

Virginia:

The joint work session meeting of the Charles City County Board of Supervisors & School Board was held at the Charles City County Government Training Room on **Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.** in the 245th year of the Commonwealth and 386th year of the County.

Present: William Coad, Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Gilbert Smith, Vice-Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Lewis Black, Member, Board of Supervisors
Michelle Johnson, County Administrator
Dr. Rhonda Russell, Asst. County Administrator
Dr. David Gaston, County School Superintendent
Rodney Tyler, Chairman, School Board
Joy Harris, Vice-Chairman, School Board
Martha Harris, Member, School Board
E. Preston Adkins, Member, School Board
Royce Paige, Member, School Board

Ms. Michelle Johnson presented the opening and welcoming remarks.

Strategic Overview:

What can the County do to provide incentives for strategic priorities?

- There are a lot of vacant housing units that can be used for affordable housing. Consider encouraging homeowners to revitalize these houses and make available for lease so that teachers and other county employees that live outside of the community can live and work in the County.
- A significant portion of the housing stock is vacant and not up to code. We do recognize that we do need to create affordable housing, and these housing units represent an untapped resource.
- Rents are not affordable, either.
- Look at different housing products, townhouses, and varied housing products. Affordable townhomes and apartments. Some concerns shared that non-single-family units do not reflect the culture of the County.

What is the average a child/student is bringing in from the state and other resources for support? \$4400-\$4500 per child? Special Education students triple the amount of support.

- Charles City County is the sixth smallest division in the state. 62-66% of children qualify for free and reduced lunch. 2/3 of children qualify for this benefit. Our students have challenges. It costs more to educate children with economic challenges.
- 48-52% of students graduating from Charles City County Schools are going on to college.
- Good schools make good communities! Small but mighty.

A follow-up conversation is needed.

Dr. Rhonda Russell will be developing a Community Economic Development plan for Charles City County. Additional initiatives include the development of Vocational Learning experiences for Fire Erosion and Sediment Control, Welding, etc. These recommendations are intended to develop a curriculum set for local students that are potential employees for jobs in the County.

Regionalism is an initiative that is also important to problem solve and more responsibly manage our limited resources. For example, combining some administrative functions with the school division and County Administration that are redundant.

Communication:

Board members are encouraged to continue efforts to support school functions and County functions. If you see something say something, it generates goodwill.

Everyone is invested in seeing this relationship grow. Board members noted the positive impact of the County Administrator's attendance at Charles City County Schools sporting events.

Board members are assigned a follow-up task to develop an elevator speech outlining who they are and their collective and individual strategic priorities.

Board members were asked to identify - What are working norms that we want to establish as a combined group around communication?

William Coad - The School Board should know early on where the County is with respect to finances so that they can better plan. In the past, nobody knew where anybody was? Priorities for the County are our finances; this is always our number one priority. Where is the failure with all this communication?

Joy Harris - Lack of communication between the respective Boards. A clear breakdown is that we are not administratively structured to further communication. Currently, communication is nobody's responsibility.

Preston Adkins - The small size of school and county is both good and bad. We should think about how you communicate around finances in the same way we did our exercise around the cup exercise. Get a workgroup to talk about financial communication year-round?

Team Building Activity:

Team One: Mr. Black and Mr. Royce Paige

CDL program into the school system to train students.

Team Two: Ms. Michelle Johnson and Mr. Rodney Tyler

Create a sporting event for alumni and students to play together. Each class from 2020 – each year. Donate a minimum of \$25 to the event for the event. Charge admissions and have entertainment. Battle of the bands. A scholarship for a high school senior for the event.

Team three: Ms. Martha Harris and Mr. Bill Coad

Incentives for builders and homeowners to make it attractive and available to make it attractive to come to CCC to build. Homes need to have restrictive covenants and incentives for both builders and homeowners.

Team Four: Ms. Joy Harris and Dr. Rhonda Russell

Table talk with youth with County Administrator and Superintendent quarterly. Back to school rally collaboratively. Motivational speakers, vendors, give always and coordinated event.

Team Five: Mr. Gilbert Smith and Mr. Preston Adkins

Introduce Fire and EMS Training in the High School. Partner with other school districts that have the program already in place.

Next Steps:

- Surveyors have said they are not returning to Charles City County. William Coad has had four conversations this week.
- Send out Doodle poll this week to the group for the next meeting date. Five or six dates 2-3 hours.
- Monthly updates regarding what is going on. Feedback outside of the budget.
- When will our teams report? We will report back out at our quarterly meetings.
- What are you walking away with today?
- Opportunity
- Better communication
- Gaining Respect
- Thankfulness and keep it moving
- No more middle of the day meeting building Relationships
- Inspired as a citizen of CCC, encouraged and enthusiastic
- Partnership
- Positive change
- Great Meeting

Ms. Michelle Johnson and Dr. David Gaston shared that we have just started the work to create a model that we can take to other communities. We are all one moving Charles City County forward.

Meeting Adjourned.