

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MAY 8, 2007  
1:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

GLADYS JONES, VICE CHAIRMAN  
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN  
FRED TUTEN, COUNCILMAN  
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

**STAFF PRESENT:**

RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. A/S.  
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:**

DR. GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN

**STAFF ABSENT:**

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA WERE NOTIFIED.

DURING PERIODS OF DISCUSSION AND/OR PRESENTATIONS MINUTES ARE TYPICALLY CONDENSED AND PARAPHRASED.

VICE CHAIRMAN JONES CALLED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 1:00 P.M.

DR. SINGLETON ADDRESSED THE COMMITTEE AND INTRODUCED THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF JASPER COUNTY SCHOOLS, DR. DELACEY SANFORD.

DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT THERE ARE SOME ISSUES, BUT IF EVERYTHING GOES AS IT SHOULD THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET SHOULD BE BALANCED. DR. SINGLETON SAID THE STATE FEELS A CLASS OF 35 STUDENTS IS ACCEPTABLE, HE FELT THAT WAS TOO MANY STUDENTS IN ONE CLASS. DR. SINGLETON SAID THEY CANNOT RETAIN GOOD TEACHERS BECAUSE THEY CAN MAKE MORE MONEY IN THE SURROUNDING SCHOOL DISTRICTS. DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS PLANNING ON PAYING THE TEACHERS THE SAME SALARY THAT THE TEACHERS ARE MAKING IN BEAUFORT COUNTY.

MS. MACK-HUFF SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPERTY IS ASSESSED HIGHER, IT MAY EFFECT THE STATE FUNDING, BUT SENATOR PINCKNEY TOLD HER THERE IS A RESERVE FUND AND ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT WOULD LOSE MONEY BECAUSE OF THE INCREASE IN VALUE WILL GET THE MONEY AND THAT JASPER COUNTY WILL GET THE \$2.5 MILLION BECAUSE JASPER COUNTY HAS ONLY ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

MS. MACK-HUFF DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS INCREASES AND THAT THE NON-SALARIED SPENDING IS \$4,083,086.00 AND THE SALARIED COSTS ARE

\$13,706,283.00. THE SALARY COST IS \$1,668,201.00 MORE THAN LAST YEAR.

COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED ABOUT AN INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT AND MS. MACK-HUFF SAID THEY WERE EXPECTING ABOUT 20 MORE STUDENTS FOR A TOTAL OF 3,301 STUDENTS.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THEY WERE BASING THE ABILITY TO PAY FOR THE INCREASES IN THE SALARIES ON THE FUNDING FROM THE STATE AND HOW WOULD THOSE INCREASES BE PAID FOR IN THE FUTURE. MS. MACK-HUFF SAID THAT SHE WAS NOT SURE HOW THE FUNDING WOULD INCREASE IN THE FUTURE AND THEY DID NOT HAVE A PLAN REGARDING MAINTAINING THE SALARIES. DR. SINGLETON INTERJECTED THAT THEY WERE ANTICIPATING THE FUNDING WOULD CONTINUE.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED WHY A DEPUTY SUPERVISOR AND A DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL WERE NECESSARY AND MS. MACK-HUFF SAID THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL WOULD BE RECRUITING TEACHERS AND HANDLING THE PERSONNEL ISSUES. DR. SINGLETON SAID THERE ARE TWO CAMPUSES, BUT FIVE SCHOOLS.

DR. STANFORD SAID IF THEY ARE GOING TO IMPROVE THE ACADEMICS OF THE STUDENTS, THEY NEED A GOOD PERSONNEL DIRECTOR TO HIRE GOOD TEACHERS AND THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT WILL WORK WITH BOTH SCHOOL CAMPUSES TO IMPROVE THE TEST SCORES. DR. SANFORD SAID THAT SOME POSITIONS HAVE BEEN COMBINED AND SOME HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED.

VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT THE HR POSITION AND IF IT COVERED PERSONNEL. DR. SANFORD SAID THE HR PERSON WOULD DO BOTH JOBS, RECRUITING, COVER TITLE TWO AND THE PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES.

COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED WHEN THE SCHOOLS WOULD BE READY. DR. SINGLETON SAID RIDGELAND WOULD BE READY BY EARLY JUNE, 2007 AND THE HARDEEVILLE CAMPUS MOST OF IT WOULD BE READY AUGUST 28, 2007. DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT SCHOOL CANNOT START BEFORE THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY IN AUGUST. DR. SINGLETON SAID THE HARDEEVILLE CAMPUS HAS ABOUT 20-25 CLASSROOMS THAT WILL NOT BE FINISHED, BUT THEY WILL NOT BE NEEDED.

COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THEY HAD A BACK-UP PLAN IF THE NEW ENROLLMENT EXCEEDED 20 STUDENTS AND DR. SINGLETON SAID THEY WOULD BE FINE IN HARDEEVILLE, BUT RIDGELAND WOULD BE TIGHT.

VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED IF THEY HAD PLANS FOR THE OLD SCHOOLS, AND DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT THE OLD SCHOOLS AND SOME OF THE SCHOOLS ARE IN VERY BAD SHAPE AND NEED TO COME DOWN. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT MOVING THE DISTRICT OFFICES AND DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT THEY HAD NO PLANS TO MOVE THEM THIS YEAR.

VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN STUDENTS LIFE AND PROVIDES THEM WITH HELP WITH THEIR STUDIES AND WHY WOULD THE SCHOOL DISTRICT NOT PAY FOR THEIR ELECTRIC BILL. DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT WHEN THE SCHOOLS ARE VACATED THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WOULD HAVE THE UTILITIES DISCONNECTED AND THAT THE AGENCIES USING THE FACILITIES WOULD HAVE TO SHARE THE UTILITIES.

DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT IF ALL GOES AS PLANNED THEY WILL HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET, BUT THEY HAVE SOME OTHER NEEDS AND ASKED THAT THE COUNCIL CONSIDER FUNDING THEM. DR. SINGLETON SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THREE COMPUTERS IN EACH CLASSROOM AND THAT WOULD COST ABOUT \$583,000.00. DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT THEY ALSO WANTED TO SET UP VIDEO DISTANCE LEARNING SO THAT PROGRAMS CAN BE SHARED. THE VIDEO DISTANCE LEARNING WOULD COST \$202,000.00. DR. SINGLETON SAID ADDITIONAL SRO OFFICERS WOULD BE NEEDED AND THEY WOULD COST \$130,000.00. THE TOTAL OF THESE ITEMS IS \$915,000.00 AND DR. SINGLETON ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER FUNDING THEM.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED WHY AN SRO OFFICER WOULD NEED A CAR AND DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT THEY ARE CALLED AWAY FROM THE SCHOOLS IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY IN THE COMMUNITY. DR. SINGLETON SAID THE SRO OFFICERS ARE NOT THERE TO DISCIPLINE THE STUDENTS, BUT TO TEACH THE STUDENTS ABOUT SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID IF THE SRO OFFICERS ARE IMPORTANT, THEN WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROTECTING THE STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOLS. DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT THE SRO OFFICERS ARE EMPLOYED BY THE COUNTY OR THE CITY AND THEY WORK THE SCHOOL CALENDAR, HOWEVER, WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT THEY RETURN TO THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT TO WORK. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF THE BUS DRIVERS HAVE A PROBLEM ARE THE SRO OFFICERS CALLED. DR. SINGLETON SAID IF SOMETHING HAPPENS ON THE BUS, THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IS CALLED. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED HOW OFTEN THE SRO OFFICERS ARE CALLED OUT AND DR. SINGLETON SAID THAT IN THE PAST 8 YEARS HE SAID THEY MAY HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT 1 OR 2 TIMES.

VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED IF BOTH SCHOOLS WERE IN THE CITY LIMITS AND DR. SINGLETON SAID THE HARDEEVILLE CAMPUS WAS IN THE CITY LIMITS, BUT THE RIDGELAND CAMPUS WAS LOCATED IN THE COUNTY, BUT RIDGELAND WAS TALKING ABOUT ANNEXING IT. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID IF THE SCHOOLS ARE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SRO OFFICERS. DR. SINGLETON SAID THE SHERIFF CAN STILL PUT ONE IN, BUT THE OFFICER WOULD HAVE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE CHIEF OF THE MUNICIPALITIES. RANDY HORTON SAID JUST HAVING A LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE ON THE PROPERTY LETS THE PUBLIC KNOW THAT THEY ARE PRESENT IN THE SCHOOLS. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED IF IT HAD TO BE A NEW VEHICLE AND DR. SINGLETON SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO BE PROPERLY EQUIPPED, BUT IT DID NOT HAVE TO BE NEW.

RONNIE MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE STILL DID NOT HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS ON STATE FUNDING AND THAT FROM THE LOCAL EFFORT WOULD BE \$12,038,000 AND HE STILL NEEDED TO CALCULATE AND FIGURE THE MILLAGE LIMITATION AND THAT DID NOT INCLUDE THE \$2.5 MILLION WHICH WHEN ADDED IN WOULD GIVE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ABOUT A \$4,000,000.00 INCREASE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE ESTIMATE IS \$11,376,000.00 WHICH IS ABOUT \$1,000,000.00 MORE THAN WAS BUDGETED AND THAT COULD EFFECT THE LOCAL EFFORT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WILL BE WORKING ON THESE ISSUES AND WILL HOPEFULLY HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS THAT ARE PENDING BEFORE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING.

MR. HORTON SAID THAT TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOLS, MONEY NEEDS TO BE SPENT IN THE CLASSROOMS AND TO GET GOOD QUALIFIED TEACHERS, THE TEACHERS NEED TO BE PAID WHAT THE NEIGHBORING AREAS ARE PAYING.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 1:50 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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GLADYS N. JONES  
VICE CHAIRMAN