

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**January 4, 2010
Open Session Minutes
Special Joint Meeting**

**Burke County Board of Education and the
Burke County Board of Commissioners**

**West Concord Resource Center
Olive Hill Room**

Call to Order

Mr. Bruce Hawkins, Chairman of the Burke County Board of Commissioners called the meeting to Order at approximately 6:05 p.m. Other Commissioners present for the meeting included Mrs. Ruth Ann Suttle; Vice Chair, Mr. Gene Huffman, and Mr. Stephen Smith. Mr. Wayne Abele, Sr. was not present for the meeting. Also present was Mr. Ron Lewis; County Manager, Mr. Redmond Dill; County Attorney, and Mrs. Doris Smith; Clerk to the Commissioner Board.

Call to Order

Mr. Buddy Armour, Chairman of the Burke County Board of Education called the meeting to Order at approximately 6:05 p.m. Other members of the Board who were present for the meeting included Mr. Tim Buff, Mr. Rob Hairfield, Mrs. Karen Sain, Mrs. Susan Stroup, Mrs. Catherine Thomas, and Mr. Sam Wilkinson. Also present for the meeting was Dr. Arthur Stellar; Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Rick Sherrill; Associate Superintendent, Mr. Winston Bagley; Human Resources Director, and Mr. Keith Lawson; Chief Finance Officer.

Invocation

The Invocation was given by Mr. Ron Lewis, County Manager.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wilkinson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Discussion of Efficiency Audit for Burke County Schools

County Manager Ron Lewis reported that after reviewing the needs of the Board of Education the staff of County Commissioners decided to hire a third party professional to take an in depth look into the legitimate needs of the Board of Education. Mr. Lewis recommended retaining the services of Evergreen Solutions, LLC out of Tallahassee, Florida to take a 3 month look at the true objective needs of the school system and report back in written form and constant dialogue to both Boards. Mrs. Ruth Ann Suttle moved to approve the appropriation of \$75,000 to contract with Evergreen Solutions, LLC for the performance of an efficiency audit for the Burke County Public School system. The Motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Wayne Abele, Sr. not present for the meeting.

Mr. Armour made a Motion to support the County Commissioners in their effort to look at Burke County Schools from a financial standpoint. Mr. Hairfield provided a Second to the Motion. The Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion Purposes Only:

Mr. Hawkins reported that Mr. Armour had requested that the Board of County Commissioners consider taking \$275,000 from the 1¢ sales tax (capital \$) for the School Board to use to reduce the salary loss of classified employees by restoring 4% of the 6% reduction taken during budget reductions. Mr. Armour stated his reasoning for not requesting funds for certified staff as being that they were allowed to vote to give up 50% of their supplement for an entire year whereas classified employees were not given the option to vote.

Mrs. Suttle shared that while she understood the importance of reducing the salary loss of classified employees for Burke County Schools, her suggestion would be to wait until after the efficiency audit was complete to review this request, especially since the Commissioners had just voted to spend \$75,000 for the audit. She further stated that if approved at a later date then the 4% restoration could possibly be retro active back to January, 2010.

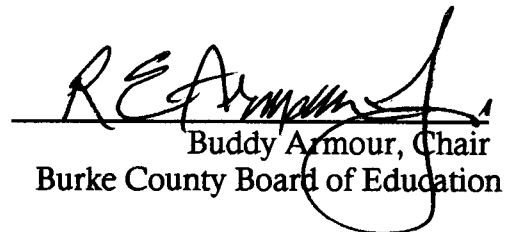
Mr. Wilkinson clarified that tonight's discussion had been on partial restoration of salaries that had been taken during budget reductions and not pay raises.

Adjournment

County Commissioner Steve Smith made a Motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. The Motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment

Mr. Wilkinson made a Motion to adjourn at approximately 6:45 p.m. with a Second by Mr. Hairfield. The Motion carried 7-0.


Buddy Armour, Chair
Burke County Board of Education

ATTEST:



Art Stellar, Board Secretary
Burke County Board of Education