

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
WITH THE
ROWAN SALISBURY SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD OF EDUCATION
July 1, 2013 – 4:30 PM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Present: Jim Sides, Chairman
Craig Pierce, Vice-Chairman
Jon Barber, Member
Mike Caskey, Member
Chad Mitchell, Member

County Manager Gary Page, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Barger, County Attorney Jay Dees and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

Board of Education members in attendance were Chairman Dr. Richard Miller, Kay Wright Norman, Jean Kennedy, Susan Cox, L. A. Overcash, Joshua Wagner, and Charles Hughes. Also present was Clerk to the Board Bonnie Holder, Attorney Brian Shaw and Finance Officer Tara Trexler. Superintendent Dr. Judy Grissom participated by telephone conference.

Chairman Sides convened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Pierce provided the Invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

**MEDIATION FOR FUNDING DISPUTES BETWEEN THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

County Attorney Jay Dees discussed the Rowan Salisbury School Systems Board of Education (BOE) request for mediation and also explained the statutory requirements for the mediation. Mr. Dees announced that Judge Willis Whichard

would serve as the mediator and for the current meeting Judge Whichard would participate by telephone conference.

Judge Whichard described his approach to the mediation process in accordance with North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) § 115C-431. Judge Whichard said he understood the current meeting would be recessed until July 8, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Judge Whichard said, as mediator, he would attempt to help negotiate and find a resolution to the dispute between the BOE and the Board of Commissioners (BOC). Judge Whichard reviewed the list of individuals that should be present for the mediation process and said that both boards and their representatives were statutorily required to cooperate and respond to the requests of the mediator. Judge Whichard said the NCGS required the mediation process to be concluded by August 1, 2013.

Judge Whichard further explained that he had no power other than power to attempt to persuade each board to a course of action. Judge Whichard said his only interest was to help resolve the dispute and that he would not make any attempt to explain any amount of time he spends with each board. Judge Whichard said if the attorneys could not resolve procedural matters, he would step in and do so.

In conclusion, Judge Whichard said he looked forward to working with everyone.

Chairman Sides offered the BOC meeting chambers as a site for the mediation but said he would leave the meeting location up to Dr. Miller's discretion. Dr. Miller expressed appreciation for the flexibility and said the BOE would check into options for a more mutual site.

Mr. Shaw stated that while the meeting on July 8, 2013 was a public meeting, public comment would not be allowed.

RECESS

With no further business to come before the governing bodies, Commissioner Pierce moved at 4:47 p.m. to recess the meeting to July 8, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. with the location for the meeting to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Barger, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board /
Assistant to the County Manager