

## BOTETOURT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2023

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors met on May 8, 2023, at the Botetourt County Administration Center, 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Dr. Donald M. Scothorn, Chair  
Mrs. Amy S. White, Vice Chair  
Dr. Richard G. Bailey  
Mr. Stephen P. Clinton  
Mr. Billy W. Martin, Sr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Mike Lockaby, County Attorney  
Mr. Gary Larrowe, County Administrator  
Mr. David Moorman, Deputy County Administrator  
Mrs. Lorie Bess, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Dr. Scothorn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Attendees participated in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

#### **FY24 BOTETOURT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Katie Davis, Senior Financial Analyst, reviewed the proposed FY24 Botetourt County Public Schools budget. She stated the school budget adoption must occur by May 15 each year; however, because we do not have a final state budget yet, numbers are based on current information. She noted anticipated state funding of \$33,259,385, which is an increase of \$3,310,103 from the FY23 adopted budget. She stated the schools have requested an increase of \$726,751 for their operational needs. The total General Fund is approximately \$61.9M. No additional capital funding is reflected in the proposed budget as these needs will be addressed through appropriations during the year once the capital reserve is depleted to \$300,000. An excerpt from her presentation is shown below:

<b>Revenues</b>		<b>Expenditures</b>	
Local	\$ 27,967,986	School General Operating Fund	\$ 61,857,655
Other	580,284		
State	33,259,385		
Federal	50,000		
School General Fund Revenue	61,857,655	School General Operating Fund	61,857,655
Self Sustaining Fund	4,746,540	Self Sustaining Fund	4,746,540
School Nutrition Fund	2,625,000	School Nutrition Fund	2,625,000
Textbook Fund	2,177,507	Textbook Fund	2,177,507
Capital Reserve Fund	1,624,860	Capital Reserve Fund	1,624,860
School Construction Grant Fund	1,708,719	School Construction Grant Fund	1,708,719
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 74,740,281</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 74,740,281</b>

Dr. Scothorn clarified that once the \$1.6M is spent down to a level of \$300,000 or below, additional monies would then be transferred to cover capital projects.

Mr. Clinton asked about the line item titled "School Construction Grant Fund". Ms. Davis explained the grant award is new for FY24.

Brandon Lee, Botetourt County Public Schools Director of Finance, further noted the money can be spent moving forward into FY4, and the \$1.7M is what is remaining, with projects that are earmarked already, mainly security projects.

## **PUBLIC HEARING - FY24 BOTETOURT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET**

Dr. Scothorn declared the public hearing open.

### Keith Kincke, 475 Eagle Ridge

Mr. Kincke inquired about the Construction Grant Fund, asking if there are additional projects for Colonial Elementary School in that fund because he felt that school was slighted in the past.

Dr. Jonathan Russ, School Superintendent, replied the \$1.7M is already earmarked for security projects and not for new construction at this point. He noted that school was almost complete when he arrived as the Superintendent and he wasn't sure of the complete history of its construction. He stated the number of students the school was built for is more students than the previous school held. He clarified there are no plans to move mobile units, trailers, or modular units on that property and there is no plan at this time to change lines. He stated the school is not at capacity and is currently at 88-89%. He explained each room determines the capacity of the building, considering 25 students per room, however, classes do not come in exact sizes of 24 or 25. For example, a Kindergarten class could have 18 or 19. He stated all the rooms are used and they do have plans in place for all classrooms being full. He noted the school division is getting close to a maximum in Kindergarten. He concluded by stating that however many students show up, they will be educated and in a very nice building.

Dr. Scothorn asked Mr. Larrowe if he could address the perceived shortage for the school. Mr. Larrowe explained there were three bids to build the school. The School system asked for the lowest bid to house 480 but once enrollment numbers starting coming in, it was changed to be built for 540. He noted nothing was taken away and actually four additional classrooms were added over the base bid. Also, the full-size gym was added. He noted the additional classrooms were roughly \$700,000, and a bus canopy was added at roughly \$133,000. The building cost was \$26M approximately, of which the County borrowed \$22.5M from the Virginia Public School Authority.

The following comment was received via email prior to the meeting:

### Emily Williams, 1899 Trinity Road

*"Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, Chairman, and members of the Board. I support public funding of the Botetourt County Public Schools (BCPS) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). For too long, BCPS buildings have been neglected (Figures 1 and 2). Safe and modern public schools are necessary for effective in-person learning and sustainable growth in Botetourt County.*

*Attached to this comment is a list of citizen's names who also support public funding of the FY24 BCPS CIP (Table 1). All citizens are invited to add their name to this list. More information on how to do so is available at the Coalition for Public Funding of the BCPS CIP website. (<https://sites.google.com/view/coalition4bcpscipfunding/home>)*

*A significant portion of the capital improvements at the schools in the past several years has been funded through fundraising campaigns. Some of these fundraising campaigns occurred in schools during the school day using commercial contracts. Parental consent is not a requirement for students to participate in these fundraisers; therefore, some BCPS students*

have the condition upon enrollment of “participant” in school fundraising (Sources 1). In Virginia, parents of public school students have the right to forbid their child from participating in school fundraising; therefore, participation may not solely be by student choice. To ensure student participation is voluntary, students should have the condition of “non-participant” upon enrollment and parental consent should be required for participation. There is precedent for parental consent for student participation in fundraisers in educational settings in Virginia (Sources 2).

During my literature review on the subject, I found no peer-reviewed research indicating benefits to student well-being associated with participation in fundraisers. On the contrary, there is peer-reviewed research demonstrating risks to student well-being associated with commercial in-school fundraisers. (Sources 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).

I hope that with proper funding, BCPS students and staff will not only benefit from safer school buildings, but will be relieved of fundraising tasks being imposed on them during their school and work days. It is time for the Board of Supervisors and the School Board to fulfill their responsibilities to provide safe and modern learning environments, free of unnecessary disruptions and risks to student well-being.

For these reasons, I advocate for the BCPS CIP funding request to be fulfilled by the County and that the School Board amends Policy JL-BR, Fundraising by Students, to require parental consent for student participation in in-school fundraising campaigns. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Attachment 1: FIGURES

Attachment 2: PETITION AND RESPONSES

Attachment 3: SOURCES

#### ATTACHMENT 1: FIGURES

Figure 1. A graph of the deterioration in school buildings depicted as School Board-owned building assets adjusted for inflation to 2022. Note the 45% decrease from 2009 to 2020. Sourced from Botetourt County Annual Reports.

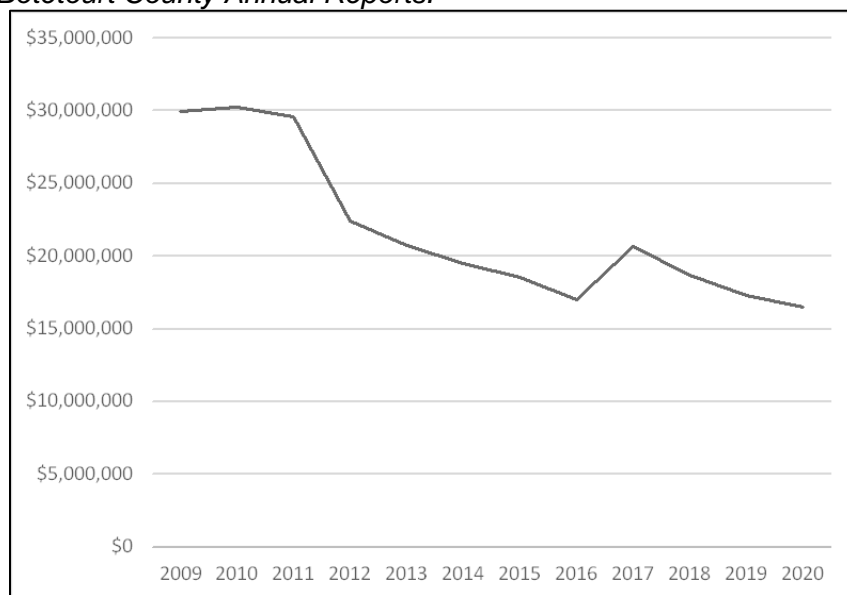
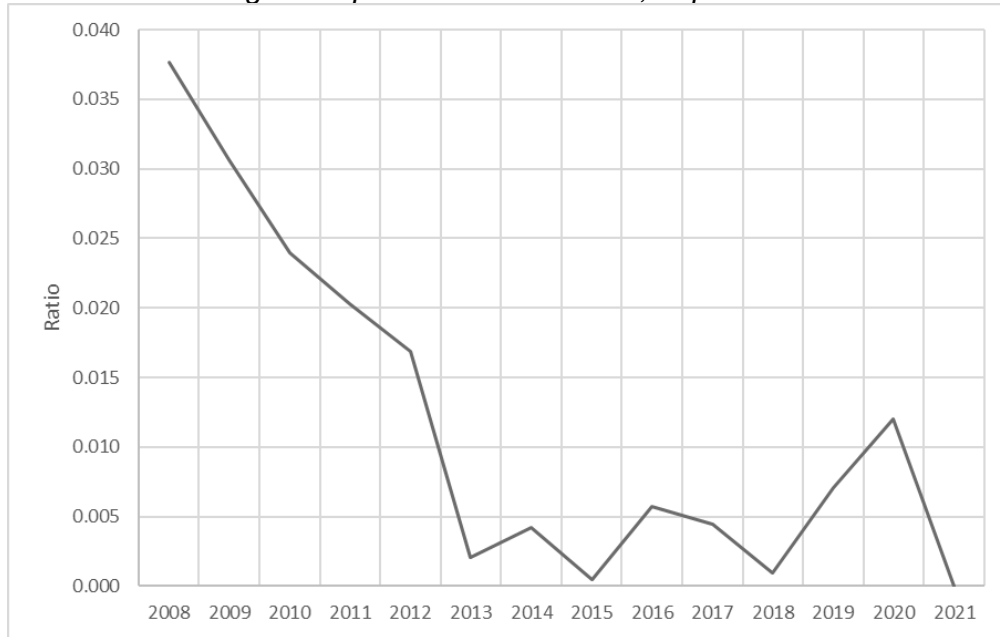
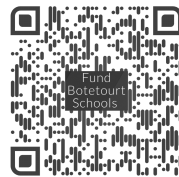


Figure 2. Trends in BCPS spending on Facilities as a Ratio of Total Disbursements and Balances. Sourced from Virginia Department of Education, Superintendent's Annual Reports.



ATTACHMENT 2: PETITION AND RESPONSES



*Petition for Funding Year 1 of BCPS CIP*

*Dear Botetourt County Board of Supervisors,*

*We support funding Year 1 of the Botetourt County Public Schools' Capital Improvement Plan as part of the FY24 County budget. These funds will begin to address deferred maintenance of the Botetourt County facilities for public education. Safe and modern facilities for public education in Botetourt County are essential for effective in-person learning and continued community growth.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,*

*The Coalition for Public Funding of the Botetourt County Public Schools Capital Improvement Plan*

Timestamp	First Name	Last Name	Address	Organization / Affiliation	Comments
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3/12/2023 21:27:22	Jason	Williams	1899 TRINITY RD, Troutville, VA 24175	n/a	Please support the current and future BCPS students by ensuring that the FY24 BCPS CIP is fully funded.
3/15/2023 14:28:58	Richard	Amstutz	2237 Draft Rd Eagle Rock, Va 24085	None	
3/17/2023 9:36:25	Gloria	Mattarocchia	2134 Gravel Hill Rd, Troutville, VA 24175		
3/18/2023 20:24:03	Emily	Williams	1899 Trinity Road Troutville VA 24175		
3/27/2023 9:31:20	Ian	Graham	627 Stayman Road Roanoke, VA 24019	concerned parent of three	BCPS facilities are in bad need of improvement and have fallen way behind those of neighboring counties. This is unacceptable.

Table 1. Petition and responses as of May 8, 2023

ATTACHMENT 3: SOURCES

1. BCPS Policy JL-BR Fundraising by Students does not require parental consent for student participation in in-school fundraising campaigns.  
<https://www.bcps.k12.va.us/common/pages/DownloadFileByUrl.aspx?key=Y%2b0Tw2NguCda%2fSWNU8D9pUJ5phK38Gf5iS1hE1QmzndQozNBr2UFzt1oFUDY1AMRfw%2bGRMPzjkZH%2fh%2b4HAdc4cbnjfVECXWYWem4IND63wVNW4NRmXil5JtzmD5T%2bSWBdnvwHOOZmKPEAhmruDv4gmxJCBLrIG0WeLDU6NXg9819ys30CqAoVZVVS%2fVTAreXtu1sTQ%3d%3d>
2. There is precedent for requiring parental consent for student participation in fundraising in educational settings in Virginia. Virginia Administrative Code. 8VAC20-671-250  
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter671/section250/>
3. The National Education Policy Center, Commercialism in Education Research Unit has several peer-reviewed publications about how schoolhouse commercialism threatens student welfare and recommendations for policymakers.  
<https://nepc.colorado.edu/ceru-home>  
Commercial in-school fundraisers are specifically discussed in this 2016 peer-reviewed paper Boninger, F. and Molnar, A. (2016). Learning to be Watched: Surveillance Culture at School—The Eighteenth Annual Report on Schoolhouse Commercializing Trends, 2014-2015. Boulder, CO:National Education Policy Center. Retrieved 3/21/2023 from <http://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/schoolhouse-commercialism-2015>
4. National Education Association News published this 2015 popular article.  
[Commercialism in Schools: No Windfall For Districts and Students Pay a Huge Price | NEA](#)
5. This 2012 article about commercial activities in schools mentions that "schools risk instilling in pupils consumer-orientated values" in addition to physical and other emotional health impacts.

Raine G. Commercial activities and the promotion of health in schools. *Perspect Public Health*. 2013 Nov;133(6):308-13. doi: 10.1177/1757913912466207. Epub 2012 Nov 7. PMID: 23135869.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23135869/>

6. The American Psychological Association published this 2004 report that has a section for recommendations on advertising in schools.

<https://www.apa.org/pi/families/resources/advertising-children.pdf>

They recommend:

**"Restrict School-Based Advertising That Targets Young Children**

We recommend that advertising in all forms should be restricted in school environments serving children 8 years old and under."

7. There were two US Government Office of Accountability reports written (2000 and 2004) on the topic of commercialism in schools.

2000 Public Education: Commercial Activities in Schools

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/hehs-00-156.pdf>

2004 Commercial Activities in Schools: Use of Student Data is Limited and Additional Dissemination of Guidance Could Help Districts Develop Policies

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-04-810.pdf>

Having no other citizens wishing to speak, Dr. Scothorn declared the public hearing closed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION: Dr. Scothorn

SECOND: Dr. Bailey

AYES: Dr. Bailey, Mr. Clinton, Mr. Martin, Dr. Scothorn, Mrs. White

TIME: 5:52 p.m.

RESOLUTION #23-05-01