

MAY 29, 2012

MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Special Budget/Public Policy Session in Conference Center Room CH-14 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Harold Cogdell, Jr. and Commissioners Karen Bentley, Dumont Clarke, George Dunlap, Jim Pendergraph and Jennifer Roberts
County Manager Harry L. Jones, Sr.
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

Absent: Commissioners Neil Cooksey, Bill James, and Vilma Leake

Commissioner Clarke was absent when the meeting was called to order and until noted in the minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cogdell, after which the matter below was addressed.

(1) CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE FY2013 BUDGET REQUEST

Dr. Tony Zeiss, President of Central Piedmont Community College, Kathy Drumm, Vice-President, Michael Moss, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services and Jeff Lowrance, Community Relations & Marketing Services presented Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) FY2013 Budget Request.

Commissioner Clarke entered the meeting.

Note: CPCC's FY2013 County Operating Budget Request was \$31,785,873. CPCC's Capital Reserve request was \$2,101,000.

Dr. Zeiss summarized by saying CPCC's budget request was reasonable. He said CPCC was asking for what they felt was "verifiable and justifiable." Dr. Zeiss said deferred maintenance and the salary supplement accounted for parts of the gap between CPCC's request and the County Manager's recommendation for CPCC.

Dr. Zeiss said "when you think about CPCC, think about the return on investment that you're getting."

Dr. Zeiss thanked the Board for its past and future support.

A copy of the presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Comments

Commissioner Pendergraph asked about financial aid applicants and their awareness of the repayment requirements, which was addressed.

MAY 29, 2012

Commissioner Pendergraph asked for clarification regarding the salary supplement, which was addressed.

Commissioner Pendergraph asked about CPCC's outsourcing efforts, which was addressed.

Commissioner Clarke asked about CPCC's total enrollment and full time equivalent, which was addressed.

Commissioner Clarke asked about CPCC's current expenses and growth, which was addressed.

Commissioner Clarke asked about the state's decrease in funding to community colleges, which was addressed.

Commissioner Clarke asked if the \$4.4 million gap included CPCC's capital request. *The response was no, it was operating only.*

Commissioner Roberts also asked about decreased funding from the state, which was addressed.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the average number of classes or hours taken by a full time equivalent student, which was addressed.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the Entrepreneurship Small Business Center and the 174 jobs created and retained per the presentation, which was addressed.

Commissioner Dunlap asked about the cost per student and what it was based on, which was addressed.

Commissioner Dunlap asked was the supplement for all employees. *The response was yes.*

Commissioner Dunlap asked about CPCC's take on whether the state's funding would help take up part of the \$4.4 million gap. *Dr. Drumm said \$2.1 million of the \$4.4 million was for facility repairs and that state funds couldn't be used for that. Dr. Drumm said the only piece of CPCC's budget, historically, that was not required was the salary supplement.*

Commissioner Dunlap asked was it conceivable the state could close the gap with the exception of the salary supplement and facility maintenance piece. *The response was yes.*

Commissioner Dunlap asked about the WTVI piece referenced in the budget. *Dr. Zeiss said what was in CPCC's budget was what was agreed upon.*

Dr. Drumm said it was confusing because they weren't sure if the \$250,000 would be received by June 30, 2012 or July 1, 2012.

Budget Director Hyong Yi with respect to WTVI said originally the way the Board action was written, everything was being paid out of FY13, but the Board's motion stated that a portion would be paid out of FY12. He said staff would provide the Board with a suggestion at its straw voting session on how to clear this matter up; so that what's presented would reflect the Board's motion.

Dr. Zeiss said the WTVI transition was complicated but was going well.

Chairman Cogdell asked for clarification regarding the \$2.1 million for facility maintenance and the \$2.1 million capital request, which was addressed.

Chairman Cogdell asked about the Cato Middle College population. *The response was that*

MAY 29, 2012

students come from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, private schools and charter schools.

Commissioner Clarke asked if the Board increased its allocation to CPCC for current expenses by \$2.4 million was Dr. Zeiss in a position to say that those funds would not be used to give employees a salary increase. *Dr. Zeiss said the first priority for those funds would be to restore classes, but that he couldn't say with certainty that some of the funds wouldn't be used for salaries.*

Dr. Zeiss said if CPCC received an increase, it would free up some state funds, but the state thus far, has said they can't give an increase. Thus, he really didn't know how to best answer Commissioner Clarke's question.

Commissioner Clarke said he asked because unless the answer was no, it puts the Board in a difficult position to be able to do it. Commissioner Clarke said it would be hard for him to support an increase in funds when there's a possibility that it may be used to increase salaries for CPCC and the same couldn't be done for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools employees.

Dr. Drumm said there was some proposed legislation this year, for the first time, that would allow colleges to have the option to give bonuses that won't be funded, but colleges can do so, if they find it within their allocated state funds.

Dr. Zeiss said that's what they would do if the legislation were to pass. Dr. Zeiss said he would get back to the Board with a better response, because he would not want to mislead the Board.

Commissioner Clarke said he understood CPCC was "juggling" multiple funding sources.

Commissioner Bentley asked what would be CPCC's priority for funding. *Dr. Zeiss said the salary supplement, followed by maintenance.*

This concluded the discussion.

Chairman Cogdell thanked Dr. Zeiss for the presentation.

Note: The above is not inclusive of every comment but is a summary.

Budget Adoption Schedule

Commissioner Clarke addressed the state adopting its budget and asked the Board to give thought to delaying its straw voting until after the state's budget was known.

Commissioner Clarke said he heard the state might adopt its budget soon.

Commissioner Dunlap said he wouldn't be opposed to waiting, because it would assist the Board in its decision making with respect to CMS' salary increase request. He said it would also give the Board guidance on filling the gap for CPCC.

Commissioner Dunlap asked would there be any adverse affect for not adopting the budget, per the schedule presented. *County Manager Jones said no. County Manager Jones said the law requires the budget to be adopted by June 30.*

County Manager Jones said the issue for staff would be calendaring the straw voting sessions and having enough time to ensure that the budget ordinance was prepared as it should be. Therefore, he wouldn't suggest the Board wait until June 30, but rather do it several days before June 30.

MAY 29, 2012

Commissioner Roberts said the only problem with deviating from the established schedule was that it may pose scheduling conflicts for Board members when it came to selecting other dates.

Commissioner Clarke suggested selecting dates in the middle of June, prior to June 19 and that the session starts at 1:00 p.m. with the hope of completing everything in one day.

Chairman Cogdell suggested the Board move forward with meeting as scheduled, starting tomorrow and then address the issue of delaying.

County Manager Jones suggested the Board keep the first meeting date, get questions answered, and then discuss moving forward.

This concluded the discussion. No action was taken or required.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Clarke, seconded by Commissioner Bentley and carried 6-0 with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cogdell, Dunlap, Pendergraph, and Roberts voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting be adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Janice S. Paige, Clerk

Harold Cogdell, Jr., Chairman