

PERQUIMANS COUNTY AUDIT CONTRACT FOR FY 2022-2023

County Manager Heath asked Tracy Mathews, Finance Officer, to present the proposed audit contract for FY 2022-2023. Ms. Mathews explained that the proposed contract will be with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., PA and that she and County Manager Heath recommend the approval of this contract. The cost of the contract is \$47,500. On motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by Joseph W. Hoffer, the Board unanimously approved the audit contract with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., PA.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CLOSED SESSION: TO CONSULT WITH OUR ATTORNEY REGARDING REAL PROPERTY, DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER, AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Chairman Nelson stated that, pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(5)(6), the Board went into Closed Session to consult with our attorney regarding real property, discuss a personnel matter, and to approve closed session minutes. On motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by Joseph W. Hoffer. Ward, the Board unanimously voted to go into Closed Session.

The Closed Session was adjourned and the Regular Called Meeting reconvened on motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by Joseph W. Hoffer, and unanimously approved by the Board.

No action was required from the Closed Session

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned around 8:15 p.m. on motion made by James W. Ward, seconded by Charles Woodard.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board

JOINT WORK SESSION WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 17, 2023
6:30 p.m.

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in a Joint Work Session with the Perquimans County Board of Education on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Perquimans County Board of Education Central Office located at 411 Edenton Road Street, Hertford, NC 27944.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman	Charles Woodard, Vice Chairman
	Timothy J. Corprew	Joseph W. Hoffer
	T. Kyle Jones	James W. Ward
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None	

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Russell Lassiter, Chair	Matt Winslow
	Kristy Corprew	Anne White
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Arlene Yates, Vice Chair	Leary Winslow

OTHERS PRESENT

County Staff

Frank Heath, County Manager	Mary Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board
Tracy Mathews, County Finance Officer	

Board of Education Staff

Tanya Turner, Superintendent	James Bunch, Assistant Superintendent
Rube Blanchard, Chief Finance Officer	Jamie Johnson, Director of Maintenance
Mary Kaye Peele, Administrative Assistant	

Board of Education Chair Russell Lassiter and Chairman Wallace Nelson called the meeting to order. Russell Lassiter led the pledge and gave the invocation. Mr. Lassiter asked for a motion to approve their Agenda. On motion made by Dr. Anne White, seconded by Matt Winslow, the Agenda for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved by the Board. After approving the Agenda, Mr. Lassiter welcomed everyone and made a few remarks. He then introduced Tanya Turner, School Superintendent.

SCHOOL FUNDING: 2023-2024

Ms. Turner made a few opening remarks and said that the theme for this school year is "Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day – Be the One". She explained that positive things were happening in their School System and talked about them which included that Perquimans Schools had no low performing schools despite the pandemic; all three schools met or exceeded growth; many families are requesting to come to Perquimans County; presented the results of the 2022 NC Teacher Working Conditions Survey results; the Teacher Turnover before, during, and after COVID; the schools being the Path of Champions; improvements in the Arts program; received the National Board Accomplished District Award; special visitors that visited the school system; and their many special recognitions. Ms. Turner introduced Rube Blanchard, Chief Finance Officer, who reviewed the various revenue sources and Mr. Johnson reviewed the various expenditures. Their final presentation showed that they are requesting for FY 2023-2024 Capital Outlay revenues and expenditures of \$669,644 and a Local Current Expense request for FY 2023-2024 in the amount of \$3,854,905 which is an increase of \$754,905 over FY 2022-2023. Also among their presentations, they explained all the expenditures that are impacting their local budget request.

CLOSING REMARKS AND QUESTIONS

They concluded their remarks by thanking the County for their financial support and looked forward to another successful year. Chair Lassiter asked if there were any questions or comments about their presentation. The following questions were asked:

- **Commissioner Hoffler:** Mr. Hoffler asked about the status of the Riddick Charter School that was being built in Herford. Ms. Turner said that they did not get their approval. Mr. Hoffler mentioned that the building is still there but Dr. White said that the sign with their name on it has been removed.
- **Chairman Nelson:** Mr. Nelson asked Ms. Turner what kind of feedback she was receiving about the HB 219. Ms. Turner said that they are getting a lot of push for it. Recently, Perquimans County Board of Education adopted a Resolution opposing the bill and that many other school systems have also adopted the Resolution. Mr. Nelson asked if he could receive a copy of that Resolution so that the Board of Commissioners could possibly adopt a similar one. Ms. Turner said that she would provide that copy to him. She cited examples of how the bill can negatively affect the school systems.
- **Commissioner Corprew:** Mr. Corprew asked if it was just the public school systems that can get involved in this matter. Ms. Turner said that they are having a Legislative Day tomorrow where individuals can go to lobby against the bill.
- **County Manager Heath:** Mr. Heath stated that it would be better if they would give the Commissioners the option to designate the funds where it is needed more. Ms. Turner said that, when Mr. Heath said that he understood it to say may be able to decide on how to distribute the funds, she felt the need to reread the bill to see if she may have misunderstood what they allow the local counties do.
- **Commissioner Corprew:** Mr. Corprew asked about the auditorium. Should the study that is being prepared by a structural engineer deem the auditorium not structurally safe, what does the School Board plan to do with the building? Mr. Johnson said that they have a plan. Several members expressed their feelings about the auditorium. Chairman Nelson asked if they had discussions on the new proposed school and how they can build an auditorium with the new school. Ms. Turner said that they have talked about it but it would increase the cost significantly. Dr. White thanked Mr. Johnson for the mammoth job that he did in doing the renovations so that it will bring the buildings and facilities up to date. Mr. Johnson said that we should wait to make a decision about the auditorium until after we receive the structural engineer's report.

Mr. Lassiter asked if there were any more questions or discussions and thanked the Board of Commissioners for their continued support of the School System. Other members of the School Board thanked the Commissioners for their continued financial support. Commissioner Woodard thanked the School Board for all they do for the school system. Chairman Nelson said that it was great the other week when the County, Town of Hertford, and School System representatives pulled together to seek funding for Perquimans County projects. Dr. White wanted to thank Mr. Bunch and the entire staff for the grant funds that they have worked so hard to obtain for the School System. Ms. Turner introduced a new employee, Dr. Shawn Wilson, Chief Human Resources Director, replacing Ms. Maddox and has done a great job. There being no further questions or comments, Chair Lassiter adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board

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