



AT A JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND POWHATAN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD HELD IN THE VILLAGE BUILDING AUDITORIUM, AT 3910 OLD BUCKINGHAM ROAD IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS ON MAY 17, 2022, AT 6:30 PM.

Board of Supervisors Present: David T. Williams, District 1,
Steve W. McClung, District 2,
Mike W. Byerly, District 3, Chair
Bill L. Cox, District 4,
Karin M. Carmack, District 5, Vice-Chair

School Board Members Present: Rick Cole, District 1,
Susan Smith, District 2, Vice-Chair
James Taylor, District 4,
Kim Hymel, District 5, Chair

Board of Supervisors Absent: None

School Board Members Absent: Valarie Ayers, District 3,

County Staff Present: Ned Smither, County Administrator
Bret Schardein, Assistant County Administrator

Constitutional Officers Present: Brad Nunnally, Sherriff

Guests Present: None

1. Call To Order

Chairman Byerly called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Invocation

Mr. Taylor led the invocation.

4. Requests to Postpone Agenda Items and Additions, Deletions, or Changes in the Order of Presentation

Chairman Byerly made a motion to add a brief video produced by the Economic Development Department to the agenda. Ms. Carmack seconded the motion.



Chairman Byerly, Ms. Carmack, Mr. McClung, Mr. Williams, Mr. Cox voted AYE.

VOTE 5-0
MOTION PASSED

Chairman Byerly made a motion to add a brief commentary about fidgets to the agenda. Ms. Carmack seconded the motion.

Chairman Byerly, Ms. Carmack, Mr. McClung, Mr. Williams, Mr. Cox voted AYE.

VOTE 5-0
MOTION PASSED

5. Formal Approval of Agenda

Ms. Carmack made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. McClung seconded the motion.

Chairman Byerly, Ms. Carmack, Mr. McClung, Mr. Williams, Mr. Cox voted AYE.

VOTE 5-0
MOTION PASSED

Fidget Discussion

Chairman Hymel presented fidgets to the attendees and explained that they are meant to occupy a person when feeling nervous or apprehensive.

Economic Development Video

Mr. Schardein gave a brief introduction. He explained that a short video had been made in honor of Economic Development Week.

Chairman Byerly and Chairman Hymel thanked the Economic Development staff for their presentation.

6. Public Comment (time limit 3 minutes per individual/5 minutes per group, 30 minutes total time limit that can be extended by the Board)

Chairman Byerly opened the public comment period.

[Sherwood Hadden, 1995 Jude's Ferry Road](#), expressed concern about the traffic problem outside the schools. He asked that the School Board and Board of Supervisors close that entrance and build a double lane in a different area.

[Joe Vice, 2257 Anderson Highway](#), spoke in support of all Powhatan County Public Schools staff and employees. He expressed concern about the teachers lost for several



reasons this year and urged the School Board to maintain healthy relationships with their staff moving forward. He also expressed his support for the Powhatan Leadership Institute.

Jacqueline Anderson, 3342 Pine Acre Drive, praised the Powhatan Leadership Institute and the School Board budget workshops. Nevertheless, she mentioned several budget areas that the Board can still reduce.

Mike Asip, 3673 Old Buckingham Road, stated that although the School Board has a budget surplus, many areas remain unfunded, and people are losing their jobs. He asked the School Board and Board of Supervisors to reconsider funding the PCPS budget that was initially proposed at \$54,000,000.00.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Byerly closed the public comment period.

7. New Business

a. Discussion of School Budget

Mr. Williams expressed concern about the program that is in place for supplemental health benefits. He stated that he did not think there should be different programs for the school retirees and the rest of the county. For this reason, he said that he was going to have trouble approving the total amount that was being asked. Then, he suggested that the schools consider spending their budget differently than the surrounding localities. He did not understand why the schools were putting money into the capital maintenance reserve instead of other operational needs. He suggested that the School Board take a more complex look at their budget and how they will treat the five percent budget increase. Ms. Carmack stated that she had a different perspective on supplemental health benefits. She said that, in her opinion, the school's approach could incentivize teachers to retire and act as a net benefit. She explained that compression requires a more comprehensive look. Mr. Williams stated that he was not willing to treat one class of county employees differently from the rest. Mr. Cox stated that he was not inclined to give people an incentive to leave. Dr. Taylor said that he shares Mr. Williams' and Mr. Cox's concerns about compression and inflation's impact. He explained that the School Board came to this decision in the spirit of compromise, and they felt they had made progress. He noted that almost every other school division gave their employees bonuses last year except for Powhatan County. Mr. Williams noted that although there seems to be a similar discussion every year, there is still no plan. Ms. Smith stated that the health care benefit was initially meant to benefit employees who had spent many years working for the county. That being said, she believed that the Board members should not make any assumptions without being a teacher and having no salary increase for years. Mr. Williams explained that this was not what he said. Instead, he stated that he questioned whether it was the right thing to do for only a particular group of employees. Ms. Carmack stated that she believed the Board needed to decide whether to cut the School Board's budget at the following meeting instead of continuing to discuss the supplemental insurance year after year. She asked Dr. Jones if the School Board addresses compression in this year's budget, and Dr. Jones confirmed that it is being addressed. Chairman Byerly asked how much money was being allocated to those two groups, and Dr. Jones stated it was



about \$156,000.00 for teachers and approximately \$25,000.00 for secondary principals and mechanics. Chairman Hymel stated that many teachers and employees had told her they plan to leave this year to take advantage of the benefit. She also said that they have said they want to be able to choose when to retire on their terms, and now they feel like they have to if they wish to receive the benefit. She stressed the importance of proper compensation and health insurance for school employees.

b. Discussion of School Transportation Facility

Mr. Williams asked how things were going. Dr. Jones stated that things were going well in various areas. Mr. Williams asked Chief Warner to speak on the matter. Chief Warner stated that he believed Powhatan County needs to look at it as a business venture with the opportunity to grow. In other words, he thought that the system was working but could work better. Chairman Byerly asked if there had been any communication with the Sheriff's department to decide what could be improved. Mr. Cox stated that he would like to see some changes. Specifically, he wanted changes in the Fleet Maintenance Program, operational schedules, bus route designees, and financial reporting system.

8. Public Comment (time limit 3 minutes per individual/5 minutes per group, 30 minutes total time limit that can be extended by the Board)

Chairman Byerly opened the public comment period.

[Mike Asip, 3673 Old Buckingham Rd.](#) noted that Powhatan County Schools rank 111th out of 132 in terms of per-pupil spending. That being said, he stated that there might not be as many inefficiencies and overspending as the Board members think. He mentioned several statistics and noted that this year will be the first time the county underfunds the local composite index budgeted amount that should be given to the schools.

[Jacqueline Anderson, 3342 Pine Acre Drive.](#) spoke about the textbook adoption for ninth grade English. She stated that those textbooks are available for viewing at the high school from 8-3, which makes it very difficult for working parents to stop by. She asked that the Board consider having these textbooks displayed in the public library or somewhere with evening hours.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Byerly closed the public comment period.

9. School Board Comments

Mr. Cole thanked the Board for their input and expressed appreciation for their hard work.

Ms. Smith expressed her appreciation for many of the ideas brought forth tonight.

Dr. Taylor noted that the schools are not absorbing the total 19% increase towards health insurance as Mr. Cox had previously stated. He stated that he saw the benefit of the supplement health benefit and thanked the Board of Supervisors for joining them.

*POWHATAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING WITH SCHOOL BOARD
MAY 17, 2022*



Chairman Hymel announced that the School Board would be holding closed meetings to interview candidates for the superintendent position. She also reminded the community to look on the 'superintendent' tab on the website to find updates on the search.

10. Board of Supervisors' Comments

Mr. Cox thanked Mr. Cole for the passion that he brings to both the meetings and his job.

Chairman Byerly thanked Dr. Jones and Mr. Johns on behalf of the School Board and Board Supervisors for their service and community efforts.

11. Adjournment

Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:50 PM.

ATTEST:

**Ned Smither, County Administrator
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors**

**Michael W. Byerly, Chairman
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors**