

Special Called Meeting - Friday, April 29, 2022
Beaufort County Commissioners
Beaufort County Board of Education

The Beaufort County Board of Commissioners met in joint session with the Beaufort County Board of Education on Friday, April 29, 2022, at 12:00 PM, in the boardroom located at 845 North Pierce Street in Washington, NC with the following present:

Commissioners:

Chairman Frankie Waters
Commissioner Ed Booth
Commissioner Stan Deatherage
Commissioner John Rebholz
Commissioner Hood Richardson
Commissioner Randy Walker

Commissioner Absent:

Vice-Chairman Langley

Staff Present:

Brain Alligood, County Manager
Katie Mosher, Clerk to the Board
David Francisco, County Attorney
Anita Radcliffe, Chief Financial Officer

Board of Education:

Chairman Butch Oliver
Vice-Chairman T.W. Allen
Mr. Michael Bilbro
Mrs. Eltha Booth
Mr. Terry Draper
Mr. F. Mac Hodges
Mrs. E.C. Peed
Mrs. Carolyn Walker
Mr. Terry Williams

School Staff Present:

Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman
Assistant Superintendent Mark Doane
Andrea Lilley, Chief Academic Officer
Tammy Lewis, Chief Finance Officer
Kristen Riddle, Public Information Officer
Lisa Duke, Administrative Assistant

FY '23 Budget Presentation

Chairman Waters opened the meeting for the Board of Commissioners.

Motion: Commissioner Booth motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Walker seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Oliver opened the meeting for the Board of Education.

Motion: Mrs. Walker motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Draper seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Matthew Cheeseman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said we need to talk about where we are now versus where we are moving to in the future and so we, as the Board of Education, Beaufort County Schools have adopted a 5-year strategic plan. He then gave the following presentation:

Strategic Plan

- Increase Educator Preparedness and Meet the Needs of Every Student (MTSS, Instructional Technology, Equity)
- Increase Student and District Performance (MTSS, Student Engagement, Instructional Technology, Equity)
- Family and Community Engagement (Equity)



5-Year Accreditation

- Index of Education Quality (IEQ)
- Scale of 100 to 400
- IEQ > 275 = practices ingrained in culture of the institution
- BCS = 343.39
- CIN 5-Year Range = 278.34 – 283.33



FY'23 Local Funding Request

- Federal & State Changes
- Partial and unfunded mandates
- State increases versus reductions



FY'23 Projected State Mandates

Retirement Rate & Health Insurance Increases = \$102,098.00

Raises = \$146,626.00

Increasing All Employees to \$15/hour = \$53,284.00

Curriculum LETRS Implementation = \$125,000





Commissioner Richardson said to go back for a moment, there was a meeting during budget preparations, during that meeting I asked that your budget documents, when they come across, have a list of every employee, their salary, their job title that is paid for with Beaufort County funds and even if it's combined funds I'd like to see the split on those.

Mr. Cheeseman said alternate funding as well.

Commissioner Richardson said yes.

Mr. Cheeseman said okay, I'll get those to you next week.

Commissioner Richardson said that will be your total number of locally paid employees that are within the system.

Mr. Cheeseman said no matter the job title.

Commissioner Richardson said yeah, regardless of what they're doing. He said the other thing, I have a question on this letter's thing. He said I have a serious problem, supposedly we hire professional teachers. He said teaching is, to me, maybe I look at this wrong in my simplified world, can't be that difficult so what is this letters program, what is the training, how many hours, who does the training, who wrote the documents that supposedly teaches, like, the new math.

Ms. Andrea Lilley said we have a presentation to the Board next week on this item and we have an itemized list of all the teachers that are participating in that as well as Pre-K teachers and the community teachers here in town. She said we also have administrators who are a part of this training as well. She said it is a very intense training on how to teach reading and very specific around the science of teaching and the framing and research on that and I can give you all the contact information that you requested in a document.

Commissioner Richardson said how many hours are teachers required to participate in this.

Ms. Lilley said it takes two years for the teachers. She said it's 40 hours each year.

Mr. Cheeseman said it's a state mandated initiative meaning that all 115 public schools are required to participate in it. He said our Board of Education, at one point even considered finding out from the state what would happen if we chose not to participate and that was frowned upon by DPI and so the option from DPI was cohort 1, 2 or 3, meaning you are going to participate in this and to be honest our teachers do actually find it very effective. He said it's great learning for them to work with students now but it's a mandate that's placed down on top of us. He said it's not something that the Board has asked for. He said we even tried to push back a bit because we're in the middle of our own curriculum adoptions, but it became very clear to us that this is a state mandate, and the state of North Carolina expects us to do it.

Commissioner Richardson said so we're taking 40 hours of teaching time each year and we're teaching teachers to teach how to read.

Mr. Cheeseman said yes sir, across all content.

Commissioner Richardson said that just doesn't make sense.

Ms. Lilley said just for sustainability purposes, our beginning teachers, we'll be working with them in the next couple of years, however the university systems have taken over that so in the future our teachers will be prepared before they come to us.

Commissioner Richardson said that was my next question, shouldn't the university system be teaching this and what is happening in the university system that we have teachers that can't teach reading. He said I will tell you this, some of your students lately, I've been teaching them how to form letters. He said do you have the drill where you sit down and, like in second or third grade, and you make a letter, concentrating, you do that drill now.

Ms. Lilley said yes sir.

Mr. Cheeseman said we're trying to walk that back to Pre-K. He said if you really want to look at a state initiative that North Carolina should get behind is universal Pre-K. He said our goal would be for children to at least start reading with understanding by second grade but in fact there are gaps with students who attend Pre-K versus those students who do not so some of the push that counties and Commissioners like yourself could help Boards of Education, like ourselves, is really push back up to the state and our legislatures that universal Pre-K would in fact help all of this. He said let's bring children to school, age 4, get them into school and start them early but yes to your question is yes, we are doing that early on, but it should be even earlier.

Commissioner Richardson said well I don't want to be cantankerous, but I have to say this, how do kids get out of school without learning how to read if they're there 14 years now, within this system. He said I will tell you that I took a recent graduate of yours and I had to demonstrate how, the difference between a 1, a 6, and a 9. He said how does a student get through all of that schooling without some teacher somewhere making sure they know how to form letters. He said I have a problem with this business of this stuff that's handed down from the university system, supposedly teachers that are properly educated can teach students to read and to form letters. He said you don't even need a teaching degree, for crying out loud, to do that so why do we need these programs that supposedly teach us how to teach again. He said it looks to me like the state of North Carolina is wasting an awful lot of money and there's a lot of holes in this whole education system where you've got this stuff going on.

Mr. Cheeseman said I think that goes back to, Commissioner Rebholz, when you talked about the County completing a strategic plan. He said if you're voice as a Commission could help us raise our voice and that type of concern at the state level, you can make that type of change. He said otherwise this Board of Education and all of our educators are going to continue to be at the mercy of the state mandates of this is what you're going to do.

Commissioner Richardson said well, I've said for years that as far as I'm concerned the Department of Education in Raleigh should consist of the state superintendent and their secretary. He said that should be it. He said if the schools don't know how to teach you the bureaucracy in Raleigh is not going to help you.

Mr. Cheeseman said I agree.

Commissioner Richardson said there's some real problems in the system within your standards because you're letting the students get out of school that I'm having to take to teach second and third grade basics. He said how did this happen. He said don't teachers critique the students throughout their entire education on forming letters, making sentences, using commas and

all that sort of stuff. He said don't they get the critique for eleven or twelve years. He said how could you have a student for 14 years that are in the condition that some of the people are in. He said that's just my statement about this. He said there's too much from Raleigh, I agree with you 100%. He said we should be pushing back on Raleigh and the Department of Education up there because I genuinely believe we have the wherewithal and the intellect in the people of Beaufort County to run an education system without any help from Raleigh.

Mr. Cheeseman said we would need your voice, the Commissioners, to help us with that because when this board specifically asked me as the superintendent to ask the question what happens if we don't do letters training, that would put my job in jeopardy, as demonstrated by another county in the northeast when they removed the superintendent. He said any voice that, if we can get together on a strategic plan and really start working together around what our initiatives are then our collective voice would be far greater, so I agree with you in that regard.

Commissioner Richardson said well what we need to be doing is lobbying our legislatures to stop funding the education system in Raleigh. He said just cut it off, that's the head of the snake. He said you can kill it right there.

Commissioner Rebholz said \$125,000 to the letters. He said did the state fund that.

Mr. Cheeseman said partially. He said so the state funded a partial amount of "X" number of positions that can be trained and then we had to fund nearly \$127,000 more to train the additional amount of people so that \$125,000 that's sitting on your page will help us next year with what we predict will be at least \$100,000 to sustain it.

Commissioner Rebholz said so that's over and above what the state funded.

Mr. Cheeseman said yeah, so it was a partial funding so when you look at which teachers should receive it and who to exclude our Board did not feel as though teachers should not be excluded if the state felt as though it was such a dire initiative, so the Board spent \$127,000 to move it forward this year.

Commissioner Rebholz said so on facilities, the big picture, have we looked at what the long-term needs are going to be in terms of new facilities, replacement facilities, combining facilities, and that type of thing.

Mr. Cheeseman said I've started that conversation yes. He said we're going to need your help with that, and this is why, if you want me to dive into it a little more now I can or if you want me to wait a different day I can but in short my understanding, historically, is that there were three bonds that were still on the table that we're paying, that you're paying.

Ms. Radcliffe said it was refunded last June and now there's two bonds.

Mr. Cheeseman said with that it's my understanding from historical context before you and I arrived is that no consideration would move forward until that was done. He said correct me if I'm wrong but in short, right now we're looking at really, currently sustaining our facilities and moving on in that direction. He said but if you want us to investigate something else we could.

Commissioner Richardson said let me weigh into that. He said the study that was done about the time you came here, I believe.

Mr. Cheeseman said spring of 2019.

Commissioner Richardson said it showed we're grossly overbuilt. He said we grossly overbuilt during that \$40 million bond issue that kept coming back and asked for another \$8 million. He said your schools are virtually empty. He said I'm not willing to consider capital for another building of any kind.

Mr. Cheeseman said all right, so that would answer your question.

Commissioner Rebholz said that's one vote.

Commissioner Richardson said I may be one vote, but the report is there, and the facts are there because we paid the money to have the study done. He said you need to read the report before you start talking.

Chairman Waters said one of the things, if you go back and look at the numbers that NC State put out and when you look at your enrollment today it almost mirrors that.

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Mr. Cheeseman said I understand that.

Chairman Waters said I guess from my standpoint you as a Board, are you looking at closing any schools in Beaufort County.

Mr. Cheeseman said no, not at this time. He said well, let me say this, I can't speak for the Board, for each individual member but I would never walk into the public and talk about consolidation or closure until these two entities had an agreement around a strategic plan of what that looks like three years, five years, ten years from now. He said the reason being is if you're going to build versus if you're going to close and so my experience in Chicago of closing two schools, a high school and Smith Elementary school, what happens in terms of transportation. He said do you want to put a child on the bus for an hour and 45 minutes like I did in Perquimans or do you want the child to still have a 30-minute ride. He said that matters. He said do you want to bus the child all the way from the southeast side of Aurora all the way over here to Chocowinity Middle it's going to take a long time on a bus so the key part of it is this is why I ask that we don't look at it like jellybeans. He said so quality of the student, in terms of their education starts from the moment they wake up, meaning how far do they have to travel and what that looks like so there is no way as the superintendent start a public conversation and use the words consolidation and closure until you as a County Commission had a strategic plan in place for the County and then we as a Board of Education had a strategic plan that modeled on to yours our aligned with yours and then collectively we would apply for state building grants because closure is not going to help students on the far ends of this County. He said to take Northside High School students and roll them to Washington High School is unfair to the far-east student, it's unfair to the northeast student, it's not a good quality of life. He said if you would really like to reduce your student population, announce a closure and all of them will immediately funnel to other counties. He said it's dangerous to use that without a strategic plan there and here that are aligned. He said have we considered it, I'm certain that people have thought about it and talked about it but way to early to even use those words because when I was in Washington County as their CAO in 2013 former superintendent Joseph Davis asked me to look at a new building facility for Washington County and I travelled to Hoke County Schools, reviewed their geothermal school and we came back recognizing that was going to be a \$40 million offer. He said at the time in Washington County their tax base was so low that they couldn't qualify for a loan and so you have to look at all those other pieces to it before we can say we just need to close this because building a new structure may be the way to go in the future but there's not a district in this County who wants to be the district that closed, nobody.

Chairman Waters said I would encourage you to go to Longridge Road, go to the County line, the Washington County Line and drive all the way to Bath and see how long it takes.

Mr. Cheeseman said I get it, now imagine doing it on the bus. He said look, I think we're talking in the same direction, but you have to understand the timeline on it. He said in terms of facility use my timeline is now increasing HVAC, increasing chillers, I have the money, I can take it off of your wallet, I can put it right into the federal government's wallet to the state. He said there's no harm in that, they have us the money to do it so there's no harm to you. He said the other part of that too is I have children in schools right now who deserve a high-quality education in the environment they should be in so reducing our capital funding, that might squeeze us to make a decision but at the same time what does that do for your families and children here. He said it prompts them to leave.

Commissioner Walker said concerning that NC State study wasn't there some discrepancies on how some of that data was compounded.

Mr. Cheeseman said yes, 100%.

Chairman Waters said my understanding was it came from the school system; I mean it came from the schools.

Mr. Cheeseman said no.

Commissioner Richardson said they had kind of a cross eyed interpretation. He said at the end of the day when you look at the total classroom size and divide it by the number of students we've got like a 35% to 40% surplus in space. He said that doesn't even get you into the world of overcrowding. He said the truth is Beaufort County could probably handle 12,000 students within the system that we've got today that we're keeping up. He said when the Commissioners allowed unqualified people, I was sitting there and objected to it, to make population projections that's how we got into this, where we are now. He said we're spending a lot of money to heat and cool space that we don't need to be spending for heating and cooling spaces. He said I know, just to say the ugly dirty word about closing Snowden, I have difficulty supporting that because of your argument, it disenfranchises so many families and students who are entitled to a much better quality of life because what people don't realize now is we've got students that spend a lot of time on buses, just like you just said Commissioner, and I'm

not so sure, looking back at consolidation as a concept that consolidation is a good thing or has been a good thing. He said really, if you look at the narcotics problem or the family problems that we have today, caused mostly by drugs and liquor and plainly just people don't care we would be better off if we just had neighborhood schools. He said the whole County would be much better off. He said consolidation hasn't worked, you're just going to have to face it.

Mr. Cheeseman said the great part about Snowden Elementary School, with a leadership change, we had 35, almost 40 new enrollments in that school. He said they're up to about 180 now. He said additionally, with community member Kirk Ryan coming in and looking at Aurora Township Council of adopting a 15-year revitalization plan with a 9-member committee opportunity, they've included us in that and so revitalizing the Town of Aurora in Richland and really bringing that school into a place to be. He said the facility is a great facility, it's a great place for children, that would not be where I would start in terms of ever doing away with a school, definitely not.

Commissioner Walker said I've got one more question, or a concern, accreditation, congratulations on that. He said who paid for that.

Mr. Cheeseman said we paid for that locally.

Commissioner Walker said is that accreditation, the score, is that surrounding counties, are they on that too.

Mr. Cheeseman said each county has their own accreditation cycle and so ours just happens to be aligned to our strategic plan cycle and accreditation means it can be done by the state or it can be done by a third-party company and the third-party company, likely, is a bit more rigorous process. He said so we have to go to a third-party company, which used to be called Advanced Ed and so in short, could you compare numbers versus others, yes, however it's not always apples to apples it's about what you're truly doing most effectively inside the system based off the population in the communities in which you serve. He said for us it's an absolute win that you can talk about in the public.

Chairman Waters said thank you for the information. He said the thing about our job is you guys aren't the only ones asking for more money.

Mr. Cheeseman said I understand and I'm just excited.

Chairman Waters said we have to list it and put it all together and we know what the taxpayers will want is a decrease in taxes.

Mr. Cheeseman said right, which as a taxpayer in Beaufort County I favor but I can also tell you that I really appreciate the fact that all of you have managed your fiscal means very well to recognizing your fund balance and being able to help us get in front of some of our capital plans, I think that would be very helpful to all of us so thanks for the consideration.

Commissioner Booth said I wasn't going to say anything but that's about the fourth time I've heard about fund balance. He said you the reason we've got that credit is because we haven't spent anything, we haven't done anything. He said we've been patching and patching and it's falling down as you patch but I want you to understand you kept saying we've got all this money in fund balance. He said we could spend that in one evening on some of these county buildings that we need to repair.

Mr. Cheeseman said I believe you and that's why the engineer piece, if in fact you felt as though we could combine that opportunity of having an engineer that could work with us, both in the school system and with the County we'd be open to that too Commissioner Richardson.

Commissioner Richardson said I think you need your own engineer. He said sharing engineers doesn't usually work out in situations. He said you've got plenty of work over there for an engineer to do. He said with efficiencies and training people and looking at your system he will be busy.

Mrs. Walker said I know there's concern about the decrease in enrollment and we lost a lot of students during the pandemic. She said some of them, we've lost some just because we had parents who didn't want their kids going where they have to wear a mask. She said we had no control over that, it was mandated by the state, but I can also tell you that as soon as there was any wiggle room in that we were one of the first Boards to make masks optional. She said we were one of the first Boards to bring the kids back, even though it was only part-time but the first day they were back Beaufort County schools brought them back. She said the problem is we didn't get all those students back that left us and went to Terra Ceia, Pungo and Unity Christian, St. Johns and St. Peters. She said we won't get all of them back, but I will tell you we're getting a lot of them back. She said

we got a few back this year, we've had even more. She said I know firsthand one of our local kindergartens had more registrations this year than in the past five years so those parents that said the older sibling, I took to Terra Ceia because she didn't want to wear a mask but I'm brining her back and she's going to go to John Small and my five-year-old is going to go to Eastern. She said so they're coming back. She said I don't even care the reason, is it because they don't have to wear a mask, I don't care what their reason is for coming back and I hope we can get as many as we've lost and even more.

Mr. Cheeseman said the other part of that too, Chairman Waters, I know that's a sticking point for you, and I can appreciate it. He said your birth rate in the County is down.

Chairman Waters said absolutely. He said that's a problem that all of us in this room has really got to focus on. He said that's part of the strategic plan.

Mr. Cheeseman said exactly. He said the strategic plan, the key part about it is when we talked about Beaufort County Schools losing students, we really need to make sure that families understand it's not because of a lack of effort from our teachers so when we're communicating that in writing, out in the public, in these side forums, in these side meetings that we're losing students some of your own community members start to lose the belief in the County and in the public school system because you're talking about it in such a way that's positive and more reflective and a manner that doesn't have all the information. He said if we can actually create something in Beaufort County that draws families with their children to us that's going to help us but what the number one thing that stops people is when they see public comments on websites and they see public comments in writing and then right away people think why would I want to be a part of a place that is declining and then they turn the page and they look for the next place they're going to look for. He said so I think if we could all be a little careful about the number, the number is important, but the quality of education is even more important and I think that's really where we need to focus, that quality of education, facility management and use of what we're going to do in 3, 5, 10 years from now. He said all of that is important but if our community continues to see that we lose money every time students leave well they're going to project that their five-year-old, when they're ten, ten-year-old when they're 15, the public schools are just going to keep decreasing money, why would I put my child there to start. He said that's why they roll into these other places. He said now the photo of you on Bath Elementary on reading day is beautiful and so when you make your decisions recognize that every children's, every child standing around you as you posed for that photo reading a book, doesn't care how much their worth at \$14,721 in that moment. He said they don't care. He said they love their teacher, they love their community, they love their family, so I just ask that you try to get away from looking at them as jellybeans, counting heads and then cutting us down. He said we'll continue write grants for SRO's to the best of our ability, we'll continue to continue to write grants for all these other opportunities but we have to be really careful about how we speak about it because our community members listen, they read and then they make decisions. He said many of those decisions are people outside the community who see our behaviors in writing and decide I'm not going there.

Commissioner Richardson said one of the things that would help in the community is if the school board took a stronger proactive, positive stand on a lot of these issues that are social issues like do you teach transgender in the schools, do you require students in the first, second, third and fourth grade to define their sexuality. He said your board needs to come out with some strong statements to say we don't do that; we're not having that in our schools, and I think you're sitting there mute on a lot of these issues. He said critical race theory and a lot of other things, you're having to be pushed into doing things that you don't want. He said what will help you with what you're talking about, the image of the education system is for the Board to come out with some strong policies so the community can see how you're running education because these are very negative things to the community.

Mr. Williams said when you said we lost students here or there, all of those things are true but look at the real numbers. He said a lot of things are perception and I don't deal in perception. He said look at real facts and real numbers and I have some here and this is data that is pulled off of current data right through the census that anybody sitting at home that's got a computer can look it up. He said this isn't building a case for anything, this is just saying what we need to understand has been happening because I keep hearing we're losing students. He said yes, the number of students are going down but I keep hearing "WE" are losing students. He said the school isn't losing students, the County is losing people and here's what's going on, these are real facts. He said if you look back at the census the current, we were down 3,107 people in Beaufort County. He said 6.5% on the last one. He said I'm going to give you a couple more figures but stopping right there you probably, a lot of those people also took their children when they left the County. He said I'm pretty sure they didn't leave them here for me to take care of. He said since then, because that's 2020 data, since then you have data that is an estimate from 2021 data where we lost another 184 residents and now they're projecting for July of this year we'll lose another 168 or 170 but my point is this, if you look

inside that data it says that school age children here in this County represented 6,698 in 2020 and will be 6,643 effective coming up. He said now if you take that and look at back at what our current enrollment is, which is 5,944, that means of the kids that are here and available to us, just slightly over 90% are in your public schools but if you look back a few years at the same data, 89%. He said so while the aggregate number has dropped we actually have a higher percentage of kids available to us in our school system. He said that's why it's so important for us to work with these guys and they work for us because it is not your schools losing the kids, the County is losing residents and the kids are going with them. He said that's data that nobody can dispute because it's right here in black and white. He said we've gone from 89% to 90.5% so of the kids that are out there we're getting most of the kids. He said they're coming into our schools, but we can't educate anybody when they move across the state to somewhere else because they need a job, because their parents need a job.

Mrs. Walker said that's where we all need to work together to make sure Beaufort County offers better jobs and offers opportunities to bring these young families here and I appreciate how you all are trying to do that but it's a difficult job.

Mr. Williams said you've got 44,000 people in Beaufort County and currently, I'm sure Mr. Alligood has better information than what I've got but it was on the computer just this morning that said total unemployed in the County was 12,744 and I'm sure that changes just about every day. He said I'm just saying if the opportunities aren't here, and the parents leave the kids are not going to be here for you to educate them. He said whether you add birthrates or not, but you can't educate what you don't have.

Mr. Draper said you probably all know this, but we had to redo our districts in the County. He said Chairman Waters you grew up and live where I live. He said our district for our school board voting people went down 30%. He said my job, I know we haven't lost 30 % of meters on our houses. He said these people are from Raleigh, they don't live here. He said they're paying county taxes, they're paying county water bills, their paying tideland light bill, RiverStreet internet. He said they don't live here and their kids don't go to school here. He said their kids go to school in Wake County or 90% of them and they come here because they're two hours from here. He said we have, the tax base has stayed or gone up but the people left those houses for better opportunities and the Raleigh people are buying those houses to spend weekends. He said you see them.

Chairman Waters said one of the other things that's happened because of the pandemic and people having to be at home and teaching their students, we have a young couple in Bridgewater North, two kids, both work from home and they're both homeschooled. He said these are professional people but I think that everybody in this room has to realize when we go to meetings, and I'm sure you hear it, is there's 80 counties in North Carolina that are having problems with population decline but at the same time we're having new people that come in that have kids that would be in the school system but because of technology and software programs the parents can work from home and they can homeschool.

Mr. Williams said historically, in North Carolina we've hovered around the 88%, 89% 90% so what I'm saying is our numbers simply reflect what happens in the overall county. He said he's right too, nobody's right and nobody's wrong here, I'm just pointing out why the numbers are what they are.

Commissioner Richardson said the real population decreased in Beaufort County and a lot of counties in North Carolina came back in the 90's when Bill Clinton said we need to ship all these industries overseas and we started letting our jobs go out of here. He said the numbers you gave out the people aren't always employed here, and I recall at one time there was 17,000 or 18,000 people employed in Beaufort County. He said that all happened when the textile industry left here and some of these other industries were shipped overseas. He said we need to get those industries back. He said if we get them back they will disburse themselves all over the United States and we'll go back to the growth that we had before but that was a huge political mess. He said we've lost whole industries that have gone overseas, whole capital bases, wealth, and everything else plus the population problem we have today, it all started then.

Commissioner Rebholz said we appreciate the opportunity to do this together. He said we need to build a closer bond so we can work together and not be this. He said we're only going to succeed as a County if we work together and collaborate.

Ms. Walker said I would like to add we need to do this at least once a year.

Commissioner Rebholz said we'd be more than happy to do that.

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Beaufort County Commissioners

Beaufort County Board of Education

Commissioner Booth said we used to do that, but something happened along the line. He said what you put on papers is good. He said we can see the problems and where you're headed. He said we used to take tours of the schools so we knew and could see what was needed.

Mr. Cheeseman said now that we've reopened from Covid we can do that.

Chairman Oliver said Mr. Cheeseman or I would be happy to go to the schools with you or anybody any day at any time.

Commissioner Booth said you used to send us an invite.

Motion: Commissioner Booth motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rebholz seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen Mosher, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board