

**Special Joint Meeting with the Alamance County Board of Commissioners, Alamance-Burlington
School System Board of Education, and Local Legislators
Monday, August 28, 2023, at 3:00 pm
Alamance-Burlington School System Central Office, Professional Library**

Alamance County Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman John Paisley; Vice-Chair Steve Carter; Commissioner Bill Lashley; Commissioner Pamela Thompson; and Commissioner Craig Turner

Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education Present: Sandy Ellington-Graves Board of Education Chair; Ryan Bowden, Board of Education Vice-Chair; Board of Education Members: Dan Ingle; Charles Parker; Donna Westbrook; and Chuck Marsh.

Local Legislators: Senator Amy Scott Galey; Representative Dennis Riddell; and Representative Steve Ross

County Staff: Heidi York, County Manager; Rik Stevens, County Attorney; Tory Frink, Clerk to the Board; Susan Evans, County Finance Officer; Sherry Hook, Deputy County Manager; Brian Baker, Assistant County Manager; and Bruce Walker, Assistant County Manager

ABSS Staff: Dr. Dain Butler, Superintendent; Kim McVey, ABSS Finance Officer; Greg Hook, Chief Operations Officer; Karen Chandler, Board Clerk; and Lowell Rogers, Assistant Superintendent

Board of Education Chair Ellington-Graves discussed the issue of how they could move forward together to get the students back into the schools.

Chairman Paisley discussed the Board of Commissioners' dedication to the school system.

Mr. Hook gave a brief overview of what ABSS had been dealing with.

Vice-Chair Carter asked what was the type of mold. Mr. Hook said the type of mold was Aspergillus Penicillium, which was a common type of mold.

Commissioner Turner said he wanted to hear about the scope and severity of the mold problems in each school.

Commissioner Lashley said they had five accounts the Board of Commissioners needed to look at before they could say that ABSS did not have money.

Board of Education Member Bowden said he wanted to hear from Ben Bass, Builder Services.

Mr. Bass explained what was done during mole remediation.

Senator Scott-Galey asked how much ESSER COVID relief funds were available. Ms. McVey said they had \$34 million budgeted in ESSER funds.

Commissioner Turner discussed the legal uses of the funds. He asked if it was proper to spend money on bond projects that had been saved on mold remediation. County Attorney Stevens responded the funds had been allocated for capital use. He said the work described earlier regarding cleaning did not fall within the parameters of capital expenditures.

Commissioner Turner said there was money in the system; it just needed to be used in its proper source.

Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Thompson moved to allocate up to \$3.5 million from ABSS capital reserves for mold remediation. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Paisley recessed the meeting at 5:57 pm until Wednesday, August 30, 2023, at 10:00 am.

**Recessed Special Joint Meeting with the Alamance County Board of Commissioners and Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education
Wednesday, August 30, 2023, at 10:00 am
Alamance-Burlington School System Central Office, Professional Library**

Alamance County Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman John Paisley; Vice Chair Steve Carter; Commissioner Bill Lashley; Commissioner Pamela Thompson; and Commissioner Craig Turner
ACBOC Absent: n/a

Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education Present: Sandy Ellington-Graves Board of Education Chair; Ryan Bowden, Board of Education Vice-Chair; and Board of Education Members: Dan Ingle; Charles Parker; Donna Westbrook; and Chuck Marsh.

County Staff: Heidi York, County Manager; Rik Stevens, County Attorney; Tory Frink, Clerk to the Board; Susan Evans, County Finance Officer; Sherry Hook, Deputy County Manager; Brian Baker, Assistant County Manager; and Michelle Horne, Assistant County Attorney

Alamance-Burlington School Staff: Dr. Dain Butler, Superintendent; Kim McVey, ABSS Finance Officer; Greg Hook, Chief Operations Officer; Lowell Rogers, Deputy Superintendent; Karen Chandler, Board Clerk

Chairman Paisley and Board of Education Chair Ellington-Graves reconvened the meeting.

Dr. Butler said as of that morning ABSS had 16 schools impacted by mold.

Builder Services was on site and had already started the cleaning process.

Mr. Hook gave a brief update. He reiterated that 16 schools would need to be remediated.

Mr. Hook asked Mr. Bass for a quote on the square footage for all the schools. Mr. Bass, Builder Services, said all schools in the district would be \$21,410,000. That was the worst-case scenario.

Vice-Chair Carter suggested using the bond premium.

Commissioner Turner suggested using ESSER funds as a possible solution for mold remediation if they wanted to clean all the schools.

Board of Education Chair Ellington-Graves asked if and how much of ESSER could be diverted to this project. Dr. Butler said the Board of Education attorney had advised against it.

Board of Education Chair Ellington-Graves asked if they would find a way to come together to fund 6 schools to move forward.

Commissioner Turner wanted to recess that meeting until Friday. Mr. Bass asked if they were going to provide funds for the schools that they had found out about last night. Commissioner Turner asked what the \$2.7 million covered.

Mr. Bass said it was the remedy for 4 clean schools: the entire school at Eastlawn Elementary, the entire school at Haw River Elementary the entire school, Southern Middle partial grade hall, Sylvan Elementary cafeteria, Western High School surfaces, and Western Middle School. Commissioner Turner asked whether that money covered the area where mold was identified. Mr. Bass said it did cover those areas where mold had been identified. He said the cost was \$2.765 million.

Commissioner Turner, seconded by Chairman Paisley moved to allocate \$4 million out of capital reserves and \$1 million out of lottery for a total of \$5 million for Western Middle, Sylvan Elementary, and Haw River Elementary. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Carter suggested using the bond premium. Chairman Paisley said he voted against bond premiums back in 2021 and thought it was premature because they had not discussed it with Davenport or any of the financial team.

Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Thompson moved to recess meeting to Friday at 3 pm to consider the scope and severity of mold at other schools and suggested having bids on that work. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Paisley adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting and recessed at 12:52 pm until 3:00 pm on Friday, September 1, 2023.

**Recessed Special Joint Meeting with the Alamance County Board of Commissioners and Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education
Friday, September 1, 2023, at 3:00 pm
Alamance-Burlington School System Central Office, Professional Library**

Alamance Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman John Paisley; Vice Chair Steve Carter (arrived at 3:38 pm); Commissioner Bill Lashley; Commissioner Pamela Thompson; and Commissioner Craig Turner

Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education Present: Sandy Ellington-Graves Board of Education Chair; Ryan Bowden, Board of Education Vice-Chair; and Board of Education Members: Charles Parker; Donna Westbrook; and Chuck Marsh.

County Staff: Heidi York, County Manager; Rik Stevens, County Attorney; Tory Frink, Clerk to the Board; Susan Evans, County Finance Officer; Sherry Hook, Deputy County Manager; and Brian Baker, Assistant County Manager;

Alamance-Burlington School System Staff: Kim McVey, ABSS Finance Officer; Greg Hook, Chief Operations Officer; Lowell Rogers, ABSS Assistant Superintendent; ABSS Attorney Adam Mitchell – telephone; Karen Chandler, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board

Absent: Dr. Dain Butler, ABSS Superintendent

Chairman Paisley reconvened the meeting at 3:02 pm.

Mr. Rogers said he had received inspection reports that were not so favorable about toxigenic mold at five campuses late that morning. Eastlawn Elementary, Haw-River Elementary, Eastern High, Graham High, and Woodlawn Middle were those campuses. Mr. Rogers shared they needed \$4.1 million to cover those schools.

Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, moved to transfer funds from ABSS capital reserve previously allocated to the Graham High School roof project totaling \$3,797,870 to mold remediation and to allocate the same \$3,797,870 from unspent unallocated funds from bond projects to cover the Graham High School roof project. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Carter questioned whether this motion covered all the known exposure. Commissioner Turner responded it covered all that they had estimated for that day. He said it did not cover the five schools that required HVAC cleaning and the remediation for A.O. Elementary, which they did not have information on.

Mr. Rogers said he was just made aware of additional contracts. He said they would need additional funds for B. Everett Jordan, South Graham Elementary, and Williams High.

Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, moved to transfer funds from the ABSS capital reserve that was previously allocated to the Southern High School Roof project totaling \$980,000. Further, they moved to allocate the same \$980,000 from unspent unallocated bond funds to the Southern High School project. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Turner, seconded by Vice-Chair Carter, moved to advance \$2.1 million from ABSS for PAYGO for use on the remaining projects at their discretion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education Member Bowden asked the overall figure for funds allocated for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Ms. Evans said the funds allocated for all three days were \$15,877,870.

Commissioner Turner, seconded by Vice-Chair Carter, moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.