MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RECESS MEETING

The Burke County Board of Commissioners met in a Recessed session on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the Foothills Higher Education Center - Room 211, 2128 S. Sterling Street, Morganton, NC. The purpose of this meeting was to receive two (2) presentations; the Legislative Goals of 2019 and WPCC’s FY 2019-2020 budget request.

Those present were:

COMMISSIONERS:
Johnnie W. Carswell, Chairman
Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman
Jeffrey C. Brittain
Maynard M. Taylor

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:
Wayne F. Abele, Sr. (Unable to attend.)

STAFF PRESENT:
Bryan Steen, County Manager
Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director
Scott Carpenter, Deputy County Manager/Planning Director
Rebecca McLeod, Health Director
J.R. Simpson, County Attorney
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board

WPCC:
Dr. Michael Helmick, WPCC President
Bill Lennon, Trustee Chair
Stacey Sholar, Director of the Western Piedmont Fdn.
Rhia Crawford, Vice President
Sandy Hoilman, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
Kathy Durham, Executive Assistant to the President

GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
Hugh Blackwell, N.C. Representative
Warren Daniel, N.C. Senator (Remote participation.)

OTHERS:
Brandon Collins, JCPC Member

CALL TO ORDER:
Chairman Carswell called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Motion: To approve the agenda.
RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner
AYES: Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

Dr. Helmick, WPCC President, welcomed everyone to the meeting and Chairman Carswell led the invocation before breakfast was served.
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

PRESENTATION OF WPCC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Dr. Helmick, WPCC President, presented the following information and discussion ensued:

2019 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

North Carolina's Community Colleges
- Help 700,000 students annually achieve a better life through high-school equivalency, career & technical education (CTE), short-term workforce training, and high-quality, affordable college-transfer programs.
- Are essential in closing the skills gap for NC employers.
- Are a driving force in the State's economy. Former students contributed over $19.6 billion in State income, and for every $1 in State investment, $4.10 was gained in benefits to the State -- a 14.7% ROI (2015 EMSI report).
- BUT continue to suffer from approximately $53 million in budget ("management flex") cuts made during the 2008 recession that have not been restored, thus undercutting our efforts to prepare the State's workforce.
- Have difficulty recruiting and retaining faculty and staff. At an average of $47,362 annually, NC Community College faculty salaries are 41st in the nation & 28% below the national average (based on Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) data.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Priority</th>
<th>2019-2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully Fund Short-Term Workforce Training. Complete funding for short-term</td>
<td>$12,051,477 R*</td>
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<td>workforce training programs to achieve full funding parity with traditional academic programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Workforce Development Focused IT</td>
<td>$15,000,000 R*</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Upgrade IT system serving all 58 community colleges, including online registration for workforce development courses.</td>
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<td>• Ensure colleges have direct access to IT staff by exempting System Office IT staff from transfer to the Dept. of Information Technology.</td>
<td>Statutory Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase Faculty &amp; Staff Compensation. Attracting &amp; retaining faculty &amp; staff to</td>
<td>Work towards Nat'l avg.</td>
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<td>prepare North Carolina's future workforce is challenging, especially in high-demand, high-skilled areas such as nursing and the trades.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliminate Barriers to Enrollment. Simplify the Residency Determination System (RDS). Community colleges are losing over 5,000 potential students annually because of an overly complex RDS system further eroding efforts to close the skills gap.</td>
<td>Statutory Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Workforce Focused Multi-Campuses</td>
<td>$2,266,348 R*</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Forsyth Tech Transportation Campus • Wake Tech RTP Campus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Richmond CC Scotland Co. Campus • Guilford Tech Aviation Campus</td>
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<td>Stabilize Budgets for Hurricane Florence Impacted Colleges. Due to the devastating impacts of Hurricane Florence, several colleges have seen enrollment declines in Fall 2018 &amp; Spring 2019.</td>
<td>$6,757,307 NR</td>
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<td>Expand Career Coach Program</td>
<td>$2,800,000 R*</td>
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<td>• Career coaches are embedded in high schools to assist students with determining career goals &amp; identifying community college programs that align with the student's goals. Currently, there are only 64 career coaches in the entire State. These funds would provide for an additional 20-30 career coaches.</td>
<td>Statutory Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Eliminate or reduce the local match requirement for colleges in economically</td>
<td></td>
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<td>distressed counties.</td>
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* Recurring Funds

Updated 03/12/19
Representative Blackwell said there is a lot of support for workforce development training programs in the legislature, but he wants jobs that put employees into the middle class. Regarding IT workforce development, Rep. Blackwell said he believes WPCC will get funding for that priority however, he said he has concerns with NC FAST, a state mandated software program for Departments of Social Services, discussion ensued. In regard to increasing faculty and staff compensation, Rep. Blackwell said this has been an issue for some time and noted that WPCC/community colleges do not have as many employees as the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) or public schools, so they do not get as much attention. He noted that WPCC asks for additional funding for faculty and staff when they only justify their ask by faculty salary information and the faculty/staff information should be separated out in their requests. Rep. Blackwell spoke about the elimination of barriers to enrollment and said the reason why WPCC does not see a lot of out of state students is because they charge more and if that extra cost was removed, they would see more enrollment. However, he said the question becomes should NC taxpayers fund the education of out of state students. Regarding the multi-campus item, Rep. Blackwell said even though Dr. Helmick said it would not impact them, it would because that would be less funding for faculty and career coaches. Rep. Blackwell expressed support for stabilizing budgets for colleges impacted by Hurricane Florence. Finally, regarding expanding the career coach program, Rep. Blackwell said it is a great program that will probably be expanded; however, he does not know about the local match requirements. Discussion ensued about enrollment initiatives and bills in the legislature.

Senator Daniel commended WPCC for the way they submit their budget requests. He will speak with the Education Chair about the requests and will try to fund as many of them as possible.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

BOC - PRESENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR 2019
Vice Chairman Mulwee presented the County’s legislative priorities for 2019. Discussion ensued.

NCACC’s (N.C. Association of County Commissioners) Top Five (5) Priority Goals

1. Seek legislation, funding, and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure/broadband capability to the unserved and under-served areas and residents of the state.
2. Seek additional revenue sources, including statewide bond and lottery proceeds, to equitably address statewide public school and community college capital challenges.
3. Support efforts to preserve and expand the existing local revenue base of counties and authorize local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction to all counties. Oppose efforts to divert to the state, fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties or to erode existing county revenue streams.
4. Support provision of state resources to ensure county ability to provide essential public health, behavioral health and social services, with specific consideration to the challenges of incarcerated persons, the continued county role in behavioral health governance, and programs addressing substance use disorder, throughout Medicaid transformation.
5. Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. 115C-431(c) that allows a local school board to file suit against a county board of commissioners over appropriations to the local board of education’s capital outlay fund.
March 29, 2019 (Recessed)

Rep. Blackwell said everyone supports broadband expansion and he discussed the NC GREAT grant program which enables tier 1 counties to apply for broadband expansion funding. Burke County could potentially partner with a tier 1 county to utilize the grant program, according to Rep. Blackwell. Discussion ensued. Regarding the second legislative goal, Rep. Blackwell said he supports school bonds, but is unsure how it will be received in the Senate. Regarding legislative goal four (4) and specifically mental health services, Rep. Blackwell said he is optimistic that those requests will be funded, but he is unsure if they will be funded at the level they need to be. Discussion ensued about prison/juvenile services. Regarding the fifth legislative goal, Rep. Blackwell said in the past he fully supported school boards being able to bring litigation against boards of commissioners but may be changing his mind on the issue.

Chairman Carswell reviewed the list of other legislative items/issues of importance.

**Other Legislative Items/Issues of Importance**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Support</th>
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<tr>
<td>Medicaid Transformation / Expansion / Tailored Plan</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Construction Funding / School Bond</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Development Tier Rankings and Funding – HB 258</td>
<td>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Calendar Flexibility</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC FAST Software</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC FAST - SB 212</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>J CPC Raise the Age Funding</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiber NC Act, House Bill 431</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Home Removal Assistance Grant</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Transportation Funding Gap</td>
<td>✓</td>
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Chairman Carswell said Burke County cannot afford the additional costs that would occur as a result of Medicaid expansion. Rep. Blackwell requested data on the projected financial impact. Chairman Carswell also said, regarding the economic development tier rankings and funding – HB 258, that he wants to have additional conversations with the legislators. Regarding Raise the Age Legislation/funding, Rebecca McLeod, Health Director, said if Raise the Age Legislation is passed and more local programs are offered, more funding will be needed from the State. Brandon Collins, J CPC member, reported the funding distribution formula has not been updated in years and even though Burke serves more clients than Buncombe, Buncombe gets more money. Rep. Blackwell requested analytical data. Regarding the rural transportation funding gap, Scott Carpenter, Deputy Co. Manager/Planning Director, said that counties need a funding mechanism like the Powell Bill that municipalities have to fund local projects. Discussion ensued. Regarding mobile home removal assistance grants and the rural transportation funding gap item, Mr. Carpenter said there are around 1,000 dilapidated mobile homes in the County that have been accounted for and the financial burden usually falls on economically distressed citizens to remove those homes. He said while there is funding, it is not enough to make a real impact, and the funding that is available has decreased drastically. Mr. Carpenter said he would like to see something done about the issue and suggested a special tax on manufactured homes for their removal at the end of their life. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Carswell opened the floor from comments and questions from the Commissioners.
Commissioner Taylor asked what happened to the money spent on NC FAST and will counties get their money back since it’s a failure. Rep. Blackwell said the legislature could potentially appropriate money, but it has not happened yet. Discussion ensued.

Regarding the Raise the Age Legislation, Commissioner Taylor asked why is there no dollar amount on the accompanying resolution. Ms. McLeod said the resolution asks the State for funding so there will be no need for a local match. Discussion ensued.

Regarding school construction bonds, Commissioner Taylor said it is the position of the Agriculture Steering Committee that if the state would pay what they owe from the lottery fund, then a bond would not be needed to support school construction projects. Commissioner Taylor expressed support for broadband expansion and for incentivizing companies to get them to expand broadband infrastructure.

Senator Daniel apologized for not being able to attend the meeting in person, said he is looking forward to working on these issues with the Commissioners and that he appreciates the work they do.

Chairman Carswell said Senate Bill 399, which allows retired teachers to return to work in high-need schools, arrived last night and asked the legislators to keep it on their radars. Chairman Carswell expressed appreciation for Senator Daniel and Representative Blackwell for their attendance.

**RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**RECESS OF MEETING**

The group took a break at 9:28 a.m. at which point the legislators left the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 9:37 a.m.

**WPCC - PRESENTATION OF WPCC’S 2019-20 BUDGET REQUEST**

WPCC’s Chief Financial Officer Sandy Hoilman, presented WPCC’s FY 2019-20 budget request and briefly highlighted the following information included in the agenda packet: vision, mission statement and core values, strategic goals, 10-year summary of county funding and a comparison of county operational support for N.C. Community Colleges.

This space is intentionally left blank.
Ms. Hoilman noted that the rental income is a reduction from last fiscal year because universities are utilizing less physical space in favor of online classes. Ms. Hoilman said there is a requested increase in capital improvement needs (total of $300,000) because WPCC would like to replace the roofs of the E Building and Patton Hall, which are connected. Ms. Hoilman said there is a $15,025 decrease in General Administration because the active shooter training, that was budgeted last year, will take place this year and it won’t be needed in the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the roof project could be split up and only do one roof in the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Hoilman said it is possible, but in the long run it would be more cost effective to do both roofs at the same time. Ms. Hoilman and Dr. Helmick responded to additional questions from Commissioner Taylor.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

ADJOURN
Motion: To adjourn at 9:58 a.m.
RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES: Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

Approved this 16th day of July 2019.

[Signature]
Johnnie W. Carswell, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

[Signature]
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board