

May 17, 2000

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

9:00 – 12:00 BOCC/Durham Public Schools CIP Worksession

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Room, second floor, Durham County Government
Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and
Commissioners William V. Bell, Joe W. Bowser, and Becky M. Heron

Absent: None

Presider: Chairman Black

Opening of Worksession

Chairman Black welcomed everyone to the worksession.

Introduction and Opening Remarks

Chairman Black called on Interim County Manager Carolyn P. Titus for the introduction and opening remarks. This presentation would complete the presentations on the CIP budget requests.

Ms. Titus welcomed the Durham Public Schools Board of Education and administration. The Durham Public Schools CIP budget request would be presented first. Joan Pelletier, Executive Director, Council for Senior Citizens, would follow with a discussion regarding the proposed Senior Resource Center for downtown Durham. The last portion of the meeting would comprise discussion on the next steps to prioritize the CIP projects and the schedule for the CIP worksessions.

Kathryn Meyers, Chairman, Durham Public Schools Board of Education, introduced Vice-Chairman Mozell Robinson and members Gail M. Heath, Philip R. Cousin Jr., and Regina George-Bowden.

Ms. Meyers said the administration has been working on this capital plan for over a year. This is a work in progress. The plan is in a constant state of modification based on community input, changing numbers, and program issues. Nothing is cast in stone.

May 17, 2000

Ongoing repairs and maintenance needs are also in this plan. The school board desires to work with the County Commissioners to find ways to address those needs on a calendar schedule so we will not be dependent on a bond package.

The Board of Education and the administration are very committed to working with the County Commissioners to build community support for a bond referendum.

Dr. Ann Denlinger, Superintendent, Durham Public Schools, said the CIP plan will bring all the schools up to the same standards relative to facilities. New schools must be built in the future to meet the demands in the community.

Mr. Calvin Dobbins, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services, said that in 1995, the State required each school district to prepare a ten-year facility plan which resulted in the 1996 state bond for school construction. The Durham Public Schools received approximately \$22 million. With that amount, 17 projects were completed. In 1998, the ten-year plan was updated and a draft brought to the Commissioners. As a result of community meetings and a public hearing, the Board of Education approved the document in 1999.

Mr. Hugh Osteen, Executive Director for Facility Services, reviewed the long-range facilities plan for the Commissioners. He began his presentation with introductory remarks relative to mobile classrooms, increased student enrollment, and repairs and maintenance.

The summary of costs follows:

Summary of Costs

Elementary	\$ 69,425,352
Middle	73,632,236
High	5,842,000
Other	7,447,784
<u>Total (In Current Dollars)</u>	<u>156,347,372</u>
<u>Inflation (Per Proposed Timeline)</u>	<u>14,484,891</u>
Grand Total	\$ 170,832,263

The following charts and graphs were reviewed for the Commissioners:

- a) Facility Cost Summary
- b) Projected Timeline and Expenditures by Facility
- c) Projected Growth of Enrollment and Building Capacity by School Facility and Year
- d) Projections of Capacity and Enrollment
- e) Proposed Source of Funding.

May 17, 2000

Mr. Dobbins said the CIP long-range facilities plan has been updated and would be presented to the Board of Education on June 8, 2000 for final approval. The County Commissioners would receive the document on June 9, 2000.

The County Commissioners asked questions and made comments about the CIP and other subjects to which the school administrators responded.

The County Commissioners and school administrators had a lengthy discussion about priority CIP items, bond amount, tax rates, and bond referendum dates.

No final decision had been made relative to what CIP projects would be funded, amount of General Obligation, and the date of the proposed bond referendum.

Commissioner Heron asked the Board of Education to assist the County Commissioners in working with the legislators to persuade the General Assembly to provide other local options for raising money for schools and various projects.

Ms. Meyers said the Board of Education would prioritize the CIP projects for the Commissioners.

Council for Senior Citizens—Joan Pellettier, Executive Director

Ms. Pellettier appealed to the Commissioners for funding for the proposed Senior Center planned for Durham.

A senior center is a community focal point on aging where older persons, as individuals or in groups, come for services and activities which support their independence, encourage their involvement in and with the community, and enhance their dignity. As part of a comprehensive community strategy to address the strengths and needs of older persons, senior center programs take place within and emanate from a facility. These programs consist of a variety of activities and services in such areas as education, technology, creative arts, recreation, volunteerism, advocacy, leadership development, employment, health, nutrition, and social work and other supportive services. The center also serves as a community resource for information on aging for seniors and family members, for training professional and lay leadership, and for developing new approaches to aging programs.

The rapidly growing number of older adults in the community, not to mention the world, compels Durham to think in terms of the following key issues:

- increasing public awareness of factors related to aging;
- developing a seamless and responsive continuum of opportunity/service/care;
- emphasizing the importance of self responsibility, prevention, and the timely use of programs and services;

May 17, 2000

- addressing work-life issues and concerns of caregivers;
- measuring the impact of programs and services; and
- facilitating professional and paraprofessional education and career development.

The Council for Senior Citizens plans to build a free-standing, accessible, and acceptable comprehensive Senior Resource Center which will be physically, philosophically, and programmatically designed to address the key issues mentioned above. The building will be “aging friendly.” The entire effort of construction and operation will reflect broad community support, include strong senior input, take a holistic approach to aging, and reflect strong inter-agency collaboration.

The location currently under discussion is close to the new downtown YMCA, the Arts Council, the Carolina Theater, Durham Central Park, the Library, etc. That proximity will be mutually beneficial and will impact on specific space allocation within the Resource Center. The center will provide programs and services such as those described in the above narrative.

An advisory committee has been reviewing the design of the proposed facility. The work of the committee has been ongoing.

Ms. Pellettier described the proposed floor plan and the suggested space needs by category. An unusual aspect of the proposal is to provide space for a geriatric health clinic that would be staffed by a physician or a physician assistant. An adult day health services space is also being proposed.

The preliminary budget for the proposed senior center was compiled about two years ago with a proposed construction cost at \$4,736,395. A small amount of land must be purchased for the facility.

Ms. Pellettier ended her comments by talking about the Executive Service Corps recommendations concerning project construction and operations.

Mr. Lyle Starch, board member, urged the Commissioners to support the project financially. The total cost will be approximately \$6 million to build and furnish the facility. The Commissioners were requested to provide \$4 million of the \$6 million projected cost.

The Commissioners asked questions and made comments about the Council for Senior Citizens CIP request to which Joan Pellettier responded.

Chairman Black instructed the County Manager to put the \$4 million request into the CIP budget.

May 17, 2000

HOPE VI Grant

Chairman Black said James Tabron, Executive Director, Durham Housing Authority, requested that the Commissioners sign on to the project to submit a request to receive a HOPE VI grant to demolish the Few Gardens area and to rebuild the apartment complex with a different design. He must have a letter by Friday to submit with the application.

The Commissioners asked questions and made comments about the request to which Housing Authority representatives responded.

The letter would be a support letter only. No financial obligation was requested.

CIP Process

Interim County Manager Carolyn P. Titus said staff would like to move forward with the prioritization which was discussed at the health department meeting. The ranking processes will be done individually and then as a group in order to develop the final CIP program.

Ms. Titus commented that the budget and CIP worksession schedule must be established before the end of today's meeting.

Claudia Odom, Budget and Management Services Director, gave the Commissioners an overview of the Board ranking process for the CIP. The Commissioners asked staff to bring back projects in priority order.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow wanted the staff to bring forward a recommendation for the CIP. The Commissioners wanted to begin the process with the revised scale-down version.

Chairman Black asked Ms. Odom to send the Commissioners the updated scale-down version of the staff's ranking.

CIP and Budget Worksession Schedule

The County Commissioners and budget staff decided on a worksession schedule to work on the CIP and the FY 2001 budget.

Adjournment

Chairman Black adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

May 17, 2000

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board