

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, March 3, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. at the Madison County Board of Education Central Office located at 5738 US Hwy 25/70, Marshall, North Carolina.

In attendance were Chairman Matt Wechtel; Commissioners Jeremy Hensley and Alan Wyatt; County Manager Rod Honeycutt; and Clerk Mandy Bradley.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Wechtel.

At 8:01 a.m., upon motion by Commissioner Wyatt and second by Commissioner Hensley, the Board voted unanimously to recess the meeting until March 3, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at Hot Springs Elementary School located at 63 N Serpentine Avenue, Hot Springs, North Carolina.

Item 1: Madison County Schools Tours Jointly with Madison County Schools

Hot Springs Elementary School

Upon motion by Commissioner Wyatt and second by Commissioner Hensley, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session on March 3, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at Hot Springs Elementary School located at 63 N Serpentine Avenue, Hot Springs, North Carolina. In attendance were Chairman Matt Wechtel; Commissioners Jeremy Hensley and Alan Wyatt; County Manager Rod Honeycutt; and Clerk Mandy Bradley.

An introduction of the school and welcome by school ambassadors with information regarding enrollment and curriculum pertinent to the school being provided by the school system. Members of the Board toured the school and were provided information regarding the facility for grades kindergarten through fourth including the Interventionalist, playground, library, and various classrooms. An overview and tour of the Head Start facility was also provided.

At 9:20 a.m., upon motion by Chairman Wechtel and second by Commissioner Wyatt, the Board voted unanimously to recess the meeting until March 3, 2023, at 9:40 a.m. at Brush Creek Elementary School located at 265 State Road 1143, Marshall, North Carolina.

Brush Creek Elementary School

Upon motion by Chairman Wechtel and second by Commissioner Hensley, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session on March 3, 2023, at 9:40 a.m. at Brush Creek Elementary School located at 265 State Road 1143, Marshall, North Carolina. In attendance were Chairman Matt Wechtel; Commissioners Jeremy Hensley and Alan Wyatt; County Manager Rod Honeycutt; and Clerk Mandy Bradley.

School ambassadors welcomed the Board and information including the school's enrollment and curriculum overview as well as a tour of the facility was provided by the school system. Classroom tours included the art studio, interventionist, and kindergarten as well as first grade.

At 10:40 a.m., upon motion by Commissioner Wyatt and second by Commissioner Hensley, the Board voted unanimously to recess the meeting until March 3, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Madison High School located at 5740 US Hwy 25/70, Marshall, North Carolina.

Madison High School

Upon motion by Chairman Wechtel and second by Commissioner Hensley, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session on March 3, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Madison High School located at 5740 US Hwy 25/70, Marshall, North Carolina. In attendance were Chairman Matt Wechtel; Commissioners Jeremy Hensley and Alan Wyatt; County Manager Rod Honeycutt; and Clerk Mandy Bradley.

Members of the Board were greeted by school ambassadors and a school overview was provided by the school system. Information included enrollment, curriculum, and programs. Classroom tours were provided including various core curriculum and elective classes, the library, cafeteria, review of the stadium, and the CTE program.

At 11:55 a.m., upon motion by Chairman Wechtel and second by Commissioner Hensley, the Board voted unanimously to recess the meeting until March 3, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at the Madison County Board of Education Central Office located at 5738 US Hwy 25/70, Marshall, North Carolina.

Item 2: Discussion Jointly with Madison County Schools

Upon motion by Chairman Wechtel and second by Commissioner Wyatt, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session on March 3, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at the Madison County Board of Education Central Office located at 5738 US Hwy 25/70, Marshall, North Carolina. In attendance were Chairman Matt Wechtel; Commissioners Jeremy Hensley and Alan Wyatt; County Manager Rod Honeycutt; and Clerk Mandy Bradley.

Safety Update

An update regarding improvements to safety systems of the school system was provided by Dennis Huskins, Principal of Madison High School. Information discussed included current projects for consideration including security features, additional staff, and safety monitoring.

School System Data Update

Lisa Gahagan, Assistant Superintendent provided information to the Board regarding the school system data update. Information discussed included performance of the school system and academic standards as well as academic statistics for grade performance.

Monica Ponder, K-8 Curriculum Director addressed the Board to discuss school interventionalists and targeted instructional support. Information discussed included the function, goals, and strategies of interventionalists serving the school system and how those goals are fulfilled.

O.E. Roberts Stadium Update

Dr. Will Hoffman, School Superintendent provided an update regarding the renovation of the O.E. Roberts Stadium located at Madison High School and current facility needs for various schools in the County as well as answered questions from members of the Board. Current repairs, improvements, and alternate options for work at the stadium and additional facilities were discussed with the Board including the installation of a new aluminum grandstand, upper concourse and press box upgrades, structural repairs to the stadium, and capital building needs of the school system such as HVAC, boilers, and additional classroom space.

Budget Challenges Update

Dr. Hoffman and Finance Officer Michael Wallin presented information and answered questions regarding the school's budget as well as discussed challenges faced by the school system. Information included the state mandated minimum wage, program funding, average daily enrollment of each school, meeting the needs of community growth, retirement contributions, decreased class size as mandated by state legislation, and additional challenges faced by the school system. Discussion was had by members of the board and the school system.

3. Adjournment

Upon motion by Chairman Wechtel and second by Commissioner Wyatt, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

This the 3rd day of March 2023.

MADISON COUNTY


Matt Wechtel, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Mandy Bradley, Clerk