BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2013

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

PRESENT: Case C. Clinger, Chairman; Virgel H. Allen, Vice Chairman; J. Fred Gerald, Joe D. Turman, Lauren D. Yoder, Board Members; Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator; Terri W. Morris, Assistant County Administrator.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reading of the handicapping statement.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of month-end disbursements.

On a motion of Supervisor Gerald, seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the month-end disbursements as presented.

Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

Agenda Item 3 – Draft letter concerning CSA regulations. Mr. Campbell presented a draft letter for the Board's review with Mr. Ayers' assistance. The letter does need to be submitted as soon as possible.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to submit the draft letter as presented to the Office of Comprehensive Services.

Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to amend the agenda to include discussion on the Health Department agreement.

Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye

Supervisor Clinger – aye

Supervisor Yoder commented that he did not second an earlier motion to approve the agreement with the Health Department pending requested information. That information had been received and reviewed.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the Agreement between Floyd County and the Virginia Department of Health for the current year, as presented (Document File Number).

Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to move the Board of Supervisors regular meeting to the Floyd County High School Auditorium because of crowd size.

Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

The Board reconvened at the Floyd County High School Auditorium.

Dr. Kevin Harris, School Superintendent, appeared before the Board. He presented the School Board meeting highlights of February 13, 2013 and reported: At the last School Board meeting we recognized the School Board as it was School Board Appreciation Month as well as the Deputy Clerk and Clerk. We read a proclamation from the Virginia School Board Association honoring them. In information items, I reported that the student membership for January was 2027, which is good. Our budget is built around 2017, anytime that we are above that number that means extra money for operation. Our attendance for January was over 95% which is very good. We reviewed the school calendar and it was approved by the School Board. Next year's calendar is almost identical to this year's calendar. We set a graduation date for the seniors of June 2, 2013 at 2:00 pm. I reviewed for our School Board the Transportation Study that we had done. The study was very complimentary of our transportation system. They complimented us on working very well with very limited resources and a very old fleet of buses. They felt like we were doing some very good things there. They encouraged us to look at some things like accounting type things, how we dispense our fuel, how that's accounted for. We're looking into some systems that monitor fuel as it is dispensed. We also reported to the Board that we bought our first new buses in several years. We have two new 65-passenger buses that cost right at $78,000 each. They are going to be on the road very shortly replacing two buses with over 200,000 miles. Because of the school safety concerns over the last month, we had a school safety committee meeting and reviewed with our Board the findings. One of the things we talked about was the need for more drills where students actually practice being locked down.

I brought to their attention that we do fire drills, one a week the first month of school, then one a month for every month thereafter. We do one school lockdown drill per year which doesn't seem too appropriate when the last student ever to be killed in a school fire was 1958. We probably need to be practicing some of the things that we are more likely have to put in place in case of a school disaster. We presented to the Board for their approval, The Bank of Floyd Teacher of the Year Program. The Bank of Floyd has joined the school system as a community partner. We will begin selecting a Teacher of the Year from the various schools. One of the things that will come from this is a $2500 monetary award that will be split equally between the teacher of the year and the school that the teacher is in. We think it is a very positive thing and look forward to doing that. We heard a report on our after school program at the June Bug Center. That program has gone over real well with several kids participating each day. Basically, we see an after school program as extending the school day for students. We believe that any time students can be with caring adults and continuing their learning, doing their homework, etc. that it is good and we want to continue. At the end of that meeting, our School Board entered into a meeting with the Board of Supervisors. I made a presentation and reviewed our budget concerns, the cuts that have occurred in our budget over the last three years. We felt it was a productive meeting that lasted about 1.5 hours. We are looking forward to presenting a draft budget to the Board of Supervisors by the end of March. I spoke with our County Administrator today. We realize that you all are on a time table to determine things that you will have to do in terms of funding for the school system and the County in general. Mr. Campbell and I have agreed on a date of March 25 to have a draft budget to you approved by our School Board for your consideration and deliberation.

Supervisor Allen – how many people on the list of 38 positions cut are in this year's budget? The list that you gave us of the 38 people. It shows 11 people re-hired.

Dr. Harris – it was 33 people. The list that I gave you, delineates it, some were re-hired. If you look out from the person's name, it means that they were rehired, it does not mean the position was restored. We took a person that lost their job because of budget cuts and hired them into other positions that were vacated because of retirement or because of attrition. I'll take your word for it that there were 11 people returned. But those are 11 people, not positions. We stand firmly that we have lost 33 positions because of budget cuts over the last three years. Some of those people are currently working with us and we're glad to have them back. Others, unfortunately, were not so fortunate.

Supervisor Gerald – in light of the tragedy in Connecticut, could you talk a little more about school security so the public will be aware of what is going on. Explain a little more about the security at each school.

Dr. Harris – school security is very different in the five schools that we have in Floyd County. The four elementary schools are very secure from the standpoint that the doors are locked, they are controlled from the inside by the principal or school secretary. All the perimeter doors should be locked at all times. After the Sandy Hook incident we reviewed the situation, we found a situation at Floyd Elementary where the delivery door in the back of the school wasn't being locked during the day because of deliveries. We have since changed that and installed a door bell so that door is locked all the time. The four elementary schools are very

secure in terms that the doors are locked and to gain entrance you have to notify either the secretary or principal. FCHS is a whole different story. FCHS is really not a building but a campus. We have the main building, the music building, the vocational building, the new gym and students are constantly going/coming from the buildings. It is not quite as secure in terms of entrance/exit as the other buildings. However, FCHS does have a School Resource Officer who is here each day of the week. He is available to any school who might need him at any time. As I've mentioned to the School Board, I don't believe door locks or security guards are the key to safe schools. I believe in having caring, compassionate adults in schools who recognize problems before they happen, who counsel kids and create environments that kids feel good about coming to. That is truly the means to have safe schools. I worked at Virginia Tech as a locksmith when I was going through school. I can't tell you how many times we got called to get someone in a room that had a lock on it. With a good pair of vise grip pliers I could be in any room in less than a minute. Locks don't really solve the problem. When we did the active shooter incident here at FCHS, the first thing that happened was the active shooter took out our school resource officer. We could put a lot of police in buildings, put metal detectors at the doors, unless we create environments where people feel safe and secure, it doesn't work. When you walk in here and see the kids talking and getting along, I think we have a good environment. I would offer to you that this is the first and foremost thing to keep them safe, have good learning environments, support students, have people willing to tell you when things aren't right. I believe we have that here.

Supervisor Yoder – have a couple of budget questions – do you think March 25 will be an easy deadline to meet?

Dr. Harris – we have to provide it to you, by law, by April 1. We're only talking about a few days ahead. Last year we agreed since things were so strung out, that there was no sense giving you a budget when we didn't have good numbers. With the short session this year, we should be ok. There is only about $40,000 difference between the Governor's budget and Senate budget which I think will be resolved soon. We should be able to get a draft to you by March 25, the final budget probably not, but we can tell you things we need. We've already had a meeting with many of the people here and they've told us things that they would like in the budget. The budget committee is meeting, putting things together, the 25th is doable. The School Board will have a called meeting if necessary to approve.

Supervisor Yoder – I have received a lot of phone calls about a rumor going around. I've been hearing that your budget is going to be cut $500,000. Do you see that?

Dr. Harris – no, I've not presented that anywhere. If you look at where we are, and based on some information that I was given by this Board at the last meeting, to make this year's budget balance, if you will remember, we carried over $300,000 from last year's budget. We made some significant cuts, we cut our retirement service program, which was a huge expenditure and some of the money we had left over from that, we carried over. That was $300,000. At our last meeting, it was mentioned that this Board wasn't sure whether or not you would be able to provide us with the 3% increase that you gave us last year. You gave us $215,000. In our last discussion, it was said that you weren't sure if you would even be able to give us the $215,000. So if you look at the $300,000 that we carried over and don't expect to

have again, since we've operated on that this year, and the possibility that you will not be able to fund the $215,000, 3% increase that you gave us last year, then that is $515,000. We are not going to submit a budget with cuts in it, I can promise you and everyone here that.

Supervisor Yoder – I just wanted to clarify that because I've been hearing those rumors so I wanted you to clear it up publicly.

Dr. Harris – I appreciate any questions or concerns, no matter how hard they are. I hope that you know in speaking to you over the last year, if I don't know an answer I'll go back and find it and bring it back to you. Given the facts that I just outlined, we won't have $300,000 to carry over and I hope that you'll be able to restore the 3% that you gave us last year, but in the last meeting that wasn't a given. That's $515,000, almost half a million dollars. I can assure you that my budget will not have cuts in it.

Supervisor Clinger – I just wanted to clear up one thing, you said three years of cuts, apart from the $215,000 which was a 3% increase, when we gave that last year, it was under the assumption that it was a one-time deal because of the VDoT money we received. It wasn't actually County money, it was a one-time increase for school buses, vocational upgrades and other. Since it wasn't used for that, but for operating, it is disheartening.

Dr. Harris – disheartening to whom?

Supervisor Clinger – to me, because we came forward and helped you out last year in a time of need, the school needed extra money as presented to us for school buses, increase the vocational building and other facilities, that's what we allocated the funds for in addition to the regular budget. But it was used for VRS and a couple of other things. Now we're being told by the schools that you are being cut if we don't give it to you again. That was a one-time budget windfall from the state for capital.

Dr. Harris – I would challenge you to produce some minutes where this Board told me that the $215,000 was to be used for anything specifically. I would love to see the minutes from that meeting, that $215,000 was given to us for operational expense after we already trimmed $500,000 from the budget. I would love to see those minutes.

Supervisor Clinger – I will try to look for them. I just know that it was presented to us to be used in those areas.

Dr. Harris – that's the first time I've heard that.

Supervisor Clinger – three years of cuts you said, are those County cuts or State cuts? How much has the County actually cut?

Dr. Harris – I do not have the specific information with me that you are asking for.

Supervisor Clinger – I think we have actually stepped up and increased funding over the last three years but I'll let you look that information up.

Dr. Harris – I will get that information for you.

The Chairman next called for the Public Hearing on the proposed FY14 budget. The County Administrator read the call for the Public Hearing for the beginning of the budget development process.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing for comments from the audience.

A synopsis of comments follows:

Ms. Marsha Vass, Little River District, teacher at Willis Elementary School:

- Floyd County schools are among 87 accredited in State;
- Governor's Awards for past three years;
- Standards changed but not lessened;
- Largest employer in County but no raises for four years;
- Revenues have not increased in County because of no raises;
- Insurance has increased, mandatory VRS repayment by teachers;
- Some employees repaying school system to be able to have insurance;
- Employees are here because of students;
- Contract employees are required by each individual school to work additional hours that do not include planning, grading papers, etc.
- As an elected official, you chose to serve all citizens of which the schools are a part;
- Challenge you to go into the classrooms and see what is going on and interact with students and then decide what needs to be done with the budget.

Ms. Angela Riner, Radford resident, Special Education teacher at Floyd Elementary:

- Work with children with disabilities, best part of my life to work with them;
- Progress has been great, reading abilities have increased a year's worth in six months;
- See 12 groups in one day for 35 minutes each, 6.6 hours, only works because I see one student after school and have a 15 minute lunch;
- 10 years employed here, there were 5 Special Ed teachers, number is now 3.5 teachers;
- Work is varied besides working with students, there is paperwork, consultation with other teachers and parents, reading medical reports;
- Kids are succeeding by all of us working together, but they deserve better;
- Pay stub from 2009, I was making $8 more net than now but work load is larger and harder.

Ms. Kimberly Ingram, Little River District, Art teacher at the high school:

- Have two children in college who both work part-time jobs. My husband and I both have full time jobs and we work also three part-time jobs between us and still have large debts and live paycheck to paycheck.
- School system is also working on bare minimum, nothing left to cut, I am afraid of losing my job;
- We work very hard to teach the children of Floyd County;

- After school hours work includes paper grading, coaching, clubs, TPA, exhibits, field trips, proms;
- Do we want to be known as a community that does not support our young with the best possible education?
- Hope that my children will come back to this community after college but if we don't provide a proper education, families will not come back here;
- To people who are concerned about taxes being raised – ask this question – who will take care of you when you are old, will your offspring want to live in an education deprived Floyd County? I really doubt it.

Ms. Peggy Profitt, Courthouse District, 2nd grade teacher at Floyd Elementary:

- Think about the strength of an area school system when a business looks to locate, will they think education is important here when they look at the budget;
- Invite you to spend a day in the classroom with me and my 2nd graders, join in and see what we're doing – won't take you long to see that education is not what it was when I started teaching 40 years ago, or 10 years ago when I had children in school. We are working with our most important resource;
- Look down deep inside yourselves, listen to your heart, and do what needs to be done for our children, find courage and resolve to do what needs to be done to fund the school system as it needs to be. They are our future and deserve what is best.

Ms. Emily Harman, Indian Valley District:

- Daughter in Kindergarten at Indian Valley Elementary;
- Ask you to raise personal property taxes for schools, Floyd County has the lowest rate of any around us, to better education and keep teachers;
- Need this increase to maintain, train and hire more regular teacher assistants and special education aides, more trade classes, advanced placement and dual enrollment classes;
- School system has made every cut possible;
- Rumor heard is to close Indian Valley Elementary – chose to move there because of the school and the community;
- There are 33 regular volunteers plus others at various times, even ones whose children have already graduated;
- Bigger problems to have to bus children to an already over-crowded school than to leave Indian Valley open. We would move out of the area rather than bus our children.

Mr. Brady Harman, Indian Valley District:

- High school student now, but went to Indian Valley Elementary and do not want to see it closed – the faculty, students and staff are like no other, they are family;
- Other kids talking about their elementary school experiences always seem to involve drugs and alcohol, we were not involved in anything like this;
- This was not a long, professional speech but it was from the heart, from the heart of a student that does not want to see Indian Valley closed, from the heart of a big brother who wants to see his little brother grow up in a community like Indian Valley School.

Mr. Tom King, Little River District, President of Floyd Amateur Radio Society and School Club Coordinator for the High School:

- Responsible for the newly formed amateur radio club at the high school;
- After hearing of all the sequester horror stories this week, concerned that we might lose our after-school program;
- Value of after school activities is tremendous.

Mr. Brian Mott, Little River District, lived here five years:

- House Bill 199 was passed by General Assembly – to keep schools a grade of A-F – lot of people are opposed because of effect to housing and home values;
- 64% of Virginians say that schools do not have enough funding to meet their needs according to poll done by Virginia Commonwealth University; 60% say they are willing to pay more taxes to help the schools, our region alone was 67%;
- In other studies, facts have shown that an increase in taxes leads to an increase in small start-up businesses. The Federal Reserve study done in 2010 confirmed these studies.

Mr. Allan Vass, Little River District:

- Experience and dedication – lot of it here on this Board and what you look for in any workers you hire – we have a lot of it here from one end to the other – what happens when we lose the experienced workers to other localities?
- When they step away from the system because of retirement, what happens when we have to replace those years of experience?
- Our children go to Yale, Radford, Virginia Tech, Virginia Western, they are certified welders, certified nursing assistants, West Point grads, doctors-to-be, and even teachers to be come back here.
- A person who attended the School Board meeting on the budget said they came away with nothing new and nothing changed.
- There is a tax that the County could have enacted a tax on meals and lodging, but we understand that the Board opposed it. Sales tax comes from us all but people who visit pay these other taxes also. Hope that it is not lost and we can go back to it.
- What you have before you is like eating an elephant, but to eat an elephant, do it one bite at a time, progressing forward for our County.

Ms. Peggy Kesler, Locust Grove District, citizen, parent, grandparent, School Board employee as a school nurse:

- As a citizen, feel the Board of Supervisors needs to protect us as well as provide for the school system for the upcoming children's education;
- How many times have any of you been in the classrooms to see what is going on? It will be a shock to you, it is not blackboards and erasers any more.
- Technology has to be updated and kept up-to-date, feel we have failed some of our students by what we have not done in the last three years, and we can't give that back to them;
- As a citizen, want to have protection of County. We have reputation that Floyd is a meth lab County. Law enforcement has been hurt by lack of funding and I demand protection for my family. Have had things stolen from us this year, never happened in 40 years of living here. We never see police cars in our area.
- Nurse in the school system – I see what over-crowding has done to the school system and the demands of what is put on our students. They need support from the teachers,

teachers aides, nurses, everybody. We lost a nursing position last year, 3 nurses for 5 schools is not enough.

- I am willing to pay more taxes to make this County's education the best it can be.

Ms. Heather Krantz, Courthouse District:

- Thank you for your hard work, it is not an easy job;
- I would be more than willing to pay more taxes to support the education system. My idea would be to have a place on tax form to donate more funds to go to education.

Mr. Skyler Locke, 3rd grader at Floyd Elementary School:

- I don't want you to cut the school budget because we need another art teacher so we can have more art classes than just once/month;
- I like art class because it lets my imagination be free and helps me to be better at my other classes;
- Support my school so I can have a lot of great opportunities while I am there, this is my one and only chance to be a kid.

Ms. Jennifer Bunn, Fancy Gap resident, Indian Valley Elementary School teacher for 16 years:

- Here to ask that you support Floyd County schools to restore the $500,000 shortfall discussed earlier;
- Communities are built around schools which impacts the quality of education for the children;
- Jobs harder to obtain, students have to be prepared for them;
- Costs for maintenance of our buildings and fleets will be higher if we ignore problems;
- Limiting class sizes allows students to receive help they need in State mandated curriculum;
- Students will not go far in this world if we cheapen education.

Mr. Sam Belcher, Burks Fork District, Senior at FCHS:

- Sister and I both have been through Floyd County school system and have been blessed with opportunities presented to us;
- Understand that everything costs money and that it is funded mostly by real estate taxes;
- Support of increased funding for the school system – I have used the activity bus, new textbooks, art supplies that have been provided – want future students to have the same opportunities.
- Trust that you will make the best decisions for the students of Floyd County.

Ms. Irena Childress, Riner resident, Willis Elementary Title I Reading Specialist:

- Commute to Willis every day, people ask me why I commute 30 minutes when other schools are closer – I say I am beyond blessed to work in such a community where education is a top priority;
- I meet with 12 different groups of students per day, at least 50 students per day;
- Grew up in Grundy which is very much like Willis Elementary – tight knit and positive learning environment – which is why I chose to be a teacher and be a teacher at Willis;

- Don't want to lose what makes Floyd County special – small class sizes, direct and differentiated instruction for students at all skill levels, specialty teachers and classes to enhance creativity, encourage more physical activity, highly qualified teachers;
- Please continue to strive for excellence in education in Floyd County and continue to fight for our children.

Ms. Becky Thompson, Little River District, Floyd Elementary teacher:

- Born/raised in Floyd County, been a teacher for 30 years in the County;
- Care too much about our children to continue this devastating trend that is happening in education system to continue with budget cuts of over $2 million over 3 years;
- Reading Recovery program was forced to be cut this past year which is the most effective early intervention program I've seen in my years of teaching – scores will go down;
- Studies show that children today have more brain development issues than any other generation, including our Floyd County children – ADHD, dyslexia, Aspersers syndrome, Tourette's syndrome, obsessive/compulsive disorders, oppositional defiance disorders – our teachers must be knowledgeable about these issues and how to deal with them;
- Higher teacher turnover is a problem every year – neighboring Counties are getting our teachers – the longer you teach here, the less you make;
- Floyd County is a top tourist attraction in the State. Have the ability and desire to do better for our children.

Ms. Annie Courtney, Indian Valley District, Floyd Elementary 1st grade teacher:

- For many years, Floyd has had the reputation for having a successful school system, not only within our County but surrounding areas – it is going to change if we don't find a way to restore funds that are gone;
- Programs and positions have been lost – crucial programs that we need back;
- We cannot afford to lose teachers, teachers aides – need additional teachers aides;
- Please do not put children's education at risk, we need quality education.

Ms. Dee Wallace, Little River District:

- Voice my support for the Floyd County school system, teachers, faculty and staff and the excellent job they do;
- My family moved here specifically because of the school system – principled and positive people in the system;
- Understand that there are always budgetary concerns, be creative like families have to do, and go back to what is most important;
- Assist with the after-school Amateur Radio Club – we have seen over 20 students join the club and it has been very successful and very well attended – they learn life skills in these different clubs and we try not to be a drain on resources;
- Beg you to be creative with taxes to spread the burden across more people of the County.

Mr. Wes Thomas, Indian Valley District, Assistant Principal at Floyd Elementary:

- Thank you for the willingness to serve our community;
- Many of the school employees feel that if system is not funded properly, that the children will suffer;

- Question should be is how we can increase our tax revenue without raising current taxes – we need to be in the 21st century – Citizens has infrastructure that reaches throughout the County and the base for any high-tech business or industry. Virginia Tech is the regional leader in land management innovation. If agriculture is to be profitable in this area, we must adapt to changes in demand. Buy fresh, local or organic in today's agri-businesses. Floyd is already a very powerful name brand that creates these visions.
- We are all stewards of Floyd County and you gentlemen are to lead us all – we must ensure that future generations have abilities and means to be successful at life.

Mr. Mitchell Rakes, 7th grade student at Floyd Elementary School:

- Encourage you to approve additional funding for schools because of our amazing teachers – we have the best teachers in the State;
- When I was in 5th grade, our whole class got perfect scores on the Math SOL's.

Mr. Griffin McLain:

- I would like to request increased funding for schools, especially for our teachers who work hard and do a good job – they keep the subjects interesting and the kids learn;
- They have to pay for a lot of their own supplies so teachers should get paid for;
- With budget that we have now, classes may have to be cut and teachers can't help us individually, and we don't understand the subjects as well.
- Think about our schools, teachers and students.

Mr. Riley Sutphin, Locust Grove District:

- I am a taxpayer in this County and have been before I could even drive;
- Not here for school budget but for County budget – feel I pay enough taxes, times are tough all around;
- I am a contractor, having to drive further to get jobs, gas is going up – everybody is taking a toll, it is everybody's burden;
- I appreciate all the things that the teachers do for our children, I do not want their funding cut but want the County to maintain what they are giving them;
- A tax increase to citizens like myself who are having to go further to work and make less is a burden that we cannot bear.

Mr. Chris Hewitt, Montgomery County resident, educator at Indian Valley Elementary:

- Blessed and privileged to work for Floyd County schools for the last 12 years with the educated and dedicated people;
- Floyd County school's mission is commitment to education and excellence – shared by all employees and leaders;
- Schools have growing needs and concerns in several years with no raises, increased class sizes and fewer teacher assistants – critical time for all children;
- In full support of all needs that have been outlined tonight;
- Thank the Board of Supervisors' member Fred Gerald for visiting Indian Valley Elementary – meant a great deal to us and the other staff;
- Thank the Board for time and leadership as we move forward with our shared commitment for excellence and education with children in Floyd County.

Mr. Kaiden Swortzel, Floyd Elementary student:

- Outlined some of his favorite things about school – centers, snack time, stories, blocks, learning cursive writing, board games – wouldn't be able to do all these fun learning things with 30 kids in my class;
- Want to go to Virginia Tech when I grow up and work really hard with good teachers – need a good 3rd grade teacher.

Ms. Deanna Swortzel, Burks Fork District, Gifted Specialist for Floyd County schools:

- Also parent of three young boys, two of which have had phenomenal teachers to begin their educational career;
- Connection with each Board member – acknowledge the tough job but hope you're hearing what is being said tonight with an open mind and respect;
- Have a comprehensive perspective of what happens in each school every day by having worked in all schools;
- Special education teachers have case loads that are overflowing but continue to find new ways to handle discipline and handle academic success – some specialists interact with over 80 children per day;
- Comment from one of you in your minutes – how could lack of funding possibly hurt the students? It is not the students that get hurt but our community suffers too. In reality, lack of funding leads to less personnel. Less personnel leads to larger class sizes. Larger class sizes leads to teachers who are forced to teach to the middle, neglecting the high ability and those in need of remediation. This causes test scores to lower because lack of ability to educate each student as an individual and causes us to be accountable to DOE, interventions from the State equal lack of trust from the community and our reputation lost. Causes people to change their mind about moving to Floyd. When people no longer look to Floyd as a place to live, citizens will start questioning you as leaders, as to why we are not a good place to live. Are you prepared to answer that question?

Mr. Gary Bobbitt, Floyd County High School teacher:

- Provided copies of physical science books for 8th grade for the Board's review – books are used for seven classes (7 years) and then doubled for two students, 16 classes worth – 16 years worth of book use – might get new ones if budget works out;
- Beaker example – 130 pennies added to beaker – teacher at FCHS for 35 years – 132 school districts – 1 penny in another beaker represented number of teachers at my level who get paid less than I do;
- Buses - $156,000 for two buses last year – the cost of those buses came from my pocket – last year, to make up the budget, what had been promised me for 35 years, an accumulation of sick leave reimbursement, a small fraction when I retire, $4500 is what I gave up to not retire last year and waiting until this year – they had to take money out of retirement to make the budget;
- The State said they would give us 5% to make up for the retirement – we did not receive the 5%, the County gave me a 1% raise, why not 5%? They couldn't afford to raise everybody 5% because of social security, that they couldn't make up the difference.
- I feel neglected and demeaned.

Mr. Michael McCormick, Courthouse District:

- In audience, there are several students from my English 11 AP class – they came tonight to get extra class credit – they are showing extra effort that they have to put in to make things work – all of us here are showing that extra effort to make things work;
- County is in financial trouble, we must act now to meet the needs of our citizens;
- According to Census Bureau, average household income is $40,761, average State income is $63,302, we also have a 2.4% increase in the poverty level according to the rest of the State;
- Wife and I are both employed by the school system, she is one of 3 art teachers, both college graduates, no children, small home, 20 years experience between the two of us, I coach two seasons, she does after-school tutoring. In order to reach County average, we would have to work here for 15 years in this system and have a Masters degree. In Montgomery County, it takes 10 years and a Bachelors degree to earn the same age.
- We are doing more with less but cannot keep up, not making this case for myself but for the students;
- Everyone here is or was a student of learning. Reality is it is all about the kids, however, when we stop being students and educate them, who is there to take care of us?

Ms. Kathy Klatka, FCHS Guidance Counselor, do not live in County:

- I handle SOL testing and work with seniors – our office has changed, counselors reduced from 3 to 2 and a part-time testing coordinator. Currently, there are two counselors and one does the testing;
- Seeing more students with mental health issues, do have a counselor from NRVCS to help us, but still students in need;
- We are here for the kids not the money – we are all stretched thin, classes are overloaded, work load increases to satisfy State requirements, personal costs keep rising but incomes do not;
- Without raises, we cannot afford to work here and we will lose talented staff – no increase in salaries sends the message that our contribution to the community is not valued.

Ms. Cindy Ryan, Courthouse District:

- Appreciate the opportunity to speak about the future direction of the County;
- Moved here in 2004 with husband to build our retirement home – we did not come here for low taxes but for the natural beauty, diversity of the people, wonderful culture of new and traditional and sense of community;
- Franklin and Giles Counties, similar to us, both have real estate tax rates of 0.54/$100 assessed value, Floyd's rate is 0.50/$100. I support an increase of 4 cents which would bring in $683,000 in additional revenue to the County. Would like to see this revenue directed to education, police, fire and rescue. This is the only way we can stay strong by supporting basic services.

Ms. Laura Cantrell, Little River District, Floyd County teacher:

- Not all of us here tonight are here for the same reason but I hope for the same goal – we are a great community and we strive to be a highly effective one;

- I am a Family Consumer Science teacher at FCHS – curriculum includes life skills such as cooking, preparing for a career, workplace readiness skills, and skills for raising strong families;
- I feel I owe something to this community – my family has been here for generations;
- My 2nd grader may be in a class of 27 next year but I will compensate for whatever he doesn't receive in the large class, but others may not have the same opportunity to compensate for what is lost;
- We don't want to overspend, we all have to make different choices with our budgets and be a good steward of the tax money but at the end of the day and the County's #1 employer does not have the resources to cover costs, guess who suffers the most? The kids, but all the community does as well, because they are the future of our community. It is unwise to overspend but also to fail to plan for the future. Please be good stewards.

Ms. Anna Pratt, Little River District:

- Husband and I graduated from FCHS and have four children in the school system;
- Am here tonight to show support for the school system with the expressed purpose of raising teacher salaries, lower class sizes and restoring positions/programs that have been lost due to previous budget cuts;
- Floyd County has highly productive teachers evidenced by all the test scores;
- Very disheartened that over $2 million was cut from school budget in the last three years;
- Sad to see the teacher salaries – State average was $52,000, Floyd County average is $39,268, less than the average in 49 other states, only 7 of 132 systems less in Virginia;
- This school system is preparing our future, our Floyd County – go back and look at scores, graduation rates, etc. that are testament to a hard-working school system;
- Please fund a budget that pays the teachers what our children are worth.

Ms. Lily Pratt, 6th grader at Floyd Elementary:

- President of SCA here to represent the student body in saying that the teachers are doing an amazing job;
- The teachers have to do a lot more with less, especially with losing teaching assistants;
- There is a lot of stress and pressure on teachers and kids;
- When budget is cut, kids don't learn as well;
- I want to be a teacher when I grow up but the jobs may not be there;
- Please help us to help the teachers.

Ms. Natasha Shannon, Junior at FCHS:

- Everybody told me that my Junior year was going to be tough and it is, I have three AP classes this year – we need more AP teachers and classes for individual attention;
- I am also an advocate for soccer – do not think we should get the short end behind football;
- Hope the County will support education and soccer.

Ms. Jenna Gill, Christiansburg resident, 6th grade teacher at Floyd Elementary:

- Was a teacher at Willis Elementary but position was lost because of losing Stimulus Funds, thankful that I obtained the position at Floyd Elementary;
- When you cut the budget you take away human resources that hurt teachers and students;

- I am an advocate for the students and my school;
- I am doing my best to educate and advocate for my students – what are you doing for the children of Floyd?

Ms. Lauren Sapp, Locust Grove District, Senior at FCHS:

- A comment was made by one of you that you helped the schools out in their time of need – did you help them out because you cared about the students or because the schools were drowning and you need to keep your head afloat? Your role is to take care of all of us, retirees, newborns, or residents. Some of those people are students. Just giving money in time of need is not really helping them, that is what you do because you feel obligated, not because you want to, because you really care about the needs of the students.
- Students are the future, ones who come back and take the jobs as teachers or a Board member – we have to give them the education for the jobs – where does that leave the County?
- The budget is tight, I hear about it every day but once we start cutting things like extracurricular activities, there is nothing left to cut. If extra curriculars are cut, we won't be able to get into colleges because they want well-rounded students, both academics and extra curriculars and volunteering. How will we be well-rounded if you cut them?
- I hope that you care about the students and people of this County as much as I do and I want to come back here after college because I love it here.

Ms. Alice Cox, Indian Valley District, FCHS Junior:

- Would like to bring to your attention the importance of the agricultural education program – this program has given me so many skills that I will use the rest of my life;
- Because of the hard work of our teachers, I am able to have the opportunities that I do;
- In our FFA Chapter, we are given so many opportunities through trips and activities;
- Because of the encouragement from the ag teachers, I want to be an agricultural education teacher after college;
- Agricultural Education is important because some students don't like math or history or English, all they want is a practical job for the future, especially in a rural county like ours;
- Ag Education teacher was cut from a 12 month position – he is not able to repair the equipment like he was doing – this takes time away from students – he also helps us apply for degrees and scholarships;
- Take the time and think about not just about the math, English and history, but also Agricultural Education – not just the 18 students but also the students that want to farm the rest of their life.

After no further comments from the audience, the Chairman declared the Public Hearing closed.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Turman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn.

Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye

Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

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Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator

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Case C. Clinger, Chairman, Board of Supervisors