



AGENDA

Huntersville Educational Options Study Commission January 28, 2019 - 6:30 PM

TOWN HALL (101 Huntersville-Concord Road)

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order**
- 2. Identification of a Quorum**
- 3. Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.A. Consider approving the minutes of the December 19, 2018 HEOSC meeting.
 - 3.B. Consider approving the minutes of the January 14, 2019 HEOSC meeting.
- 4. Public Input - *Limited to 3 minutes per speaker, or 30 minutes total***
- 5. New Business**
 - 5.A. Discussion on charter school governance, application process, etc. (Dave Machado, Director of NC Office of Charter Schools)
 - 5.B. Discussion on Community School of Davidson operations. (Joy Warner, Executive Director of Community School of Davidson)
- 6. Old Business**
 - 6.A. Update on status of CMS Public Records Request.
- 7. Closing Comments**
- 8. Adjourn**

**Town of Huntersville
Huntersville Educational Options Study Commission
January 28, 2019**

To: Huntersville Educational Options Study Commission

From: Janet Pierson, Administration

Date: 1/28/19

Subject: Approval of Minutes - December 19

EXPLAIN REQUEST:

Consider approving the minutes of the December 19, 2018 HEOSC meeting.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Consider approving the minutes of the December 19, 2018 HEOSC meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

ATTACHMENTS:

- [Draft Minutes](#)

THE HUNTERSVILLE EDUCATION OPTIONS STUDY COMMISSION (HEOSC)

MINUTES

RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2018

The Huntersville Education Options Study Commission convened at 6:34 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2018 in the Town Hall for Huntersville, 101 Huntersville-Concord Road. In attendance were HEOSC members Karen Bentley (chair), William Farber, Jr., Jim Puckett, Eric Rowell (Vice-chair), Michael Sass, Bobbie Shields, and Carrie Warren. Absent was Todd Porter, Albert Desciscio, Amie Hutchinson and Derek Partee. Also in attendance were Mayor John Aneralla (for a part of the meeting), Commissioner Dan Boone, and Commissioner Melinda Bales. Staff members present were Town Manager, Anthony Roberts, Assistant Town Manager, Jackie Huffman, and Town Attorney, Angela Beeker, and presenter Reeves McGlohon.

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bentley called the meeting to order.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Bentley stated that there was a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3A. Sass made the motion to approve the November 26, 2018 Huntersville Educational Options Study Commission minutes. Warren seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

4. PUBLIC INPUT - Chair Bentley asked the Mayor to provide a legislative update. Mayor Aneralla stated that when the legislative bill was introduced, employees would have been in the Teachers Retirement and Healthcare system, but was taken out because this couldn't be stated in a local bill. Working with himself, the State Treasurer's office and legislators, they put the language back in a technical corrections bill, SB 469. It passed. This allows a municipal charter to be similar to other charters when it comes to retirement and healthcare. We are waiting to see if the Governor will veto this bill. If he does, they would have to go back into session for an override. This will make it easier if we decide to do a standalone or partner with another charter because employees will be in the same retirement system.

5. NEW BUSINESS - PROGRAM:

5A. Overview of Traditional Public Education in North Carolina – Reeves McGlohon – Executive Director, Southwest Education Alliance.

Chair Bentley recognized Town Manager, to introduce Mr. McGlohon. Mr. Roberts deferred to Mr. McGlohon who reviewed his credentials with the Committee. His resume is attached to these minutes. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Southwest Education Alliance.

Mr. McGlohon reviewed his presentation. A copy of the power point is included in these minutes. He reviewed the State Constitutional provisions and General Statutes related to education. He then reviewed the history of public education in North Carolina. He reviewed the scope of operations today – when you’re talking about public education, it’s a large and complex enterprise. ADM is the way of determining how many students you have – it’s the average daily membership. LEAs are local education agencies. Each County has at least one school district and there may be additional municipal districts. There are 115 LEAs in NC. He reviewed the funding structure – from the State, Federal and local governments. Example: State pays same salary for same education and experience, so local governments fund supplements due to cost of living, or to attract better teachers. Local school boards are fiscally dependent upon other entities/governments for funding. They have no taxing authority.

Mr. McGlohon reviewed the NC Education Lottery, and the use of those funds. Although originally intended to fund capital needs, it is now used to cover multiple categories, such as facilities, K-3 class size, etc. Only 30% goes to K-12 education. Other funding sources include supplemental taxes implemented by the County Commissioners, and fines and forfeitures. Schools get the money from base allotments and supplemental allotments. Base allotments include funds for every student, based on the number of students enrolled. Supplemental allotments are given to cover students whose education may be more expensive, such as exceptional children, academically gifted, at-risk students, etc. The allotments are set by the State. Schools also get positional allotments based on schedules adopted by the State. Local funds supplement these State allotments, but they can allocate by purpose and function. Federal monies are available, but they come with strings attached. Title I funds can only be used for Title 1 programs, etc.

Ms. Warren asked about facilities funding – how are State lottery funds distributed for facilities. He replied that it is the intent of the State that local governments fund capital. However they have made exceptions, such as the 1996 bond issue, but it isn’t consistent. The lottery money is only a drop in the bucket, so the County Commissioners have the responsibility for local funding. The 20% of lottery funds gets allocated through the school system budgets. Mecklenburg County will get about \$10 million for this year. Mr. Puckett felt that the money is likely used for janitorial services.

Mr. Sass asked if NC has looked at school systems that were too big? He stated that there really hasn’t been such a study. Discussion ensued over the optimum size for a school district. Mr. McGlohon said Gaston County had 30,000 students when he was superintendent. He felt that was too big, and may have been better to have had an East and West Gaston. Size does make a difference in per pupil cost, but also in what you are able to offer. He believes percentage wise, there’s a drop in attendance at traditional public schools. The real growth has been in home schools. Charter schools have grown, but largest growth has been in home schools. He tells the superintendents that he works with that they should view charter schools as competitors. They need to be more customer oriented and involve parents more. Do things to make parents want to bring their kids back to traditional public schools.

Mr. Rowell asked about the Southwest Educational alliance. He responded that years ago the State Board of Education divided NC into 8 regions. For each, there is a central agency that serves them. CMS is in the Southwest region. The school systems work collaboratively through the SW alliance to improve what happens in their school districts. They do training. They have job-like groups where the technology coordinators come together to exchange ideas. They work through UNCC, and are housed on UNCC campus, to promote student teachers, and make sure they meet the needs of the member organizations. They do not lobby. Their staff is part-time. Mr. Rowell asked whether the Alliance has issued any type of statement about HB 514, to which he responded no, and he didn't think they intended to.

Ms. Warren asked about city/county consolidations. They were all voluntary, as were the merger of the smaller county systems within a county.

Mr. Shields asked about Mooresville's unique funding system. Twenty school systems in NC have gotten local taxing authority. Two of them are able to tax without consulting the county commissioners. Mooresville has a special school tax. Mr. Rowell commented that those funds stay in Mooresville and benefit those students. Mr. McGlohon didn't know if charter schools receive any of it.

Chair Bentley thanked Mr. McGlohon for his presentation.

5B. Overview for Huntersville Public Schools, Anthony Roberts, Town Manager.

The Chair recognized Anthony Roberts who reviewed basic information regarding CMS Schools. He reviewed maps showing location and boundaries for the schools in northern Mecklenburg County. He then reviewed the data showing the schools in Huntersville having at least 5% Huntersville students. Mr. Puckett pointed out that 18 years ago, every student in North Mecklenburg attended North Mecklenburg High School. The rest of the schools have been built since then. There was zero investment from 1952 until 2000. Significant dollars were spent in North Meck for JM Alexander, yet there's only 16% of their population in Huntersville.

Mr. Roberts looked at overcrowding of the North Mecklenburg schools based on mobile units and classroom teachers.

Mr. Puckett commented that the latest bond package was worked on for 3 years, 2014-17. CMS allocates capacity based upon the type of student that you have. So for two schools with the exact same footprint – one was for at risk, the other not, capacity differed based upon the students. Capacity isn't based totally just on the number of kids. Cafeteria capacity can show true design capacity.

Mr. Farber also pointed out the security issues associated with mobile units. It's a huge concern.

Mr. Roberts reviewed population data for the larger charter schools, for Huntersville kids, and the waitlist. There are 2273 kids on the waiting list for LNC within the 28078 zip code. He then presented the data by grade to show where the need would be by grades.

Mr. Rowell pointed out the distance from Huntersville to CSD, Pine Lake Prep and Lincoln Charter. Shows length to which parents will go for the right schools. People will leave Huntersville just to go to the right school. There's an economic impact based upon schools. Chair Bentley pointed out that that's excellent data to consider when the "Do Nothing" option is considered.

Commissioner Bales gave an update on the first MEAC meeting. She reported that the first, inaugural meeting was a good one. All came in open minded and open to discussing the issues. Rebecca Heffner from City of Charlotte looked at demographic information for Mecklenburg County. She reviewed this with the Commission. The data shows that Huntersville is growing at a higher rate than any other Mecklenburg County municipality, or the County itself. Also, Huntersville has the largest percentage of school age youth in Mecklenburg County currently, at 20.3%. We need to keep an eye on these numbers.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Bentley reported that she checked on the public records request with CMS. She is waiting on the status of this. Several members expressed disappointment that we haven't received anything.

Mr. Sass asked how we are doing on communicating with the other towns relating to HB 514. Chair Bentley has been in contact with their Chair. Mr. Roberts reported that staff has been in contact with their staff. Chair Bentley said she would send out a formal invitation for the next meeting.

7. CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Rowell stated that it's important to remember that parents are the most important influence when it comes to children's education, no matter what we recommend. If parents at home aren't supportive, it won't matter, even if we have the best school system in the world. It's not all the public school's problem.

8. ADJOURN

Mr. Sass made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Warren seconded it. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:19 p.m.

**Town of Huntersville
Huntersville Educational Options Study Commission
January 28, 2019**

To: Huntersville Educational Options Study Commission

From: Janet Pierson, Administration

Date: 1/28/19

Subject: Approval of Minutes - January 14

EXPLAIN REQUEST:

Consider approving the minutes of the January 14, 2019 HEOSC meeting.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Consider approving the minutes of the January 14, 2019 HEOSC meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

ATTACHMENTS:

- [Draft Minutes](#)

HUNTERSVILLE EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS STUDY COMMISSION
MEETING MINTUES

January 14, 2019
6:30 p.m. – Huntersville Town Hall

The Huntersville Educational Options Study Commission held a meeting at Huntersville Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. on January 14, 2019.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Karen Bentley called the meeting to order.

IDENTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Bentley noted a quorum was present.

Commission Members Present: Karen Bentley (Chair), William Farber Jr., Amie Hutchison, Todd Porter, Jim Puckett, Eric Rowell (Vice Chair) and Bobbie Shields.

Commission Members Not Present: Albert Desciscio, Derek Partee, Michael Sass and Carrie Warren.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Farber made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Puckett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

NEW BUSINESS

Shannon Stein Presentation. Shannon Stein, Superintendent, Lake Norman Charter School, presented PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the Commission.

PowerPoint presentation attached hereto as Exhibit No. 1.

Future Agenda Topics/Speakers. Anthony Roberts, Town Manager, reviewed the revised Work Plan. Revised Work Plan attached hereto as Exhibit No. 2.

Mr. Puckett suggested having Kevin Parsons and Lee Myers come meet with the Commission since they are familiar with the federal court case that stopped CMS on how they did pupil and facility assignment.

Chair Bentley suggested the Commission may need to extend the timeline of having a recommendation ready. Mr. Roberts noted that the date the recommendation is to be ready is established in the Resolution, but the Town Board could vote to extend it.

Mr. Porter suggested also hearing from CMS officials.

The Committee directed staff to extend invitations to CMS officials and also the individuals suggested by Mr. Puckett.

OLD BUSINESS

CMS Public Records Request Status. Mr. Roberts noted that of the seven items Chair Bentley requested from CMS, they have only responded to Item 6 and there is one item they don't have per the attached e-mail. Refer to Exhibit No. 3.

Chair Bentley indicated the last contact she had with them was before Christmas and they were still working on it.

Mr. Rowell suggested following up with them again and to see what information is presented at MEAC meeting tomorrow.

CLOSING COMMENTS

None

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.