

Special Called Session Board Meeting Highlights  
June 11, 2020

The Gates County Board of Education met in a special called session with the county commissioners on Thursday, June 11, 2020. The meeting took place at the Gates County Historic Courthouse. County Commissioner Chairman Ray Freeman called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, and Mrs. Sallie Ryan. Commissioners present were Mr. Ray Freeman, Ms. Linda Hofler, Dr. Althea Riddick, Mr. Jack Owens and Mr. Jonathan Jones.

The County Commissioners had submitted questions for the Board of Education, prior to the meeting, and answers were submitted to the County Manager on June 8, 2020, as follows:

1. What is the status of the FY20 budget for the school system as of 5/30/2020?  
**Expenditures were at 94.7% as of May 31.**
2. On May 18<sup>th</sup> it was indicated there were 9 teachers retiring, 1 bookkeeper, & 1 TA. Did that many people retire?  
**Retirees (10): 8 Teachers (5 - GES, 2 - BES, 1 - CMS)  
1 Bookkeeper - TSC  
1 Teacher Assistant - GES  
Resignations (3): 1 K-5 Teacher - TSC  
1 Social Studies Teacher - CMS  
1 Bus Driver**
3. With the retirements above, how will that affect the amount of money needed for retirement rate & insurance since the assumption is new teachers or even teachers with less tenure will not make as much money as those who retired?  
**This will be dependent upon the salaries of the teachers hired and their funding source.**
4. On May 18<sup>th</sup> the school system said it would receive \$298,123 from the CARES Act and \$68,585 from the COVID-19 Supplemental State Funding. Have those numbers changed? Of that money, how much will "backfill" the money spent in FY20? Must the money be spent by 12/31/2020? How has COVID effected FY20? Anticipated FY21 COVID effects.  
**The numbers have not changed and the school system has received \$298,123 from the CARES Act. None of the \$298,123 will be used to backfill any money spent in the 2020 school year. Instead, the money will be used to provide much needed assistance with providing academic and technological resources for all students in order to better provide an equitable learning environment for all students. These funds must be spent by September 30, 2021.**

COVID has affected fiscal year 2020 in that everyone in the school district was suddenly faced with moving from the traditional style of teaching to a non-traditional setting at home. Teachers had to adjust and learn how to provide online instruction and prepare instructional packets for students without truly being able to access the student's retention of academic skills. In doing so, the disparities and inequalities present within the community and individual families was revealed. Many students are faced with a lack of Internet services as well as technology devices, making it difficult for teachers to ensure all students are receiving a quality education. The 2020-21 school year will bring some of the same challenges to the school system and maybe even more. We will be faced with providing an educational environment conducive to learning for all students as well as ensuring the safety and well-being students. The summer slide and the additional learning gaps present in students will create the need for more academic support, small group and one on one instruction, and differentiation to support individual learning styles. Students will need face masks, hand sanitizer, small class sizes in order to practice social distancing, operate on a non-traditional school schedule, continue with remote learning, etc. While trying to maintain compliance with Governor Cooper's orders, the school system will be faced with incurring more expenses than in the 2019-20 school year.

5. What do you anticipate next year's ADM to be?  
DPI's Initial Allotment will be based upon a projected ADM of 1,560
6. In FY20, how much did out of county students pay per child to attend Gates County Public Schools? How is that amount calculated? How do people find this amount as it is not on the website?  
\$1,750.00  
Local funding/ Allotted ADM less out of county students.  
They can contact the Central Office for this information.
7. If an outside group wishes to use a school facility, (a) is there a fee? (b) If so, what is the fee? Are all buildings/rooms/gyms available for use? (c) Who checks/verifies the groups have insurance? (Wright)  
Yes, there is a fee to use a school facility.
  - a. Fees are:
    - Custodian/Supervisor fee: \$20.00/hr.
    - Building Use Fee: \$100.00 profit-making activity
    - Building Use Fee: \$50.00 non-profit-making activity
    - User Fee \$5.00
  - b. Separate fees for cafeteria us:
    - School Nutrition Employee \$20.00/hr per/employee
    - Building Use Fee \$100.00 for profit-making activity

- Building Use Fee \$ 50.00 for nonprofit-making activity.
- c. All buildings are available with administration's approval. Proof of insurance must be submitted with facility use forms. Insurance is checked by administration and a copy is sent to the Central Office and paperwork is double checked before payment. Building level administration must approve use of the building and Dr. Simpson must approve use of any cafeteria.
8. Understanding things change daily, what are the plans for students returning in August? NCPDI and NCDHHS will host a special call for superintendents on **Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.** The purpose of Wednesday's special call is three-fold:
    1. Unpack formatting and discuss the *Lighting Our Way Forward* guidance which will be presented for approval at the State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2020;
    2. Engage (through chat questions) with NCDHHS Deputy Secretary Susan Gale Perry regarding the recently released public health requirements and recommendations released on Monday, June 8, 2020; and
    3. Preview NCDPI's plan of support as you work to prepare for reopening
  9. Are there areas the schools could make budget reductions in FY21?  
We're still gathering numbers and class size data at the secondary level to make determinations prior to approving any recommendation for the Science and Social Studies Teacher vacancies at Central Middle School. Classes at the elementary level (K-5) are in accordance with state K-3 class size requirements.

### Community Center

1. What is the status of the FY20 budget for the Community Center as of 5/30/2020?  
Expenditures were at 90.1% as of May 31.
2. Who checks/verifies outside groups have insurance?  
Proof of Insurance must be provided. If someone request to use the Center's facilities (nonfund raising) they are told about the insurance. The Center does not except an application until proof of insurance has been provided. Once the application for rental has been filled out and fee paid the policy is sent to Central Office and the money and receipt is sent to Central Office. The Center has had no request for a long time once they are told about the insurance.
3. Does Britches & Braids have a lease agreement with the Community Center? What is the amount of rent they pay per month?  
Britches and Braids does not have a lease agreement. That room is used for other activities when needed, not just B & B. B & B pays the Community Center 10% of all funds that are paid to Britches and Braids. Since it is a fund making activity that is the amount that is charged by policy. Britches and Braids pays quarterly.
4. What are the effects of COVID on the Community Center?

The Community Center has lost funds from ...

- At least three months income from the fitness room (no automatic draft) plus people whom pay monthly (Senior Citizens)
- Quarterly payments from the drink machine and snack machine
- Funds from Britches and Braids (2. & 3.) Funds are used for bingo prizes, supplies for raised bed gardens, crafts and Thanksgiving Dinner for the seniors
- No youth sports can be provided so loss of those fees
- Part time supervisors have not worked since the first of March

5. Are there areas the Community Center could make budget reductions in FY21?

I can think of no areas where reductions can be made. The Center is taking over youth football and pretty much starting from scratch and everything else should remain the same. We have not been able to use our part time supervisors since the first of March but once the Center is opened by up those individuals will return to work.

Major items that need repair in 2021:

1. One of two of the large hot water heaters have died. The bottom rusted out and maintenance feels it is a matter of time before the other one does the same. Each hot water heater is \$12,000 - \$14,000. It was recommended by the maintenance department to consider 2 tankless hot water heaters which would save a large amount of electricity in the long run. The estimate for that is right at \$14,000.
2. The area underneath the long bridge on the fitness trail needs a dump truck load of river rocks because it is washing out badly. That estimate has not come in yet.
3. The interior walls of the Center keep having problems with the paint peeling. An engineer believes it to be caused by no weeping holes which are now required with new construction. Water is caught between the outside bricks and inside cinder blocks. The recommendation is to install brick size vents at the top and bottom of the outside bricks walls at about every 8 bricks. It was recommended to try the fitness room first - that estimate has not been provided yet.

County Manager Natalie Rountree and the commissioners asked for clarification on some of the items. Mainly they wanted to know if there would be any additional funds from the state and what the money would be used for. Dr. Williams and Mrs. Tammy Boone, Assistant Superintendent noted that the \$298,123.00 from the CARES Act will be used for technology devices for students, and instruction to bring students up to speed. This money must be spent by September 30, 2021. We will only be able to assess students once they are back in the classroom. We are developing a Remediation & Summer Jump Start Plan for the 2020-2021 school year to provide a supplemental summer learning program for students whose learning has been negatively affected by the impacts of COVID-19. At this time we are not aware if any additional funds will be provided. Federal money is being provided to our three Title One elementary schools, to provide one to one instruction, but we must be careful with hiring, due to the fact that we cannot sustain this, once the federal money has been spent.

Mr. Leslie Byrum noted that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has provided information “Lighting the Way”, which provides three potential plans for reopening schools. Dr. Williams has a copy of the plan.

Commissioner Jack Owens asked if we are planning to replace all of the teachers that are leaving. Mrs. Chante´ Jordan, Director of Human Resources, answered that at this time seven have been replaced.

Dr. Williams thanked the commissioners for their support.

Chairman Ray Freeman called for a recess at 6:14 p.m., and the Board of Education was excused to leave the meeting.