

Minutes
Joint Meeting
Anson County Board of Education
Anson County Board of Commissioners
Monday, April 18, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education hosted a joint meeting with the Anson County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, April 18, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center in Wadesboro. Members of the school board present were Marilyn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Carol Ann Gibson, Brian Johnson, Frank Liles, Bobbie Little, Beulah Pratt, George Truman and Mike Turner. Other school personnel present were Michael Freeman (Superintendent), Howard McLean (Associate Superintendent), Marty Godwin (Assistant Superintendent), Holly Berry (Chief Finance Officer), Anne Hyatt (Clerk to the Board) and Mike Flake (Board Attorney).

Members present from the Anson County Commissioners' Board were Commissioners Anna Baucom, Jim Sims, Vancine Sturdivant and Jarvis Woodburn. Other members from the County Government present were Megan Garner (County Manager), Rita James (Finance), Bonnie Huntley (Clerk to the Board) and Scott Forbes (County Attorney).

- I. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Anna Baucom & Bobbie Little)**
Anna Baucom and Bobbie Little welcomed all in attendance.
- II. Invocation**
Dr. George Truman gave the Invocation.
- III. Adoption of Agenda**
Upon a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by George Truman, the board unanimously voted to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
- IV. Meal/Discussion (Michael Freeman, Superintendent)**
Prior to Mr. Freeman's presentation, Jarvis Woodburn gave the blessing for the delicious meal prepared by Events Catering of Wadesboro.

Mr. Michael Freeman began his presentation by discussing the slideshows and videos he displayed during dinner from the high schools and from the middle school that highlighted learning and extracurricular activities at those schools. He articulated to both boards that he and Mr. McLean plan to emphasize soft skills during the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Freeman clarified that soft skills are teaching and helping students to be a good citizen. He stated soft skills may be where a volunteer in the community or church does a contract saying they will help a child each afternoon by reflecting on their day or help study spelling words and help with words that govern respect. Mr. Freeman explained he wants volunteers and the community to help children set a goal and stay focused on it. He also commented we need to empower the community to help parents better manage their children through using the right strategies and techniques. Mr. Freeman stated school administration has the teachers in place, but the district needs help with basic student needs (like water, food, clothing). He elaborated the county can offer recreational opportunities (sports, swimming, faith community, civic

group support). He told both boards to help him embrace the community and get them to see there are challenges ahead but it's our challenge as leaders in the community to stay the course with all children. Mr. Freeman explained how the school system can provide facilities, programs and staffing but what is needed at the end of the day is a community that takes care of our children and not necessarily because a parent is neglectful but he believes there are more cases of struggling parents. In closing, Mr. Freeman told the boards when they hear the school system conducting community meetings, realize that a great emphasis will be on soft skills followed by academic support and he suggested they imagine how that could tie into economic development. Mr. Freeman mentioned he focused a lot (this year) on school finance, the role of school board members and the role of county commissioners and at the end of the day, what he hears is how education and economic development are hand-in-hand. He communicated that Dr. Patton would say that one of the greatest weaknesses of Anson County and Anson County Schools as a whole is we don't share our success stories. Mr. Freeman said if you can get a person's heart to be grounded in Anson County and they become a believer in our community, you can get them to stay. Furthermore, he informed the commissioners and board of education how excited he is to look at other superintendents and talk about how well both the board of county commissioners and the board of education respect each other, collaborate and work together. Mr. Freeman thanked the county commissioners for the relationship they have with each other.

After a dialogue between both boards, Anna Baucom thanked everyone for the conversation and said she appreciates and enjoys meetings like this that take place between the two boards. Anna Baucom then called their meeting to recess until their Retreat on Saturday.

V. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the Joint Meeting was made by Mike Turner, and seconded by Carol Gibson. There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Dr. Bobbie Little, Chairperson

Mr. Michael H. Freeman, Secretary