Rowan H.S. | 1) \$394,000 2) \$1,497,000 | 1) Reduced from \$531,850 2) Cost proposed | 1) Money taken out for vocational classrooms 2) Expand capacity to 1,200 students |
| Salisbury H.S. | \$716,000 | Cost proposed | Expand H.S. to 1,200 students |
| Cleveland & Woodleaf Elem. | \$1,262,624 | Delete | Multi Purpose building |
| West Rowan H.S. | \$355,000 | Delete | Delete \$300,000 for new water line and \$55,000 for stadium |
| New West Rowan Elem. | \$8,907,877 | Cost proposed | Moved to Part 1 |
| Erwin Middle | \$300,000 | Cost proposed | Build 18 classrooms to eliminate mobile units. |
| New H.S. | \$1,500,000 | Add | Meet infrastructure needs |
| Kannapolis City Schools | \$4,131,754 | Amount requested | Supports the 25% of students in system that live in Rowan County. |

The next issue discussed by the Board, concerned how the bond package should be presented to encourage support from the citizens. Commissioners Belk, Tadlock, and Andrews felt the voters should be given one, all-inclusive package to vote on. Chairman Blount and Commissioner Chamberlain felt that the package should be split up. Chairman Blount reviewed three options for consideration:

- 1) Vote on one \$50 million package for the new high school and three new elementary schools and a \$24 million package for renovations and expansions.
- 2) Vote on one \$50 million package including the three new elementary schools and the renovations and expansions and a \$24 million package for the new high school.
- 3) Vote on one, all-inclusive package

The issue is to be discussed further at the meeting with the Rowan Salisbury School Board on July 8th.

Other issues discussed were the proposed redistricting and the accuracy of growth projections.

The Board concluded discussions on the topic of financing the package. It had been proposed that the financing of the package would not last any longer than the length of time the package would meet the needs of the schools. If the length of financing were decreased, then the payments would go up, impacting the tax rate. However, the total amount of money spent would go down because of less spending on interest rates. There could be an initial increase of nine (9) cents on the tax rate, which would decrease over a period of time. Chairman Blount asked the Finance Director to go over some numbers and possible options.

With no further issues to be discussed, Chairman Blount adjourned the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil
Clerk to the Board