

Currituck County Schools**Meeting Minutes****Printed : 11/15/2021 9:15 AM ET****Joint Meeting - Board of Education & County
Commissioners****10/27/2021 05:30 PM**

County Cooperative Extension Building

Attendees

Voting Members

Karen Etheridge, Chairman
Dwan Craft, Vice Chairman
Janet Rose, Board Member
Kelly Williams Peters, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Matt Lutz, Superintendent

I. Call to Order**II. Operations Research and Education Laboratory (OREd) Study**

Thomas Dudley, Program Manager of Operations Research and Education Laboratory (OREd), began the meeting by presenting the Land Use Study and Out of Capacity Table. The study removes politics from school planning. He also provided a brief overview of the company's services. Several Interviews were conducted at the beginning of the study which included the County's Planning Department and NCDOT. Mr. Dudley presented growth factors, membership forecasts as well as a development map with percentages (included in minutes). There is an increase in military connected students in the northern end of the county.

The Out of Capacity Table (included in minutes) was presented. It was noted that the capacity numbers used were numbers from CCS working with the Planning Department. Pre-K is not included in the numbers because it is not standardized like K-12, and EC space is not counted because of inclusion changes. The current expansion projects at MMS and MES are also not used in the calculations. Commissioner Beaumont asked for a copy of the methodology and supporting documentation.

III. Facilities Study 2021

Jimmy Hite of Hite Associates, PC presented the 2021 Currituck County Public Schools Facilities Assessment. Mr. Hite gave a summary of his tour and provided details of each individual school in the district. Capacity numbers and space recommendations were discussed. Elementary rooms are more fixed; whereas, middle and high school rooms are more flexible. It was noted that mobile units are not used in the calculations because of potential zoning issues and capacity issues in regards to cafeterias, gymnasiums and septic systems.

The discussion continued on the capacity of the schools. Chairman Etheridge said the brick and mortar numbers provided by the engineers showed that the schools were not okay. Commissioner Beaumont mentioned utilizing the mobile units and suggested a reconfiguring of space. Dr. Lutz stated that the district had already done so and that pressure can be felt in the core areas of the schools.

Mr. Hite continued with his presentation and provided a summary of future school repairs. The current estimate was \$50 million. Of course, because of cost and practicability, projects will be based more on need than wants.

IV. Next Steps

Dr. Lutz recommended that the Boards stay with the current plan to design/build the expansions at MES & MMS and the new elementary school. The Commissioners were thanked for the additional funding but MES will need three additional mobile classrooms next year. ESSER funds cannot be used to purchase mobile units, but will be used, when applicable, to save local funds.

The Boards discussed funding from the lottery and Fines & Forfeitures and how it could be used.

The only elementary school that has available room is W.T. Griggs but the school is not convenient to the Moyock area. Small redistricting will not provide relief. The additional three mobile classrooms will cost approximately \$800,000 to \$900,000 for complete setup. The Boards discussed the need to identify land for future schools and the acreage that would be needed for elementary and middle schools.

The Boards discussed a future bond referendum for funding upcoming school projects. Public buy-in will be needed. Chairman Etheridge said it was important for the public not to be surprised and did not want it to appear the BOE had not done it's due diligence. Commissioner White agreed that no one was at fault. The Boards have been discussing the issue for the past 5 years. A bond must be on the 2024 ballot.

The Boards discussed the bond referendum. The bond request would be requested by the BOE and approved by the Commissioners. It was agreed that an outside firm to promote the bond would be beneficial. It could be a two year process.

The meeting ended with the Board discussing the needed mobile units and the delivery timeframe. It was decided that specifics of the cost would be provided to the Commissioners for funding consideration.

The meeting was adjourned.

Chairperson

Secretary