MINUTES
Board of Supervisors
County of Prince George, Virginia

Special Called Joint Meeting
With the Prince George County School Board
October 24, 2019
Prince George High School Commons Area
7801 Laurel Spring Road, Prince George, Virginia

MEETING CONVENED. A special called meeting with the Prince George County School Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2019 in the Prince George High School Commons Area, 7801 Laurel Spring Road, Prince George, Virginia by Donald R. Hunter, Chairman.

ATTENDANCE. The following members responded to Roll Call:
Donald R. Hunter, Chairman                              Present
Floyd M. Brown, Jr., Vice-Chairman                     Present
Alan R. Carmichael                                     Present
Marlene J. Waymack                                      Present
T. J. Webb                                             Present

Also present was: Percy Ashcraft, County Administrator; Betsy Drewry, Finance Director; Andrea Erard, Assistant County Attorney; Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, School Superintendent; and members of the Prince George County School Board, Bobby Cox, Chairman; Lewis Stevenson, Vice-Chairman; Robert Eley; Kevin Foster; and Chris Johnson.

Pledge of Allegiance to U.S. Flag. Mr. Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. After Chairman Hunter clarified that they were there to only discuss the air quality control issues at Walton Elementary School, Mr. Carmichael made a motion, seconded by Mr. Webb, to adopt the agenda as amended. Roll was called on the motion.

On roll call the vote was:
In favor: (5) Brown, Waymack, Hunter, Webb, Carmichael
Opposed: (0)
Absent: (0)

JOINT DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A. Walton Elementary School (Air Quality Control Issues)

Dr. Lisa Pennycuff gave a presentation addressing the air quality concerns at Walton Elementary School. The school began experiencing these difficulties in January of 2019. Since then, they have been conducting monthly testing of impacted areas for tracking and following the professional recommendations to remediate any concerns that may arise. During this time, they have had 14 of 67 (21%) classrooms experience air quality concerns. The concerns have led to students being placed in other classrooms for instruction while the rooms were remediated and retested for clearance prior to their return. Five of these rooms have had to be remediated twice. This indicated that 94% of the building either had no quality concerns or were no longer a concern after one remediation.

Some of the work that has been done to try to address the cause of the difficulties includes deep cleaning, increasing custodial staff, the cleaning of the HVAC duct work, the addition of dehumidifiers and air scrubbers, and monthly testing. Routine testing identified elevated levels of CO2 in some areas. The fresh air intake has been adjusted to increase outside air coming into the rooms. In order to increase the flow of fresh air in the classrooms, the fans in the HVAC system will be set to run continuously. Additionally, CO2 monitors have already been installed in some classrooms and CO2 monitors for the additional classrooms with elevated levels have been ordered and will be installed soon. The elevated CO2 level is an indicator that the HVAC ventilation may need further investigation. The school division has contracted with an Architectural and Engineering Firm and the mechanical engineer was recently on site.
The School Board approved the purchase of three trailers/educational cottages with two classrooms in each for a total of six classrooms to provide the school with additional temporary and more permanent options to keep the children and faculty safe. Consensus for funding was provided by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, October 22.

Mr. Chadwick Bowman, Industrial Hygienist with the El Group, Inc. stated that the elevated CO2 at these levels would not be an immediate health concern, but rather an indicator that the HVAC System should be checked and repaired/modified as needed to allow for adequate fresh air to the space. As far as mold levels go, it may be related to something brought in by the kids on their shoes. The school is extremely low by comparison. He does recommend that the gym and gym office water stained ceiling tiles be replaced. He added that the rooms were very clean with low mold counts in general. He stated that there is absolutely no need to move children out of Walton Elementary School based on their findings. The School Division is effectively addressing the needs as they arise. Mr. Carmichael asked when the tests were done prior. The answer was the last round was on August 22nd. Mr. Brown asked how they address this issue as they move forward. With common allergens, four classrooms have tested significantly different twice and were remediated twice. Teachers have been asked not to use air fresheners and HVAC duct work has been cleaned and duct work insulated. They will look at the HVAC system again. Mr. Brown asked if anyone has checked with other localities to see what their issues may be. The answer was no. Mr. Hunter asked about mold levels and mold sampling. He was told that mold can have a pink level inside even when it is not unhealthy based on mold level of outside mold. There was further discussion with Mr. Stevenson regarding mold studies and toxic molds.

Mr. Tyler Whately of Mosely Architects stated that the HVAC System does not meet modern standards. Many portions would not comply with many building codes regarding ventilation. They plan to work with the County for a more detailed study and recommendation that would make the most sense since the school is up for replacement. There are various contributing factors related to poor indoor air quality. Mr. Johnson of the School Board stated that the rooftop units were installed in the early 2000s and are near the end of their normal service life. Both good dehumidification control and outside air can be contributing factors in maintaining proper indoor air quality related to HVAC systems. It is not uncommon for older buildings to be faced with similar HVAC deficiencies however there is also room for improvement where systems can be upgraded or retrofitted to improve conditions. Mr. Brown asked where they go from here. With direction from Prince George County Schools, Mr. Whately stated that a formal study can be developed that provides good, better, or best recommendations for HVAC improvements. They are also looking at having additional classroom space for children with extreme allergens. Mr. Carmichael asked for a timeline for this study. He was told that a report will be done in two weeks with three levels of good, better, or best recommendations. Meanwhile, the educational cottages/trailers will be ready to occupy in eight weeks.

**ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Webb moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, that the meeting adjourn. Roll was called on the motion.

On roll call the vote was:
In favor: (5) Hunter, Brown, Webb, Waymack, Carmichael
Opposed: (0)
Absent: (0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

[Draft Minutes prepared November 4, 2019 for consideration on November 13, 2019; adopted by unanimous vote.]

Donald R. Hunter
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Percy C. Ashcraft
County Administrator