

Board Meeting Highlights
Budget Retreat Work Session

February 25, 2015

The members of the Gates County Board of Education convened for the Annual Budget Retreat on February 25, 2015 in the Conference Room of the Gates County Board of Education Office. Madam Chair Glendale Boone called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. The following board members were present: Mrs. Claire Whitehurst, Dr. Daniel Dickerson, Mr. Leslie Byrum, and Mr. Ray Felton.

Madam Chair Mrs. Glendale Boone turned the presentation over to Dr. Williams.

Dr. Williams presented a PowerPoint Presentation the “Superintendent’s Estimate of Needs” for Gates County Public Schools for the 2015-2016 school year. The agenda entailed ...

1. Our Direction through a clear vision and targeted mission
2. “Extra, Extra - Read All About it!” – Gates County Public Schools most recent accomplishment in School Performance Grades!
3. Budget 101- Understanding budget
Mr. Rube Blanchard presented a brief overview of purpose codes and categories showing direct and indirect expenditures relating to classroom instruction. Mr. Blanchard discussed how State Funds and Federal Funds are used. He then went into more detail about Local Funds and how they are used. Fund two is our open fund in the event of Charter Schools, County Appropriation, and Fines and Forfeitures. Fund eight was created so Charter Schools would not be able to access those funds; that is where grant money is held. Mr. Blanchard explained that Instructional makes up the most cost, but salaries and benefits make up most of the cost in local, federal, and state. Discussion ensued on how items are funded with state, local, and federal money. Mr. Blanchard puts as much of our funds as he can in State Funds, especially with salaries and benefits. That way the state would handle Worker’s Compensation and any Unemployment. Then, whatever the State Funds can’t accommodate, Local Funds are then considered.
*It was noted to institute guidelines for the level of Fund Balance that the board wishes to maintain should be maintained for our Local/General Expense Fund of between \$300,000 and \$1,000,000 at all times.
4. Gates County Public Schools through in depth analysis of school requests for effective day-to-day operations categorized by
 - a) Needs
 - b) The Cost
 - c) Rationale
5. A Departmental Lens was revealed on the essential needs from the Central Office to support teaching and learning in the schools
6. Our Students deserve a first-rate education. We are products of public education and want the best for the students in Gates County to be able to competitive in society!

An Evaluation -- Success through Teamwork! Dr. Williams emphasized that we're all leaders. He challenged the question, "What do our students really deserve?" Whenever we see significant progress in our system it is because of making courageous decisions. Courage begins with an inward battle. Courage is not an absence of fear; it's doing what you are afraid to do. Courage is contagious. Courage by a leader inspires. Our students deserve.