

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL/WPS AD HOC COMMITTEE
February 5, 2013
6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Council President John Willingham, Mayor Elizabeth Minor and Councilors Evan Clark and Ben Weber; School Board Chair John Bishop and School Board members Mel Thomas, Richard Bell, Erica Truban and Allyson Pate

STAFF: City Manager Dale Iman, Finance Director Mary Blowe, Sheriff Lenny Millholland, Police Chief Kevin Sanzenbacher, City Attorney Anthony Williams, and Economic Redevelopment Director Jim Deskins; WPS Superintendent Rick Leonard, Executive Director Kevin McKew, and Director of Finance Linda Meadows

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Susan Corrigan presented a summary on the Starbase Academy. The academy is a 5 day program (25 hours) where students are transported to participate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities such as rockets, 3-D models, GPS, and electric circuits. Each student does 5 activities a day. One of the goals is to tie the activity to a career so the students can see what careers involve STEM. Various community members such as doctors come in and talk with the students about their careers. This is not a recruiting program for the military.
- Approval of October 4, 2012 Minutes
 - On a motion made by John Willingham, seconded by Mel Thomas, the minutes of the October 4, 2012, Council/WPS Ad Hoc Committee were approved unanimously as presented.
- Red Flex Student Guardian (School Bus Camera Program)
 - Dale Iman shared a video giving a brief description of the program. He stated the fine for running a stop sign on a school bus is \$250.00 in Virginia and could be a criminal or civil offense. Since the beginning of the year, the police department has issued 35 tickets for running the stop sign. Individuals would receive a ticket in the mail after the offense was verified on the video tape by the police department.
 - Richard Bell asked what would come in the mail. Kevin Sanzenbacher stated a civil citation would be sent in the mail based on the vehicle license number seen in the video. The video captures the date, time and location.
 - John Willingham asked if anything would need to be done beforehand. Anthony Williams stated the contract would be between the Schools and Red Flex. The City will need to adopt an ordinance though.
 - Mr. Iman stated the company explained the money would pay for the system first but it would go to the city because the video would have to go to the police department and they would go to court.

- Mr. Willingham stated to do the pilot; we would not have to do anything.
 - Rick Leonard stated John Bishop has asked that it go to the School Board for approval. The item will be presented at the March meeting.
 - Evan Clark asked if the company talked about a drop off in violations with the program. Mr. Iman stated he did not ask but there are so many people through Winchester that he is not sure that would happen. The locals would be more cautious.
 - Mr. Bell asked that the vendor's contact information be included in the presentation to the School Board.
- CTE Health Science
 - Mr. Bishop stated Council requested increase attention to the CTE program in 2008-09. The number of students participating in the program has grown from 56 students to over 400 students taking the certified tests. For the Health Sciences, the schools are doing an interest assessment at Handley High School. There is a large interest in doing a summer academy at Valley Health this summer that will follow up with a 4 day program at Lord Fairfax Community College. The first Health Science class will start this fall. The end result of the classes would be a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). The School Board will be paying for the tests. The next addition would be a Home Health Aide.
 - Mr. Iman asked if the CNA certificate would result in college credits towards a degree. Mr. Leonard stated through the dual enrollment classes it would be possible. The 4 day program at LFCC this summer is 1 credit. City Council is very interested in this but capacity is the concern. Our Health could be a satellite location where high school and adult students could study together.
- Budget
 - Mr. Leonard reviewed the requests for new positions and stated the list is down to 14 positions now. It may be trimmed more but it is coming down to capacity issues. A full-time CTE position is needed to take it to the next level. The other positions are at the elementary level where larger class numbers are happening. The technology position is for security. He stated he does not think there will be raises this year because they need the positions more to stay in compliance. They have been able to save money through the energy savings program to cover the modulars at Quarles.
 - Mr. Willingham asked how much would be needed to catch us up to get to where we want to be with the CTE program. Mr. Leonard stated most of the budget would be teachers – at least a couple of teachers and possibly an assistant – and medical equipment. He presented a figure of a quarter of a million a few years ago but thought that was probably low today. Mr. Willingham stated Council needs to know what the cost would be to have a great program.
 - Mr. Bishop stated these are all want programs that are not required by the State as core. Four of the eleven requested positions are for CTE or extra programs. The rest are core.
 - Councilor Ben Weber asked what is the current student to teacher ratio. Mr. Leonard stated it is 22 to 1. Mr. Weber asked how many of the requested teachers are for elementary. Mr. Bishop stated 7 of the 14 positions are for elementary. Mr. Leonard

stated that would get them into compliance at the elementary level. The compliance piece at the middle school level is 25-26 to 1.

- Mr. Weber asked what fees are charged to the students with the exception of AP tests. Mr. Leonard stated there is a fee charged for certain workbooks at the secondary level. There is no charge for parking, attending sports events, playing sports, or school supplies. There is a library fee that is collected before graduation.
 - Mr. Iman stated the city is up against total revenues of \$74 million and requests at \$82 million. Some of the things being faced is the police department is authorized for 82 officers but they have 76. Five of the officers are funded out of grants that expire this year. The department also needs 21 new vehicles. The case load at Social Services has grown from 350 in 2008 to 2000 today and they take 100 calls/day. The department is look at increasing staff. Right now, the supervisors are doing case work. All of their programs are mandated. Parks and Rec has a 1989 dump truck that they use for everything. It has rust holes and no paint.
 - Erica Truban stated the School Board has raised the fees topic to help find more revenue and is gathering information now.
 - Mr. Clark stated he is amazed a sliding scale is not used for AP testing or sports activity fees.
 - Mr. Bell asked if paying for testing is mandatory. Mr. Leonard stated the testing is not but it provides for program evaluation.
- John Kerr Elementary School / Proposed Public Hearing
 - Kevin McKew stated the Buildings & Grounds Committee meets next week and will discuss the workload for the recommendation for the elementary schools. The recommendation will be built off the studies done last year on an enrollment perspective. An initial report will be received from Weldon Cooper on the locality and recommendation on capital facilities going forward. By June, the School Board should have recommendations on John Kerr and future capital facilities for Council.
 - Mr. Iman stated he asked the financial advisor to run the numbers on the assessments for the bond capacity to go to market. He does not have the answers yet but the appraisals came back better than expected.
 - Mr. Willingham stated nothing in the Buildings & Grounds decision would impact this budget cycle. Mr. McKew stated that was correct. The direction was for FY16 to start. There was interest to start on some things earlier.
 - Mr. Iman stated the dates keep changing. He is prepared to go to market for John Kerr this spring to take advantage of the interest rates. Mary Blowe stated the City also has an open resolution for buy back. Mr. Iman stated there must be a contract for design or a major expenditure 6 months of the bonding.
 - Ms. Truban stated the board needs to look at updating the building but also the overcrowding. If we put \$20 million into a 450 student school, we are not doing our job. We need a facility to relieve the stress at other schools.
 - Mr. Bell asked what target projection was given to Weldon Cooper. Mr. McKew stated the study looks at it on a different level. It looks at unique drivers in the community even in a recession period.
 - Mr. Bishop distributed copies of CD's with a collection of studies from school staff to Council and the School Board.

- It was decided that an additional meeting will be held on March 5th to received public input on John Kerr. The location will be determined.
- On a motion by Mel Thomas, seconded by John Willingham, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.