

AT A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 3rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2012 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

PRESENT: James D. Politis	-Chair
William H. Brown	-Vice Chair
Mary W. Biggs	-Supervisors
Gary D. Creed	
Matthew R. Gabriele	
Annette S. Perkins	
Christopher A. Tuck	
F. Craig Meadows	-County Administrator
L. Carol Edmonds	-Assistant County Administrator
Martin M. McMahon	-County Attorney
Ruth L. Richey	-Public Information Officer
Vickie L. Swinney	-Secretary, Board of Supervisors
B. Wendell Jones	-School Board Chair
Jamie M. Bond	-School Board Members
Joseph T. Ivers	
Sarah Woolsey	
Brenda B. Blackburn,	-School Superintendent
Walter Shannon	-Assistant Superintendent
Brenda Drake Bowdel	-School Board Clerk
John Edwards	-State Senator
Ralph Smith	-State Senator
Greg Habeeb	-House of Delegates
Larry "Nick" Rush	-House of Delegates
Joseph Yost	-House of Delegates

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair welcomed the State Legislators and representatives from the Montgomery County School Board. The purpose of the joint meeting was to hold discussions with State Legislators regarding 2012 legislative priorities.

Montgomery County School Board 2012 Legislative Priorities

Wendell Jones, School Board Chair, provided the following comments:

The Governor's Budget for the 2012-2014 Biennium was released on December 19, 2011, and the impact to Montgomery County Public Schools is somber. Most of the additional \$400 million for K-12 education is intended to stabilize VRS. Key issues for MCPS are:

- Change in Composite Index for Montgomery County which results in a 2.6 million dollar loss of state funds for MCPS; this represents the 5th largest increase in composite index in the state.
- Deletion of Composite Index Hold Harmless funds which would have allowed a phase in of the loss of state funds.
- Increase in required VRS local contribution of \$1.5 million for MCPS. Although recognizing VRS as a priority, a phased approach would allow localities time to better fund VRS.
- Capital needs, including the necessity of replacing Blacksburg High School following snow related damage in 2010 and subsequent findings of structural deficiency, has placed additional stress on local revenues.

Coupled with the loss of \$1.2 million in federal stimulus funds in the 2012-2013 budget, funding for MCPS under the Governor's Budget, assuming local funding remains consistent, will fall below the level of the 2007- 2008 budget year. This represents a \$9 million, or a10 percent decrease in funding since the 2008 – 2009 budget year. The schools have absorbed revenue reductions by decreasing programs and staff. Funding for supplies, instructional materials, field trips, bus replacement, vehicle replacement, capital improvements and travel have been pared down to the bare-bones. Employee compensation has remained virtually unchanged over the 3 year: period. Although the budget the state will consider represents the restoration of 5 billion dollars to the budget for the biennium, the impact for MCPS is a loss of state funding and an increase in cost which must be absorbed from their decreased operating budget. We urge that the legislators consider a phase in of the increase in VRS contributions, restoration of Composite Index Hold Harmless funding and consideration of the school's Legislative Priorities for 2012.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Legislative Priorities

Chair Politis provided the following comments:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, he thanked the legislators for the opportunity to address issues of concerns for Montgomery County. Of particular concern to Montgomery County is the continued shift of state responsibilities to localities through mandating services without full or partial funding, along with what has become an annual

reduction of state funding to localities, whether the dollars are generated at the state or local levels. A major concern is the discussion of shifting the responsibility of secondary road maintenance to localities. This would be a serious burden that can be stopped before it is shifted to localities.

Examples of other mandates to address include:

- *Equal Taxing Authority*- equalize county taxing authority with that of cities and towns;
- *Diversity of local revenue sources*- share income taxes and other revenue sources;
- *Aid to localities reductions*- former reductions should be restored and these reductions eliminated in the future;
- *Line of Duty Act* –eliminate the local funding requirement for the Line of Duty benefit;
- *Standards of Learning and Standards of Quality*- fully fund public education standards instead of shifting the burden of funding state standards onto localities. Delete state educational mandates that exceed federal requirements;
- *Comprehensive Services Act*-make the program subject to the Administrative Processes Act, fund 100% of the administrative costs, increase the state match for all mandated services under this program, provide financial incentives for regional contracts and make available state contracts for the most expensive services at lower negotiated rates;
- *Constitutional Officers*- fully fund the state’s obligation for these mandated offices;
- *Public Safety*- increase state funding for the state prisoners in local jails; and
- *Election Administration*- fully fund the cost of election administration.

The 2012 Legislative Priorities adopted by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for consideration during the upcoming General Assembly session are as follows:

- ***Restoration of Previous State Budget Cuts and Ending Future Reductions*** in the two areas where the state has served as a partner with local government: public education and public safety.
- ***Ending Unfunded Mandates on Local Government*** by reducing state mandates in proportion to state revenue reductions. Also, shifting the delivery of state services such as transportation, should end. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECONDARY ROADS SHOULD NOT BE SHIFTED TO LOCALITIES.**
- ***Strengthening the Diversity of Local Revenues by Sharing Income Taxes or Other Revenue Sources in Support of Local Services*** by distributing a percentage of individual income tax revenues, providing the authority to levy a local income tax, or allowing other sources to generate revenue locally for locally delivered services.
- ***Strengthening the County’s Revenue Base by Enacting Equal Taxing Authority*** by eliminating the distinction in the taxing authority of Virginia’s cities and counties.

- ***Recognizing the State’s Role in Funding Quality Education*** by fully funding the state Standards of Quality (SOQ), basing teacher pay raises on actual positions, not just SOQ, and state funding for the “cost for competing add-on” for all Virginia School Districts.
- ***Ensuring 100% of Administrative Funds for the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)*** and increasing state matching share for all CSA costs.
- ***Providing State Funding for 100% of the Costs of Optical Scan Voting Machines***
- ***Processing and Marketing of Industrial Hemp*** Montgomery County supports efforts by all levels of government to allow cultivation, processing and marketing of industrial hemp.
- ***Increasing State Aid to Library System*** and ensuring no new cuts in state aid to the library system.

The Chair at this time gave each Senator and Delegate the opportunity to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to Monday, January 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVED _____ ATTEST: _____

James D. Politis
Chair

F. Craig Meadows
County Administrator