

**IREDELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET SESSION**  
**MAY 14, 2002**

The Iredell County Board of Commissioners met for a Budget Session on Tuesday, May 14, 2002, at 5:30 p.m., in the Iredell County Government Center (South Wing Conference Room), 200 South Center Street, Statesville, NC.

Present: Chairman Sara Haire Tice  
Vice Chairman Karen B. Ray  
Tommy E. Bowles  
Steve D. Johnson  
R. Godfrey Williams

Staff Present: County Manager Joel Mashburn, Finance Director Susan Blumenstein, and Clerk to the Board Jean Moore.

**IREDELL-STATESVILLE SCHOOL SYSTEM:** Board of Education Chairman Vaughn Sprinkle, Interim Superintendent Dr. Julia Williams, and Finance Director Terry Haas attended the meeting to discuss the FY 2002-03 funding needs of the Iredell-Statesville School System.

Mr. Mashburn said a per pupil expenditure of \$1,107 was recommended for the upcoming year at a total cost of \$20,889,090. He said \$622,710 had been placed in the contingency fund and could be appropriated if the state released the county's reimbursements. In reference to capital outlay, the county manager recommended a total of \$3,585,765.

Dr. Williams said several areas in the school system's budget had been cut and four administrative positions were eliminated through attrition. She said the system needed extra money because of the new Lake Norman High School and the Third Creek Elementary School. Williams said the system wanted to add Pre-K classes, but was unable to do so because of the lack of funds.

Commissioner Williams said he understood the Smart Start money was supposed to help with early childhood education classes.

Dr. Williams said no money had been sent from the state.

Sprinkle said the recent Leandro vs. North Carolina lawsuit would impact the school system. He expressed concern about teacher supplements since neighboring counties had 10 or 12% compared to Iredell-Statesville's 6%.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the money for the 595 charter students would help the system.

Dr. Williams said it wouldn't make that much difference. She said the system would only gain about \$244,000. Williams said, "We budgeted it, paid it out, and didn't receive it."

In reference to capital outlay, Dr. Williams said the system desired to purchase five new buses (\$250,000). She said the county would be given first refusal rights on the Wayside property.

Sprinkle said the Fairingtosh Building would be vacated when the Alan D. Rutherford School site was available. He said money would be saved by eliminating the leasing arrangement.

Dr. Williams said the alternative school would be moved to Barium Springs Home for Children. She said the program was for middle school and high school students.

**MOORESVILLE GRADED SCHOOL SYSTEM:** The following individuals attended the meeting to discuss the FY 2002-03 funding needs of the Mooresville Graded School System: Board of Education Chairman Frank Fields, Superintendent Bruce Boyles, Assistant Superintendent Roger Hiatt, Assistant Superintendent Barry Shepherd, and Finance Director David Dutton.

The county manager said the current expense amount recommended for the Mooresville schools was \$4,669,325, and capital outlay was \$1,146,835.

Dr. Boyles said his board approved the system's budget in March, and he knew cuts needed to be made. He mentioned a new teacher supplement proposal the system hoped to implement during 2002-03. Boyles also said:

- The system planned to purchase two new buses.
- The high school would utilize block scheduling during 2003-04.
- About 1000 students use the NF Woods facility during the day.
- The system desires to create a "long range plan/reserve" to aid the community in funding the MGSD in the future. The initial amount placed in reserve will be \$500,000.
- Three teachers and three assistants will work at Mooresville's alternative school, located in the cafeteria section of the N.F. Woods building.
- \$525,000 is budgeted for renovations at the N.F. Woods Building.
- Since 1988, the system has doubled in the number of students.
- Mooresville will contribute \$25,000 towards the renovation of the Iredell-Statesville bus facility.

Commissioner Williams asked the representatives if they might be interested in using the Barium Springs site for Mooresville's alternative school.

Boyles said there was a possibility, especially since the high school would be on a block schedule in the future. He said block scheduling would allow enough travel time for the students.

**MITCHELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE (MCC):** The following individuals attended the meeting to discuss the FY 2002-03 funding needs of Mitchell Community College: President Dr. Doug Eason, Dick Lefevre, the Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Gary Johnson, the Director of Facilities.

The county manager said the current expense recommendation for MCC was \$1,609,370, and capital outlay (special) was \$550,000.

Dr. Eason said:

- MCC would own the Cherry Street facility in 10 years.
- MCC wanted to work with the area high schools in offering cosmetology classes. (Property on Hwy. 115 (former CVS site) has been leased for the cosmetology school.)
- MCC desires to construct a new technology building at the Continuing Education site on West Front Street. Additional funds (\$1.3 million) is needed for the structure. Alternate # 1 is a single-story building at \$93 per sf totaling \$4,130,275. Alternate #2 is a two-story building at \$80 per sf totaling \$4,539,033.

560: Planning & Enforcement: No changes from manager's recommendations.

650-Library: A question was raised about the need for the bookmobile, and County Manager Mashburn said he would obtain an activity report.

Mooresville Library: Mashburn noted the Mooresville library had been cut \$25,300, but this was the same 4.5% decrease that had occurred in all of the departments.

**MERIT SYSTEM FOR EMPLOYEES:** Mashburn said he was recommending the reinstatement of the merit system. He said the employees would be evaluated and eligible for (1) no merit increase (2) a 1.5% pay increase (3) a 2.5% pay increase or (4) a 3.5% pay increase.

No changes from manager's recommendations.

**CAPITAL RESERVE FUND:** **MOTION** by Chairman Tice to revise Schedule F in the FY 2002-03 budget by deleting the four commitments and leaving the estimated capital reserve fund balance as of June 30, 2002 at \$2,721,202.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

(The four commitments were: City of Statesville, Sherrill Industrial project, Town of Mooresville and the purchase of DSS land. The DSS land purchase and the Sherrill Industrial project reimbursements are no longer necessary. Payments to the city and town will be made upon request.)

**REVISION TO THE BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE:** Due to the budget review sessions progressing faster than anticipated, the meetings scheduled for Wednesday, May 15 and Wednesday, May 22, 2002 were cancelled. The next session will be Thursday, May 23, 2002.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Tice at 9:30 p.m., **moved** to continue the meeting until Tuesday, May 21, 2002, at 4:30 p.m., in the South Wing Conference Room of the Iredell County Government Center, 200 South Center Street, Statesville, NC for a presentation from the architectural firm of Martin Boal Anthony Johnson regarding the Iredell County Government Center-South facility.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Clerk of to the Board