

**YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Joint Meeting – Monday, February 29, 2016**

The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners met in Joint Session with the Yadkin County Board of Education on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 7:00pm at the County Commissioners Boardroom. The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners were the hosts for this meeting.

Present for the meeting:

Representing the Board of Commissioners

Chairman Kevin Austin
Vice Chairman Frank Zachary
Commissioner Gilbert Hemric
Commissioner Marion Welborn
Commissioner David Moxley
Ed Powell, Attorney

Representing the Board of Education

Chairman Howard McKnight
Rex Baity
Jennifer Hemric
Tim Weatherman
Sam Crews
Joe Dezern
Lynn Allred

Yadkin County Personnel

Lisa Hughes, County Manager
Tanya Gentry, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Yadkin County School Personnel

Dr. Todd Martin, Superintendent
Myra Cox, Assistant Superintendent
Tammy Miller, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
Denise Bullin, Executive Director - Finance
Chris Lyon, Director-Human Resources
Kathy Hughes, Director-CTE
Donald Hawks, Director-Maintenance

After the invocation given by Chairman Kevin Austin, dinner was served.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Howard McKnight called to order the Board of Education at 7:00p.m.
Chairman Austin called to order the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners at 7:00p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Austin.

DISCUSSION

1. Report from County Manager:

Lisa Hughes stated she would like to thank everyone for coming and that she was glad to have everyone here. She informed the Boards that the county had received an \$89,000 grant to expand the trails at the new Yadkin Park and will be submitting another grant application for Phase Two. She also stated they would be holding a meeting tomorrow night to try and gain

more to add a dog park at this location. She also stated the county is beginning to start on the budget for next year. There was also discussion concerning lottery funds. Lisa Hughes stated they are beginning to see a decline in the funds and that they will have to help offset the lottery funds. They have been drawing \$750,000; however, this amount is decreasing every year.

Kevin Austin stated that the \$750,000 was already not paying the full amount of the debt payment; however, it had previously been sustainable. They stated that in the future tax money would have to be used to cover the cost. Kevin Austin stated that everyone was frustrated with the lottery and that everyone had originally thought the lottery was going to pay for everything. He stated that at his last association meeting, the education steering committee had a representative talk about this and they are going to take a bold step and take position on how lottery funds are used. The committee would like to see the money for education used for building, supplies, textbooks, etc. He stated that if you have the opportunity to voice your opinion that he would encourage everyone to do so.

Kevin also discussed with both board that at the last committee meeting he made a pitch for calendar changes that would allow local LEAs more flexibility to align their calendar with community colleges. He stated that this may have to be done in steps as the committee was looking at changing the start dates from the Monday closest to August 29 to the Monday closest to August 22; however, the goal of the committee is to still get the calendar aligned with the community college calendar.

Lisa Hughes stated that our agriculture and educational building is anticipated to be finished in the April-May timeframe and they will be having a grand opening when the building is completed. She also stated they are getting close to having their community meetings for the East Bend waterline.

There was a discussion concerning the mobile units at the Early College location and Donald Hawks stated the market is not good for use mobile units, but he hopes to get these moved in the timeframe the county has requested. He stated that as this time, he has sold six of these units. Lisa Hughes stated she appreciates the work that he is doing on this project.

2. Report from Superintendent:

Dr. Martin discussed with the Board that Surry Community College currently offers college courses for students; however, once the new building is completed on the Early College Campus, they will be offering more courses, including courses that will lead to a diploma in Mechatronics. He stated that Yadkin County Schools is excited that our students will be able to work on this degree. In addition to Mechatronics, several other college courses will be offered to students. Dr. Martin also stated that along with these college classes, we will be starting the Yadkin Virtual Academy which will enable students to take certain classes at any time which will allow them to take more of the college courses offered. These classes will be taught through Canvas by our own teachers outside of the regular student day. Dr. Martin stated he feels this will be a real benefit to our students. He stated that now they can take

online courses through the Virtual Public High School, but with our new academy, they will actually be able to meet with their teacher if they fall behind or need extra assistance. He stated we want to provide our students with more flexibility and this will fit very nicely with the Yadkin Center and Surry Community offering more courses. Dr. Martin stated that we are working on a plan to provide bus transportation for students to the Early College site to help students have access to the courses.

Dr. Martin informed the group that Forbush Elementary had recently competed in the state Lego Robotics competition and had placed 1st in Robot Design and 2nd in Robot Performance. He stated we are very pleased with this team and watching their robot is amazing. He stated that we are looking into expanding this program to our high schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

Kevin Austin stated this is a big story in itself with regards to Yadkin County schools being the best system. He stated people need to know the good things we are doing in our schools like the Lego Robotics and the Yadkin Virtual Academy. Dr. Martin stated we are continually looking at ways to promote our school system and that we are constantly having conversations about marketing and branding our schools. He stated we are now in competition with charter schools, private schools and home schools, which makes us raise our game.

Dr. Martin discussed with the commissioners the possibility of them funding the lighting project for Yadkin County Schools. Duke Energy is currently offering incentives to change lighting from fluorescent to more energy efficient LED lighting. This project would be done in phases with the first phase being the elementary and high schools, the second phase would be the middle schools and the third phase would include the gyms. He stated this is fiscally a good time to do this project as well as providing cost savings in the future. The projected savings of this project is \$132,455 in annual energy costs. Dr. Martin stated the savings are based on 10 hours per day, 5 days per week for about 42 weeks out of the year.

Lisa Hughes stated CW Electric would allow us to pay the cost of the project after the incentives. She stated that what we understand now is the incentives will only go through December 2016

There was discussion concerning the life of the new LED lights. Sam Crews stated this is really a good deal and they should last approximately 15 to 20 years depending on the hourly usage. There was discussion as to could the Board of Education pay for the gymnasiums and Dr. Martin stated we are looking at ways to make this happen.

3. Other

Howard McKnight stated that the Board of Education would love to have support of the lighting projects. He stated in addition to the cost savings, we need to also consider how much better the light would be for our students. He also stated we have been through a lot of weather related issues and he feels that Dr. Martin and his staff have done a tremendous job

dealing with the weather. He stated that the make-up days are scheduled and at this point spring break for students is still intact.

Rex Baity stated he would like to thank the County Commissioners for everything they do for the kids of Yadkin County.

David Moxley stated that Yadkin County Schools recently lost two very fine retired teachers; Virginia Scott and Tony Groce. He asked that everyone keep their families in your prayers and thoughts.

MOTION TO ADJOURN @ 7:40p.m.

Board of Education member RexBaity made a motion, seconded by Tim Weatherman to adjourn. All members voted yes.

Board of Commissioner Chairman Kevin Austin called a recess for the Board of Commissioners.

Dr. Todd Martin, Secretary

Motion to approve February 29, 2016 Joint Commissioners Meeting Minutes:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Motion by: _____	_____	_____
Second by: _____	_____	_____
Allred	_____	_____
Baity	_____	_____
Crews	_____	_____
Dezern	_____	_____
Hemric	_____	_____
McKnight	_____	_____
Weatherman	_____	_____