At a reconvened meeting of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. with the Buckingham County School Board at the Buckingham County School Bus Garage Conference Room, the following members were present: Donald E. Bryan, Chairman; Harry W. Bryant, Jr., Vice Chairman; Robert C. Jones; Don R. Matthews; E. Morgan Dunnavant; Joe N. Chambers, Jr.; and Danny R. Allen. Also present were Rebecca S. Carter, County Administrator and Karl Carter, Asst. County Administrator and the Buckingham County School Board and Dr. Daisy Hicks.

Re: Call to Order

Chairman Bryan called the Board of Supervisors meeting to order. Chairman Hutcherson call the School Board meeting to order.

Re: Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Bryan certified there was a quorum. Seven of seven members were present and the meeting could continue.

Chairman Hutcherson certified there was a quorum with the School Board. Seven of seven members were present and the meeting could continue.

Re: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Chambers gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all who were in attendance.

Re: Adoption of Agenda

*Supervisor Chambers moved, Supervisor Allen seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the agenda as presented.*

Re: Joint Meeting regarding School Capital Projects

Bryan: This is a joint work session between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors for Capital Improvements. To give you a little background, Sherry it’s been 5 years ago, 7 years ago? Seven years ago we set up a committee for Capital Projects with the school system and we have them prioritized and it’s kind of hard because you have to keep adding things on. Something is on the top of the list suddenly gets shuffled down to the bottom of the list because other things have priorities. What I’ve tried to push for is to be open about it. Maybe like we do
school buses. When we do the budget for school buses, we earmark money just for buses. Same thing for capital projects. Maybe it will ease the burden a little bit. As you can see one of the big things I’ve heard a lot of discussion about it is, oh my goodness, we are going to build a new high school. That’s not what this is saying. That’s not what we’ve said for the last seven years. What we’ve said is if we don’t take care of what we have it’s going to fall down around us and we are going to spend more money building a new school. Realistically thinking it took ten years to build the middle school, I know that certainly we don’t want to get into debt service especially while we still have a debt service on the middle school which is probably going to be done down the road of course. We all know that. But we have to be forward thinking too. We can’t go in blindly and say “Oh my God, the high school is falling down around us” and now all of a sudden we need a new school. That’s not going to work.

Ragland: To add to that too, when we started this we were making…I’ve got records I went back and pulled some to show you, we made a list. We were in the committee and we kept seeing some recurring costs. We said wait a minute, who’s going to remember this because at the time Chip just kept it in his head. We said we need to have something so we’ve got some type of consistency here. It keeps changing. It changes with different people. It comes through trying to place recurring costs down on paper with some things that started off as gigantic and we’ve just tried to narrow down and bring a narrow perspective the recurring costs that come…like the boilers every 10-15 years. You know that. Computers. We’ve already dealt with that. Once we have them installed they are already out of date. So we have to look down the road and we want to stagger some of these costs. The resurfacing of the flat roofs. We wanted to stagger them and not do them all in one year. We are just trying to do it in some type of format.

Bryan: If we don’t resurface those roofs, somebody questioned it, but if we don’t do the roofs then the warranty runs out on them. It’s almost like money in the bank for us. We have to keep working on that in order to keep the warranty because if something does happen they will come in and fix it as long as we maintain the roofs in the set manner. That’s just some of the things. We asked the principals at each school prioritize a list at each school. You can see it’s broken down by school. Certainly as a committee what we did is got together and tried to prioritize things as it comes up and then we would make recommendations to the school board. One of the big costs recently was the track. That cost, Sherry?

Ragland: $150,000.

Bryan: Yeah and there was only one vendor for that. So it’s not like you can go out and shop and say I’m going to go out and shop around and find the cheapest bid in the county. The cheapest bid in town was the only bid in town. We even looked outside of the geographical area and I believe it was a company from out of here that could do it. I found out later from Appomattox that they had the same thing when they had to resurface their track.

Ragland: The thing is that was another situation where we kept putting it off and putting it off and then it became a safety issue.
Chambers: Let me ask a question. Looking at these prices on this list, did you get bids or is this where someone guessed?

Ragland: No, no, no. Some of these figures are actual figures from what it cost us in the past. Some of them may have increased so we just kind of estimated ahead. Of course Mr. Heslip was the driving force trying to find figures and again it’s just a starting point. They may be inflated a little bit but not too much. It’s just estimated. It will come down to when we send out the bids.

T. Bryant: You don’t know when you are going to do it either.

Ragland: No. Prices could change a lot.

Hicks: Basically we just wanted to share with you at this point. We are not asking for a vote on it. We are not asking for money to go toward it or anything like that. We just wanted to share with you the plan that I was told from years ago I was told to map out and have a plan in place.

Chambers: You’ve got to have a vision.

Hicks: Exactly. So you know where you are going. Basically, that’s all this is.

Goodman: Of course, if I could say something Mr. Chairman, you know like Mr. Chambers, there is a total vision. This is a place that we want to get to and of course we want to have the relationship with our friends in the Board of Supervisors and being able to project the idea and message that we are trying to move in a specific direction. Moving in that direction in order to provide the proper infrastructure that our children are going to need to be successful in the future. So of course there are going to be costs associated with that. Of course part of the vision may be in the future to potential to have a new high school. The population may be trending in that direction. So this is trying to help the relationship and help say that we want to work together. We want to work together with you to move the citizens of Buckingham to the future.

Hicks: We want to put it all out there. We have nothing that we would want to hide. We want to be forthcoming in our conversations with Senators and Legislators to make sure they understand what our needs are here in Buckingham County so that we can reach out and get their support as well because we all know we are a rural area and there isn’t a ton of money that other divisions may have access to. So our communications if we say the same thing in our conversations. I know there is talk that they are going to put more money in infrastructure from state and federal for school systems. But I think the boards sitting here should move in the same direction and know what our needs are. If we have something to take them in concrete to show them on both ends, Board of Supervisors as well as school board, then we are talking the same language.

Bryan: Just to clarify the underground fuel tanks here. We get those inspected every four years. What he found out was, it’s $22,000 to get them inspected. If we go to above ground tanks, they
don’t have to be inspected. So you are losing $122,000 that you are paying out. So, in the long run you are going to save money by going to above ground tanks. When you look at your list, the above ground tanks are targeted for 2023-2024. They want to do it before the next inspection comes due. So that’s going to be a cost. It was proposed and I mentioned it to Becky as well, we use probably a little less than ½ of the gas usage maybe between the police and everybody else. Less than ½. The buses of course are the number 1 user. But you, know I feel we should share in the costs there for above ground tanks. That way the biggest cost in this will be closing down the underground tanks. What they do is put a sealer in there and it’s like foam, it blows up and seals it and it’s done and it never has to be inspected again. That’s the major costs of that.

Allen: You don’t have to dig them up?

Bryan: You do not have to dig them up. In fact they recommend that you don’t dig them up if you put this concrete…they said no, once you fill it up you are done.

Chambers: I think that’s a good idea. If those things leak you will have a problem.

Bryan: You actually see everything. You are right Joe.

Ragland: How many tanks would we have to replace?

Bryan: Two. One for regular, or unleaded gas and one for diesel.

Matthews: What size tanks are they?

Bryan: Ronnie Palmore would know that.

Oliver: I think it’s 7500.

Dunnavant: They are usually 10-12,000. So you can get a whole tanker load.

Several conversations going at once. Could not make out.

Bryan: The school board bids our their gas. You guys bid it out by the year?

Ragland: Yeah.

Chambers: That way you get a better price.

Allen: How much money is in the budget right now for capital projects or maintenance projects versus school buses?

Hicks: We do not have a capital project fund.
Ragland: This is what we’ve done in the past. When we had end of the year money, yall were able to let us to and this is how we were able to mark them off and then rolled them over. This is the roll over.

Dunnavant: Yall always have money left over?

Ragland: We do.

Bryan: They’ve done everything from fencing at the pre-school to keep the pre-school children in an enclosed area.

Ragland: This was back in 2015. We done things like hydro start, fuel tanks in, renovations on certain isles in the high school, cameras, sealing the exterior at the high school, shades down there, floors down there, that was $13,000, that’s because in and out and in and out. Mr. Heslip, how many times have you had to replace those? They are like a recurring cost. As technology has changed, we are having to pay a little more.

Hicks: Of course the things you see on here that are related to security cameras and interface and things of that nature, we do apply for that security grant that helps with that as well. We want to be clear we are not asking for money.

Matthews: In 2019-2020 you don’t have anything for that fiscal year?

Hicks: Well, whatever money we have left over after our regular operating budget is over is what is spend on capital projects. I can’t say we have a capital project fund or account. It’s just whatever we have at the end of the year we try to get what we can done.

Ragland: These are some of the things we’ve been working on I’m so excited that we’ve gotten to this point. We try to prioritize them. I will say and I had Mr. Heslip put in this wish list, well not really a wish list, on the very last page the two buses. Even though the county has been good about giving us buses, we just went on and included that in here to show …

Dunnavant: Three buses a year, how many buses are in a fleet that yall use in a daily basis? 30-40.

Ragland: Ronnie would have to answer that.

Allen: We used to do 4 buses but had to cut the money back.

Matthews: They were 90-100,000 a piece. Two buses is 200,000.

Bryan: When we first started buying them, we were buying them for $90,000.
Matthews: We gave the library money to them two years. Didn’t we take library money for buses one year?

Bryan: Yeah.

Chambers: We were buying 4 of them. We tried to do 4 last year but couldn’t.

Dunnavant: What I’m trying to get at how many buses in a fleet and you are replacing 4 a year that gives you a maximum of 10 year fleet. If you go to 3 then you are working on a 12 year maximum. The point is at what point does the point of diminish and return come in with the age of the bus versus replacing. How much life can you get out of them?

Matthews: What is the grandstand for $100,000? What do you mean? Is that a ramp?

Bryan: ADA compliant? You have to have rails for one thing in our stands.

Matthews: I understand that but are you going to put a ramp in or put a ramp in later?

Bryan: We actually thought you know how dreams go, the original dream was to move, this is the high school field, was to put the home side on this side, build a whole new grandstand, make it ADA compliant and move the current visitor’s stands on the other side.

Ragland: As long as we have one side that is ADA compliant, then the other side doesn’t have to be.

Bryan: Not everything on this list is I’ve got to have it now. Some of these are, it would be nice to have, one things I’ve been shooting for, it would be nice to have at the complex, if you look at the complex between the two schools, the kids have to go up and over, unaccompanied. What we suggested is enclose that walkway and lock the doors, we have the locks, just move them from the outside to the inside and that way the kids could walk unescorted from the primary side to the elementary side instead of going up and over. Because some of the kids when they go up and over, they get turned around and they will end up on the 5th grade hallway and I’m like where are you going. Well I’m going to so and so’s room and I say no, go back out of here and lead them. They get lost.

Ragland: Some of these are safety issues.

Matthews: You’ve got the primary school and the elementary school. Isn’t that the same complex? You’ve got two walkways. Isn’t it two walkways?

Bryan: No.

Matthews: You’ve got $30,000 at the primary and $30,000 at the elementary. And $7500 for a playground for both of them. Is that one? We can eliminate of them right?
Bryan: Probably. What is the cost of that J.B.?

Heslip: That’s actually spit between the two schools for their share. So it’s actually $60,000 and $7500 and $7500 for shared. So we split the cost between the two to make it more accurate for each school.

Bryan: Ok. So it’s actually $60,000 and $15,000.

Heslip: Yes sir.

Bryan: At the complex.

Matthews: What about the security cameras upgrade?

Bryan: Where?

Matthews: Every school has got them on here.

Bryan: It depends on what school you are talking about. If you are talking about the preschool…

Heslip: The middle school, high school, CTE was done last year. We got that through a security grant. We are shooting for this year’s security grant for the lower levels because they were put in when the school was built. So they are in need of an upgrade as well.

Matthews: What about ERate fund? Don’t they provide some of that?

Heslip: That would be what Mrs. Shumaker does.

Matthews: Are you familiar with ERate?

Heslip: Yes, sir. Mostly what we deal with is security grant.

Matthews: Does the security grant take care of all of the funds for the security cameras?

Heslip: They match us, sir. We have to match. Once we apply they let us know how much we match. 25% is our match.

Matthews: What is 25%

Heslip: We put in 25% sir.
Matthews: You went from $360,000 to $400,000 on buses. What’s the premise of that? Just curious. On the 5th year you go from $360,000 to $400,000.

Ragland: That’s where we sat down (several people talking at once, couldn’t make it out)

Matthews: Well, you know, I don’t see how any county could project what you are going to do five years down the road. We don’t know as a county what position we are going to be in. This is all well and good and these figures are great but it’s really all hypothetical.

Bryan: Absolutely. Yeah, that’s what they are trying to say is, say tomorrow, and God forbid this happens, so tomorrow the chiller goes out and the middle school has no heat and air. What are you going to do?

Matthews: It’s not just the chiller, Donnie. It’s the whole scenario of year to year with the economy and the way things are in the country. Fortunately we are in pretty good shape as a county, from the help of Mrs. Carter and her staff, they’ve done a great job. It’s hard for me to project…I like to look into the future and say hey, I’d like to have some of those things. Theoretically you can’t pull the trigger on some of these things. I may not even be in here.

Hicks: Again that’s why we are not asking for money.

Bryan: They are not asking for money. They are just saying that long term this is stuff may happen and may not. To be honest with you…

Matthews: There’s a couple of us speaking about maintenance programs for four years not with the school division. Not just today. So we need to start looking at that seriously, not making a statement. Let’s look at preventative maintenance and put a real number on stuff like that. Not just a hypothetical…

Bryan: That’s what we are doing right here. Don, come on.

Chambers: You are looking at a vision for the future. If you don’t have that you can get caught…you know what I’m saying. You know it’s coming.

Allen: You’ve got to start somewhere.

Ragland: So you know where it’s at it’s written down beside each school. The roof at the Preschool is says Q10. That means every 10 years. Blacktop resurfacing. Every 5. These are the routine things that we know are recurring that are not already and we’ve been waiting until the end of the year to see how funds are to pay for those items.

Matthews: A roof every 10 years you say?
Ragland: No, that particular roof the roof reseal is every 10 years. That’s to keep the warranty. They are the things on here that we know have to be done and we want to get it put on paper instead of Chip’s head. It wasn’t written down anywhere. When I’m gone, somebody will at least have something to base it on. We have here our own worksheet when they were accomplished or when they need to be done. That’s how we come up with what’s on this paper. I don’t every recommend every having another flat roof.

Hicks: I have to have it on paper to show me because I don’t remember stuff like that. This shows the last time we did this and when it needs it again.

Dunnavant: It may have been mentioned earlier and I may have missed it, but the last thing on the first page, the wish list line, the $1,035,000? Where is that resigned from or is that just a contingency slush fund?

Ragland: If you look, are we talking about high school stadium under athletics or…

Dunnavant: That is what is correlates to?

Ragland: Yeah, if we have everything in ADA compliance right now, that may not be something that we have to take care of. That’s why this is a working document. It’s an ever changing document.

Dunnavant: I want to complement yall for putting this together. There’s a couple line items that are a pretty big pill to swallow, but all and all I think the maintenance items is very appropriate. The United States is one of the few countries in the world that throw buildings away. If you look at Oxford, it started in the 1100’s and most of the buildings were in the 1300’s. Before our country was even thought of. Before Columbus came over here and the students over there are still walking the same halls. How are they doing that? Oxford is recognized for being the oldest institutions in the world. Why are they still walking those halls? Because they’ve taken care of it. If we do the same thing here, it may hit us a little expensive every now and then. It’s like a home. I don’t know about yall, but my house was built in 1919. I trust it quite well to go to sleep in it every night. I spent a lot of on it. It’s a whole lot cheaper to take care of it than to waste it. I just want to make that statement. I basically behind you and I may argue some of these figures. Some of these figures are big.

Chambers: (couldn’t hear well) We renovated the high school in the 90’s. We can renovate it again.

Dunnavant: I’ve talked to a lot of people, we need to spend some money on the high school. I promised myself when I came in here I was going to keep quiet. It’s one of the big wish list items. But my understanding is the old part of the school is in better shape than the new part.

Bryan: Construction was done a lot different back then too.
Dunnivant: One of the biggest issues that was explained to me was the roof system that they purchased.

Chambers: The teachers are not architects. They don’t know. They just talk about how it is.

Dunnivant: Well, they know what the symptoms are. The individual that told me about the roof system is Chip Davis, himself and I would think he would know.

Ragland: Back in 2015 we had to do a sealant on it until we could get the situation straight to put a roof on it and we are still in that situation.

Dunnivant: I would like to see and this is just me, I’m not speaking for the Board, but on a maintenance standpoint, as long as a roof holds up on a structure, the balance of the structure will stay. It’s a masonry building so you don’t have a foundation so you won’t have termites. So it you keep your roof in order everything else in the building should be alright. I’d like to ask yall to get an estimate to repair the roof before we explore the option of a new building.

Ragland: It’s just put in there. We should have put it in red. We are not going to rule it out every…

Bryan: If we don’t take care of what you are talking about, that’s going to come forward quicker than you think. But if we continue to take care of what we are doing, that’s going to slip further back. So it could be 15 years from not, or theoretically 20 years, but sooner or later you are going to have to look at a new school.

Dunnivant: Our student numbers fluctuate a little bit but the number of students are basically static. We are in the 1000 to 1500 range of high school students or students overall. We stay in that range, it may fluctuate 200 up and 200 down. Not a great deal. It’s not like we outgrew the facility. We do have to take care of it. There’s no argument from me for the school getting money to maintain status quo with the buildings.

Chambers: You’ve got to prepare for this down the road.

Dunnivant: That’s one of the big issues from my understanding in talking with Mr. Davis and other people is the roof and hvac system. What I gathered on the hvac system, sounds like to me it was never engineered correctly in the first place. It creates moisture ventilation and not moving enough air.

Ragland: That’s the first I’ve heard. He’s never told me that. I’ve talked to Chip and that’s the first I’ve heard. I will tell you that…

Dunnivant: But it’s not moving the right amount of air at a time for the condensation issues that we are having soaking the ceiling tiles. Those two big ticket items, you get them fixed it will help a whole lot.
Bryant: We might need or somebody needs to walk through the high school to see what it needs. Period.

Ragland: That’s why we sit down as a committee every month and we have representatives. We have administrator and teachers. We encourage you to call Dr. Hicks or Mr. Heslip and if any of you want to go see it, they will be glad…Patty is on the committee too. They will be glad to show you some things that are concerns. Like our elevator. We have an elevator…

Matthews: What about the chairlift on here? Is that going to replace the elevator?

Ragland: Most of that, I’ve got to look.

Bryan: That’s the chairlift outside the JROTC area. That’s not replacing.

Matthews: Back in the 90’s they formed a committee of citizens and parents of children in there and I was actually on that committee so, I didn’t hear you mention anybody in the community that’s on that committee other than school board members and teachers.

Ragland: It’s just been based on as needed. That’s how it started. If it needs to revolve to parents, there’s not something that we hadn’t thought about. We have thought about it but it’s not something that we would discourage. We have parent representation on most of our committees.

Matthews: Other people should be involved.

Ragland: Any parent that wants to come that would be fine.

Bryan: Sherry, we used to have a parent on the committee.

Ragland: We did have a parent.

Bryan: They dropped it.

Allen: I think you are doing something good. It’s a good start to what we need to look at. It’s starts where we always need to start at. You’ve got to start somewhere. Right now the way I see the money left over at the end of the year is what we will use to put on to it and try help. If you have problems beyond that I guess we will have to come back and have another meeting.

Ragland: Like I said Dr. Hicks and Mr. Heslip are constantly looking up grants and other ways to trying to get funds but it’s just to let you know these are things that we need to get fixed and then once we get some of the maintenance issues done, it will teer down and its something to look at because what if I’m gone or Mr. Heslip gone and Dr. Hicks is gone and we are all gone
from here, they will have something to know what we need to care of. That what it originally came down to.

**Chambers:** I believe in progress. I believe planning for down the road. You make plans for what’s going on here in Dillwyn

**Ragland:** We try to put band aids on things.

**Chambers:** What I’m saying, same thing happened in Arvonia. The school is abandoned and we have to take care of it. We need to take that in consideration. Talk about building a new school and you might have to do it one day.

**Ragland:** You’ve got Louisa that had a school fell down and they put it back on the same site. They had to work around it.

**Chambers:** I’m not trying to get off track. You’ve got to look at the whole picture.

**Ragland:** Eventually Joe, long term, if we do build a new school it’s probably going to be where the track is now and then you will have to tear this building down to build a track here. You’d have to move the football field because its going to be eaten up by parking lots for the new school.

**Chambers:** I thought we bought some land.

**Bryan:** I mean, you basically have from here all the way to past the high school. Across the street from, right there by the preschool area.

**Ragland:** He’s just talking.

**Bryan:** We don’t know what will happen 20 years from now. If you have to build a new high school, that’s probably what’s going to happen after.

**Goodman:** What they have figured out a lot of the models we are using in the school system are kind of out of date. Because a lot of the models and the things that we do are based on models from the post industrialized world because of that its going to require us to do things a little bit differently. It’s going to require us to shift our paradigm or shift the way we think about things. Of course there is going to be a cost associated with that.

**Chambers:** I agree with what you are saying we’ve got to look at the big picture.

**Ragland:** I would like to think that we have a committee and a board that thinks a little bit down the road.

**Chambers:** Like on Rt. 20 down there. Look at that one. I think it’s good and I’m proud of it.
Bryan: We’ve almost outgrown that school too.

Ragland: I will interject again, I will never suggest building a building with a flat roof.

Bryant: I agree with that. Yes.

Ragland: I would encourage a building to not have a flat roof.

Bryan: Remember the library, Don? Renovating for the library? What kind of roof are we going to have? We are getting rid of that flat roof on there right now.

Matthews: A Frame.

Chambers: See what I’m saying. That’s a school sitting there.

Matthews: We didn’t have to go up on taxes either. Just wanted you to know that.

Bryan: That can happen too. It’s going to cost money to do it.

Matthews: I don’t mean to be the bad guy. I’ve got questions and I want some answers. I’m committed to the taxpayers and I’m the one they go to. They are going to be asking me. Nothing against the school board or anybody else. The other stuff you’ve got in here, we are being held responsible for the taxpayers money. There are 18,000 people in this county. 1950 students in Buckingham County High School. That’s a big difference from 18,000 to 1950. It affects the other 16,500 right?

Ragland: You see this right here, that side right there and that side right there, Don, has been what we’ve been working on at the high school through grants or funding that we haven’t always had to come to the county to get it.

Matthews: You’ve done a tremendous job. I’m not taking anything away from the school board. I appreciate you.

Ragland: We think about what’s going on with taxes. We do. We understand. We are trying to be good stewards of the money.

Matthews: I’ll tell you straight up, that the county could not afford a 30-40% tax increase. The residents of the county could not afford that kind of tax increase.

Bryan: Nobody’s asking.

Matthews: If you build a $40 million school you are going to have to do it. Where are you going to get it from?
Bryan: You aren’t going to have any other debt service.

Hutcherson: One of the things we have right now, right here tonight, is that this capital outlay project, everybody can see exactly where we stand. What we’ve done in the past like when we did the school on 20, we started one part of the building and then we learned that if we did both of the buildings we could save a lot of money. What we were trying to do then was get the best bang for our buck. That’s what we are doing now. We are trying to give you a picture of what we will have down the road. Pricewise we are simply saying, none of us what it’s going to cost. It’s like that with our own house. We can’t project what it’s going to cost.

Matthews: I can tell you one thing, you are not going to build it without going up on taxes.

Hutcherson: I’m not saying we are going to build it or go up on taxes but at least we have something here to be able to share with anybody that we are talking to. You can say what this paper said. I can say what this paper said. At least we’ve got something so that both boards will know what our school system is doing.

Matthews: Let me ask this question. Mrs. Carter, how much have we funded the school division above what we are required to do in the last five years.

Carter: Mr. Carter has got that.

K. Carter: Do you wanted for one year Don?

Matthews: You can read from year to year. That will be fine. How much have we given above and beyond what we are required to give.

K. Carter: The numbers I have are total funds, debt service as well. I’ll go back to 2015-16. We funded $9.6 million required was $5 million. 16-17 we funded 10.2 and required was 5.3. 17-18 funded 10.4, required was 5.5. 2018-19 10.4 funded, local effort was 6 million. 19-20 funded 10.2, local effort was 6 million. That does have debt service and everything.

Matthews: That’s a little bit of money isn’t it.

Hicks: That’s a lot of money.

Matthews: Above and beyond.

Ragland: It’s what we had to have.

Jones: Let me say this please. Just put my two cents in this group. I complement the school board. I think that it’s great that you are looking at the next ten years at what will need to be done and how you are going to do it is something else. Right now, in the ten years that I’ve been
on the board, the school board has never come to us for money that we’ve never given to them. We’ve always given it if it’s something that you’ve got to have. We’ve done that in the ten years that I’ve been here. Now, it’s nice to look at things for the next ten years and figures that it could be this and it could be that. What we are really concerned with is that the next fiscal year that’s coming up, what are the capital requirements that the school system needs? To me, several months before you come to the board requesting your budget for next year, the number one thing that we need to do is sit down and come up with what capital money you need, what it’s for, and how are you going to do it. Everything that you come up with so when you come to our board and you give us what you need, and we decide then, good that’s fine. That’s doesn’t have any affect in what’s going on 9 years down the road from there. But it shows you at the present time what we have to do and what we have to have. To me that’s the way to get this thing down to where we all know what’s going on and how we are going to do it. There will be a time, it won’t be us, we won’t be here when we talk about $40 million for a school, I’ll tell you one thing, the school is a sore subject with me. Arvonia School where I graduated from in 1950, that building is sitting there right now with a million dollars’ worth of slate on it. I asked the man that got the asbestos out of there what it cost him, and he told me about $20,000. He took it all out. You can go in that building right now. There is no floor there. It’s all open right to the dirt but that foundation is as solid now as it was 50 years ago when it was built by my forefathers. So, I’m telling you I know it can be done and we will just have to see that it’s done in the right way so that our forefathers and our children down the road has a place to go to school and get an education. I’m through.

**Chambers:** Let me tell you something. You say you’ve been here for 10 years. I’ve been on here for 28 years and I’ve never in the 28 years seen the Board of Supervisors turn down a request for the school. We didn’t fund it all the time but I have seen in 28 years the school have about a million dollars left and waste it. I thank God we have a superintendent now that’s conservative. If I’m wrong correct me, a lot of times with previous superintendents, they spend the money foolishly.

**Carter:** I’ve seen 600-800,000 before.

**Bryan:** One of the things that we’ve also talked about, I’ve talked with Dr. Hicks and I talked with Dr. Snead when he was superintendent, if you have carryover money, part of our like Don said our fiscal obligation to the citizens, we have this document now. Ok. So we say ok, you want to carryover $800,000 well we want this, this, and this fixed just like we do school buses. We put money in the budget for buses and it can only be spent for buses. So earmark, think about it for carryover money we have this document. We can look at it and say well you know we see you want $150,000 for a chiller and $110,000 for remote controls. Ok. We want this money spent here.

**Chambers:** That’s what I was saying. We’ve had joint meeting with the school board and they say we’ve got to have this money to operate. We can’t operate this year without x amount of dollars then they have $500,000 left over.
Ragland: But we get grants and you don’t know that you are going to get these grants.

Chambers: I understand all of that. I’ve been on here 28 years. Longest serving supervisor in Buckingham. Sister Carter and I have been here a long time. I’m serious.

Goodman: I just want to say we are mindful of what we are spending. But we can’t negate the future of our children just because our sole focus is on some money here and some money there. So that’s the only thing I would say, of course we realize we have an obligation or responsibility to be right with the taxpayers money but also we have an obligation to the future of our children. We really don’t know, we are investing in them now, we really don’t know how that is going to be in the future. We definitely couldn’t put a monetary amount to it. So we just need to make sure we stay focused on the total goal and that is getting our children the best education that we can.

Chambers: Everyone here agrees with that but you still have to stay in the means you can afford.

Goodman: Yes, sir.

Chambers: A lot of people have a Rolls Royce mind and a Volkswagen pocketbook.

Hicks: I would go along saying that the Board of Supervisors here and I’ve worked with many other divisions and I am being honest with you when I say this, I think you all have been very supportive with what you’ve shared with the school division. So I do appreciate what you all are doing and it lets us know that you value education. That was one of the reasons why I applied to be superintendent in Buckingham. I want to make sure that you all know that as a school board that I know they put education first. I know that you all are supporting the schools in what they are doing. It makes my job a lot of easier that we are all working together for the same cause. In some counties you’d be surprised that they don’t even want to give what they are required to give much less giving above that. The law says you have to give this and they don’t want to hear that. I appreciate you all for listening and supporting the school division and we are going to move forward with what we do.

Chambers: I remember Mrs. Midkiff’s father was on the school board and he was the chairman. We tried to keep harmony among the boards but it didn’t work all the time. Shelton and the board had a good relationship. Ask you father.

Bryan: Does anybody else have anything?

Hutcherson: No other questions?

Bryan: I guess, we are going to depart because you still have business that you need to attend to. So we are going to slide on out.
There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Bryan declared the meeting adjourned for the Board of Supervisors.

ATTEST:

______________________________  ________________________________
Rebecca S. Carter                Donald E. Bryan
County Administrator            Chairman