

**NORTH CAROLINA
LINCOLN COUNTY**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION and
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ANNUAL JOINT MEETING
March 17, 2022**

The Lincoln County Board of Education and the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met on **Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 6:30 PM** at the Lincoln County Board of Education. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Heather Rhyne, Chairperson, who declared a quorum was present consisting of Ms. Christina Sutton, Vice-Chairperson; Ms. Myra Heavner, Mr. Tony Jenkins, and Mr. Mark Mullen. Ms. Joan Avery and Mr. Todd Wulfhorst were absent.

Lincoln County Schools Administrative staff members present were Dr. Aaron Allen, Superintendent-Secretary to the Board; Dr. Heath Belcher, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Brian Clary, Chief of Human Resources and Athletics; Mr. Eric Eaker, Chief Operations Officer; Ms. Beth McCraw, Chief Finance Officer; Mrs. Diana Carpenter, Chief Communications Officer and Director of Middle School Education; Ms. Kimberly Davis, Chief of Exceptional Children's Services; Mr. Steven Hoyle, Chief Technology Officer; and Ms. Cathy Gates, Clerk to the Board.

County Commissioners in attendance were Mr. Carrol Mitchem, Chairperson; Mr. Milton Sigmon, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Bud Cesena, Ms. Cathy Davis, and Ms. Anita McCall.

Lincoln County staff members present were Mr. Kelly Atkins, County Manager; Mr. Andrew Bryant, Planning and Inspections Director; Ms. Meghan Gilbert, County Attorney; Ms. Deanna Rios, Finance Director; Ms. Crystal Watson, Controller; and Ms. Amy Atkins, Clerk to the Board. Mr. Davin Madden was also in attendance.

Both Boards observed a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Sutton, seconded by Mr. Mullen, to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried.

Lincoln County Planning Department Update/Discussion

Mr. Bryant provided both Boards with an update regarding growth in Lincoln County and the potential impact on the school district.

Lincoln County Schools Budget Request 2021-2022/Discussion

Dr. Allen provided a budget presentation outlining the district's budgetary needs for the 2022-2023 school year. Commissioners were provided with additional information items pertaining to the budget: Definitions of Purpose Codes, Purpose for Year-End Expenditure Estimates for the 2022 Fiscal Year, and Capital Projects 2021-2022.

Dr. Allen made the following proposal to request changes in the County’s funding process for the school district.

The Board of Commissioners will disperse Article 46 and Current Expense allotments to the Lincoln County Schools in a lump sum at the beginning of the Fiscal Year. The Capital funding will be requested by project type, not to exceed the allotted amount.

It is the intent of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners that Lincoln County Schools have the ability to transfer funds within their allotted amount to best serve the students within the school district. Staffing is a fluid and situational need depending on the year as well as the presence or absence of additional funding. According to the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the One to One Initiative for Lincoln County Schools, the Board of Commissioners will continue to fund two Information Technology Services positions.

Mr. Atkins was in agreement to allow more budget flexibility for the district.

Dr. Allen also provided Commissioners with the Lincoln County Schools Legislative Priorities 2022 and the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 as reference items.

Ms. Heavner requested that the two Boards meet more than once each year to discuss common goals.

Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather H. Rhyne, Chairperson

Aaron D. Allen, Ed.D., Secretary

**Cathy Gates
Clerk to the Board**