

**MINUTES OF THE  
WORK SESSION OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE  
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017 (9:00 a.m.)**

**ROLL CALL:**

Upon roll call the following were present:

Board Members:

Alvin Wilson, Hardy District  
Victoria Hulick, Newport District  
Julia W. Perkins, Windsor District  
Jacqueline W. Carr, Carrsville District  
Kirstin Cook, Smithfield District

Also in attendance:

James Thornton, Superintendent  
Tracey Reutt, School Board Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Alvin Wilson, Chairman, called the Work Session to order at 9:00 a.m., and welcomed all present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mrs. Hulick led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Thornton started the discussion by updating the Board on the bonus money given by the Governor and then the Senate came out and said to give the teachers a 2% raise. The compromise was a 2% raise for teachers starting in February through June.

Dr. Thornton met with the Teacher Advisory Committee this afternoon and shared this same information with them. We pay very well, out of 134 school districts Isle of Wight County in year zero we are listed 54, at year 5 we are listed 42 that is the top 1/3 of the state.

There was also a 10% increase in health insurance that has not been passed on to the employees.

Ameresco annual report is scheduled with Dr. Thornton and Marty and will be presented to the Board in an upcoming Board Meeting. The Board requested a copy of the loan amortization schedule to be sent to them.

Currently we have one year left on they iPad lease 10th, 11th and 12th grades are using iPads 9<sup>th</sup> grade is using laptops. From here on new 9<sup>th</sup> graders get laptops and the iPads get rolled down to the lower grades.

Dr. Thornton confirmed that he would proceed with what he heard from today's discussion on budget adjustments including the teacher's raises and email the Board the updated line item budget.

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**High School Educational Plan:**

Dr. Thornton reminded the Board the numbers he originally shared did not include Cosmetology and update of collaboration areas, these numbers are fluid. These numbers are run through our architects so they are not exact numbers.

Dr. Thornton reviewed the philosophy of financing the Pruden money over the next 20 years to pay the bill. This would allow us to get everything done at one time without having to piecemeal it over the next several years at no cost to the taxpayer.

We are trying to help businesses and industries by having a better workforce. We also want to open these areas up to our adult communities to allow them to use the spaces as well. Hopefully companies will see the quality of life here in Smithfield is worth investing in,; it sends a message that we take care of our schools.

We currently pay to Pruden \$952,000 per year;  
With this plan after 20 years, the \$750,000 that was paying for something comes off the books and can go towards something else, ie: teacher raises, a new school

Dr. Thornton asked if there were any additional questions.

Mr. Wilson thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Mr. Alvin Wilson, Signature on file

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School Board Chairman

Mrs. Tracey Reutt, Signature on file

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School Board Clerk