

**MINUTES**  
**Scotland County Board of Commissioners and Board of Education**  
**Joint Meeting, November 29, 2010**  
**A.B. Education Center, 322 S. Main Street, Laurinburg NC**

At 6:30 p.m. Chairman J. D. Willis called the joint meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis, Guy McCook and Joyce McDow. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman.

School Board Members in attendance: Chairman Jimmy Bennett and Dr. Cal Newton, Dr. Paul Rush, Ms. Mary Evans (Vice Chair), Dr. Jeff Byrd and Mr. Terence Williams. Mr. Charles Brown and Mr. Darwin Williams were not in attendance. Board of Education staff in attendance: Superintendent Rick Stout, Finance Officer Tony Messer, Attorney Nick Sojka and Clerk to the School Board Nancy Smith.

Chairman Willis delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Finance Officer Tony Messer provided both Boards with two financial scenarios, one of which would be a five percent State cut, the other a 10 percent State cut.

Mr. Messer said both percentage cuts would result in larger class sizes and the elimination of jobs. Mr. Messer added that the phase out of federal stimulus funds increases the critical nature of the school financial picture moving forward.

The School Finance Officer said in anticipation of budget shortfalls, the Scotland County Schools accumulated a \$2.9 million Fund Balance as of June 30, 2010 and maintained \$1.4 million in Education Jobs Allotment Funds. Mr. Messer said with a five percent cut, the local school system still anticipates a \$2.7 million net decrease in funding for FY 2011-2012.

Applying the 10 percent model to the cut in State funds, Mr. Messer said the local schools could expect a net decrease of \$3.1 million.

Superintendent Rick Stout said the \$1.4 million will be applied locally to protect jobs.

Mr. Messer than provided a general breakdown of 2010-2011 school expenditures by category and percentage.

Chairman J.D. Willis said the School System wanted the Commissioners to be made aware of where it stands financially and to specifically address the use of School Fund Balance to protect jobs and help fill funding gaps. Chairman Willis referred the Board of Commissioners to a joint resolution with the Board of Education, which affirms the commitment to full local funding of the Schools in accordance with Section 9.2 of the Revised Funding Law.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Joint Resolution Regarding Local School Funding for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

***A motion made by Board Member Mary Evans and seconded by Board Member Dr. Paul Rush to approve the Joint Resolution Regarding Local School Funding for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.***

JOINT RESOLUTION BY THE SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE  
SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGARDING LOCAL SCHOOL FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012

For their Joint Resolution, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners (“Commissioners”) and the Scotland County Board of Education (“Board of Education”) state as follows:

1. WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2011-2012 the Board of Education faces an unprecedented loss of both federal and state funding, as federal funding previously provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will cease, and the Governor has already asked the Department of Public Instruction for its estimate of the impact of both 5% and 10% state budget cuts on K-12 education.
2. WHEREAS, the Scotland County Board of Education is currently the largest employer in Scotland County, which has suffered for many months from the highest county unemployment rate in North Carolina.
3. WHEREAS, layoffs of teachers, teaching assistants and essential support personnel will inevitably damage the quality of education in the public schools of Scotland County by, among other things, increasing class sizes and limiting instructional support.
4. WHEREAS, in anticipation of loss of federal and state funds, the Board of Education has frozen positions and utilized federal education job funding to build fund balance and support job retention, but it remains essential for the Commissioners to appropriate local current expense school funding for fiscal year 2011-2012 consistent with the requirements of Section 9.2 of the Revised Funding Law (C. 66, 2002 and C.203, 2004), and it is not in the public interest for either board to consider any deviation therefrom under Section 9.3.
5. WHEREAS, although the Commissioners recognize that the composition of their Board will change in December, 2010 with the swearing-in of newly-elected Commissioners, and that one board cannot bind another, the current members of the Scotland County Board of Commissioners wish to enter into this Joint Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

In recognition of the extraordinary budget pressures upon the Board of Education for fiscal year 2011-2012, and the prospect of widespread layoffs of Board of Education employees and resulting damage to the local economy and quality of education, the Commissioners and the Board of Education affirm their commitment to full local funding of the schools in accordance with Section 9.2 of the Revised Funding Law.

Adopted upon proper motions and seconds, and majority votes, by the Commissioners and the Board of Education, respectively, at their November 29, 2010 joint meeting.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman