

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
John Savich, County Administrator
Donna Gebicke (Recorder)

Absent: Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe

Joint Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the Board of Education (BOE) held at the College of Southern Maryland, Bldg. C, Room 216, 22950 Hollywood Rd., Leonardtown, MD

Present from BOE and St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS):

William Mattingly, Chairman, BOE
Cathy Allen, Vice Chairman
Marilyn Crosby, Board member
Mary Washington, Board member
Michael J. Martirano, Secretary/Treasurer, and Superintendent of Schools
Brad Clements, Chief Operating Officer
Linda Dudderar, Chief Academic Officer
Gregory Nourse, Director, Budget and Finance
Zina McGowan Thomas, Public Information Officer
Beverly Dahlstrom, Recorder for the BOE

Additional County Staff Present:

Elaine Kramer, Chief Financial Officer
Karen Everett, PIO
Amy Carter, Videographer

Commissioner President Russell called the meeting of the BOCC to order at 9:00 am and provided opening remarks, along with BOE Chairman Bill Mattingly.

Dr. Martirano provided copies of the SMCPS 2009 Annual Report and highlighted major items of interest.

Mr. Savich provided an update on the latest fiscal news from the state and the affects on the county's operating and capital budgets. While there is confidence that the continued cuts at

the state level and reductions in local revenue can be managed, vigilant attention to internal and external factors, open communications, and rigorous setting of priorities is needed.

The BOCC requested an increase in debt authority from the Delegation during this legislative session. In the event this is not received, staff will be looking at reprioritizing to essential capital improvement projects only and extending timelines. While the County is still well within its debt capacity, a more cautious approach is called for in these times. The BOCC has scheduled a budget work session for December 22, 2009, that will include a look at baseline budgets for county agencies for the coming year and a preliminary discussion of targets for FY11, which will be forthcoming in January.

Mr. Clements reviewed the SMCPS State Capital Improvements Program for the next six years, current and historic enrollment figures, and elementary and secondary school capacity needs. The system was able to accommodate 450 new students this year with the opening of Evergreen Elementary. New enrollments for the coming year are expected to be just under 200.

The SMCPS Project List for FY 2011- 2016 includes Leonardtown Middle School and a second new elementary school. If the County's request for increased bond authority is not granted, the Leonardtown Middle School project will be delayed for another year. Approximately half of the requested amount has been allocated so far for this project, the remaining is on appeal. Request for planning approval funds for the new elementary school was denied because the site was not solidified by the deadline. All obligations for the site have now been made by SMCPS and the request is now on appeal. When the second new elementary school does open (projected for FY2016), SMCPS will still be 238 seats short county-wide.

The joint meeting ended at 10:12 am.

COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND (CSM) - SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS RECEPTION at CSM

Present: James K. Raley, Jr., Chairman, Board of Trustees, CSM
Bradley Gottfried, President, CSM
F.J. Talley, Dean, Leonardtown Campus, CSM
Greg Cockerham, CSM Foundation Chair
Elfreda Mathis, CSM Foundation Director
Ray Wernecke, CSM Foundation Director
Scholarship Recipients

BOCC attended a reception with scholarship recipients who expressed appreciation for the funding provided by County government for their scholarships. The BOCC has appropriated \$105,000 to the annual CSM Scholarship Fund over the last four years.

BOCC WORK SESSION ON ST. MARY'S COUNTY DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center Campus)

Commissioners participated in a Comprehensive Plan Work Session that included discussion on major policy issues (Priority Preservation Areas, growth area capacity, and Webster Field options), and specific changes to growth area boundaries (Charlotte Hall and New Market, Mechanicsville and Mill Cove vicinity).

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Donna M. Gebicke, Administrative Assistant (Recorder)