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The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held a meeting on, March 26, 2012 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Present were: David V. Hutchins
 W.S. "Sam" Dickson
 Dr. Tom Littrell
 Joshua A. Hendrick
 Phil D. McCraw
 Ralph J. "Bob" Martin
 Nikki Shank, Assistant Administrator

Mr. Dickson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and ask Mr. Hutchins to lead in invocation and pledge. He told that it is good to see everyone here tonight. He told that he is sorry for the seating and told that if we anticipated there might be this many we could have probably moved it. He told that this is mostly where we get the budget and we will have a public hearing later that you may want to attend he hopes that everyone will be able to hear. He told that they are pleased that people are here and it just shows that there is interest in education. He told that he is sure we will hear a lot of topics and he hopes that we will be able to work things out so that everyone will be pleased.

PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Dickson told that this is the first time that they have seen the budget and they do not have advanced knowledge of it except for what they have seen in the paper. He told that they are starting out with less knowledge than you. He told that when you make comments remember that we cannot answer a lot of things because we have not seen it.

Dr. Smith thanked the Chairman and told that he would like to distribute the Budget Book. He told that he appreciates the support of all of those here. He told once in a great while we all face various specific challenges and moments occur in various families, organizations, institutions where these groups must pause and collect themselves to consider their purpose, their values and they must do this not because they are not serving or working hard but sometimes they deviate from their true purpose. He told that they have to ask very hard and challenging questions; are they true to their values. He told that in order to respond to this they must look and self assess, look inward and truly reflect. He told that this county is experiencing one of those moments. He told that this budget will in many ways define the future of this school system for many, many years. He told that it will determine our values for the future of our schools and our children. He ask will it be easy, no it will be hard, challenging and very difficult. He ask if we will see the rewards of our labors, probably not but our children will and this county will for ten, twenty and thirty years to come. He told that the question he poses is, will we stick together as a county as a group who loves children and wants them to be successful, do we value children and those that serve them. He told that these are the questions that we will respond to very soon.

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Dr. Smith reviewed the budget goals and told that these are the guiding principles that they followed as they began to construct the budget for FY13. He told that they want to maintain the quality of construction with appropriate class sizes throughout the system, and maintain salaries, benefits, incentives and positions to ensure a quality school system. He told that they want to support instruction which promotes student achievement and provide open lines of communication to keep staff, students and the public well informed. He told that they also want to continue to provide a quality school system for the children by using all funds and resources available while being a good steward of the public's trust. He told that the school board has remained true to these goals. He told that he would like to thank Mr. Spencer and Mr. Gardner for their guidance and insight through this process and legislative insight by Senator Carico and Senator Stanley.

Dr. Smith reviewed the budget challenges and told that he doesn't think we have had an easy budget since he has been here and this will be another. He told that growth and improvement in every facet of the school systems operation and achievement has been made a challenge by the financial crisis. He told that they see expectations increase while resources are decreasing. He told that the school board has wrestled with these issues and stayed true to the mission of providing the best opportunity for each child and these are the issues faced by the budget committee. He told that they saw a 9.5% increase in health insurance and found that the VRS rate would be increasing from 11.33% to 16.66% and group life would be going from 0.28% to 1.19%. He told that they also saw the elimination of the Federal Education Jobs Funds which they have used the last couple of years on the amount of \$992,441. He told that the increase of the composite index over the past two years has went from .2470 to .2831 and what this means is that it has decreased revenue for this county to support education and that formula is based on the county's ability to pay and support public education. He told that there is a loss of supplemental support for school operating cost funds in the amount of \$416,911 and these are the reasons we are asking for these funds.

Dr. Smith told that they have seen a reduction in the basic aid formulas and composite revenue to the school system and that has made a loss of revenue to this county in the amount of \$3,463,480. He told that at the beginning of this process they saw a loss and that is no one's fault, it certainly isn't their fault or the county's fault. He told that it is the State's failure to support the public education system in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Smith told that through actions by the general assembly we are required at this time to add a 1% increase in salaries to balance the mandatory employee contributions to VRS. He told that we will be talking later on in regard to the changes that are pending but at this time that is what is expected from us. He told that they have not filled vacancies this year of a custodian, three secondary teachers, a librarian, teacher's aide and a guidance counselor. He told that they continue to plan and anticipate loss and continue to anticipate the revenue not coming forward and they have tried to bring down the budget as best they can. He told that a consequence of their planning since 2009, more than 50 vacancies have been not been filled.

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Dr. Smith told that reductions that they have seen since 2007 are 34.5 licensed staff, 15.5 support and 3.5 central office positions. He told that is 10% of their licensed classroom staff, 5% of support staff and 10% of office personnel. He told that these were individuals who did a great job. He ask why have we not heard about this, why have we not felt this pain. He told that they have done a good job in anticipating that we were going to be at this moment. He told that they anticipated this years ago and they have gradually tried to not fill those vacancies that they felt they could avoid. He told that it has begun to impact the classroom sizes and hurt the effectiveness of the school system. He told that in general terms it has hurt those children that need services more than most. He told that the mandated increases are VRS and these are fixed costs for the budget increase that you see in the amount of \$1,112,663, Group Life is \$208,057, Heath Insurance is \$254,303, FICA is \$101,785 and the 1% salary increase as a result of the mandatory VRS change is \$222,361. He told that it is a total increase of \$1,899,169. He told that when he goes to the barber shop people say what is going on with the budget and why are we seeing this and want to know if we have done something wrong or is this just Carroll County. He told that this is across the Commonwealth and every locality that he knows of and every Superintendant that he has talked to has the very same concerns that we do. He told that the burden is being placed on the locality and he knows that it will be a challenge for you. He told that in addition to what is taking place now they found this morning that York County Schools are \$7 million short, Lynchburg City has a \$6 million deficit and the School Board has adopted a plan to cut 47 jobs. He told that he never thought in the Commonwealth that he would see this. He told that he was born here, raised here and went to school here and he has never seen it like this. He told that these issues that they have been talking to are not new and they have been having these conversations for the last couple years. He read a quote from himself "Some may ask, how is the loss of these programs and services correlated with workforce reductions. The simple, but powerful response is people are services, people are programs, people are the engine which keeps this school system moving forward. And, as we are forced to reduce staff, parts of the engine begin to break down and cease to function." He told that he said this in the spring of 2010 to this very Board in this room. He told that they anticipated this moment happening and this is no surprise. He reads another quote from himself, "How does one begin to evaluate and assess, pick and choose, when all the programs and personnel are so good and the alternatives are so bad. The options in this respect are ultimately very clear. This statement may seem odd, but it is true, the more vacancies we do not fill, the more people we can retain."

Dr. Smith told that they have utilized VSBA reimbursements, refinancing credits, Federal stimulus funds, rolled surplus money into the next school year, used text book funds, VRS credits, we have used so many things to avoid workforce loss. He told that they expected this to be over with in 2009 and that the revenue streams would have recovered, but that is not the case. He told that as a consequence of what they have done to this point, we have no more resources to draw from. He ask if this is a surprise, he thinks not. He told that if an individual in this State or this county is surprised then they have not been paying attention.

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Dr. Smith told that all school revenue projections chart compares the FY12 to FY13 budgets and note the increase in the state funds of a little over \$4000, he told that this is a deceiving number. He told that the majority is made up of increases in programs such as pre-k, class size, and at-risk that are specifically earmarked for those categories so they can't use them for salaries or for anything other than what they are categorized for. He told that the greatest reduction is in the stimulus funds that they were able to stretch out over several years to balance things and it has helped this Board make ends meet. He told that the School Board is not anticipating any carry over funds for the FY13 budget. He told that CCPS is requesting \$11,304,898 to balance the budget. He told that we have had these conversations and we knew this day was going to come and he believes that the School Board has done everything possible to prepare for this. He told that the personnel cost show that over 83% of their resources are related to personnel and they are people, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, teachers, nurses, clerical staff, etc. He told that the people here in this room, the staff, are what make the school system great.

Dr. Smith told that the revenue by source line provides a user friendly breakdown of the four main categories of revenue that comprise the CCPS budget. He told that state, federal, county local and others with state funds being the largest revenue at \$23 million which is 58.16% and the county is around 28.54%. He told that many do not consider that what other employer brings \$27.7 million into this county and told that they are the largest employer in the county. He told that those funds are paid to employees and vendors who in turn spend a great deal within the county boundaries. He told that the nearly 1000 full and part time employees buy homes, cars, groceries, go to restaurants and the money multiplies exponentially as it enters the local economy and is returned in the form of goods and services. He told that this school system is an economic engine for this county.

Dr. Smith told that you will find the expenditure summary broken into nine different categories as recognized by the Virginia Code and he would like to bring your attention to the following; he told that this is a flat budget request and they are only responding to the mandatory changes that they have to respond to. He told that they are looking at changes in VRS, Group Life, and Health Insurance and they are reflected in each category. He told that the chart shows expenditures broken down by category and you will see that over 70% of the expenditures are in instruction and the largest is \$27,840,225. He told that the next largest is operation and maintenance services at \$4,057,481 and pupil transportation comes in third and these are mandatory functions of the school system.

Dr. Smith told that the local budget request is for \$11,304,898. He told that if you remember on the previous slides of our composite index it has increased in the last couple years and this further reflects in another sense of basic aid loss. He told that we have a good school system and he is very proud of the people he works with and the students that graduate from our school as they do marvelous work. He told that he is very pleased and proud to be with them here this evening. He told that for the remainder of the package you have the food service, text book and construction budgets for your review and these accounts are maintained separately and used only for the purposes designated.

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He told that they are basically rolling over funds in the construction account is what they anticipate being the remainder as of July 1st and the remainder will be flow through accounts.

Dr. Smith told that he would like to close with a brief clip as follows; all I really need to know, I learned in Kindergarten. I've become so caught up in my grown up stuff not to mention perspective of living life every day, at my job and with my family. I'm discovering all I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in Kindergarten. It's the sandbox code of ethics that's had the greatest impact on me. I learned: share everything, play fair, don't hit people, and don't take things that don't belong to you. If you hurt someone, say you're sorry, clean up your own mess and wash your hands before you eat, hold hands and stick together when you cross the street, flush, live a balanced life- learn some, think some, work and play, and sing and dance, and draw, and take a nap each day. Be aware of wonder. Remember the first word you learned in your Dick-and Jane Book. The biggest, most important word of all: LOOK. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. From the golden rule to basic sanitation, really, I have known these things all my life. Living them well, that's another conversation. Apply any of these items to your government, your world, your family life, or you career: Translate them into sophisticated grown-up terms, and they will all hold true and firm and clear. If we all stopped to take a nap each day, think how much better our world would be, and what if cleaning up their mess were a matter of our government policy? It's still true, when we go out into the world in these uncertain times, uncertain weather; it doesn't matter if you're six years old or sixty- we should all hold hands and stick together.

Dr. Smith told that if we could all just stick together we can get through this. He told that it is a challenge for us all and he knows you are in a very challenging position. He told that he is happy that they have helped to this point and at this time this year the school system needs some assistance.

Mr. Martin ask if his office has been involved with any meetings with the County Administration Office or members about the budget, it has been a concern of his.

Dr. Smith replied no,not at this time. He told that they did make a request back on January 27th but it has not taken place.

Mr. Martin told that he was watching the news this evening and it appears that Senate has reached a compromise and ask if he has any more information on it.

Dr. Smith told that the Senate has come to terms but before he came to the meeting they had not voted. He told that they anticipate a vote soon and right now if the Senate version was the closest approved version they would receive an additional \$288,130.

Mr. Martin told that is not \$2 million.

Dr. Smith replied no, but that would be wonderful.

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Mr. Dickson told that we have been watching as well. He thanked Dr. Smith for getting to see the budget and told they would hand it on to the budget committee and we will ask for a joint meeting with your budget committee to work on final things and bring it to both boards and go from there.

Dr. Smith told that he looks forward to it.

Mr. Dickson told that it seems like the state and it's not just this year that they think they can starve education and the county can fulfill it. He told that we are a small county and some people say they are overtaxed and some people say we are under taxed but either way the big revenue is tax so we have to look and see what we can do to provide what we need that the state won't. He told that he thinks we all need to contact our state people and let them know that we are very disappointed in what they are trying to do to us because it doesn't make anyone's job easy.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Mr. Dickson told that in the last four years during budget presentation night we have not had a need for citizen's time and two of those years we didn't even put it on the agenda because we had already agreed and worked out what we were going to do before they presented because we had a chance to look at it and have some input. He told that he does appreciate all the emails and told that he didn't try to respond to all of them because he would probably still be there typing it out. He told that he appreciates the concerns and you will have a chance tonight. He told that we limit it to three minutes and staff will keep time. He told that we don't share minutes.

Ms. Heather Hanks told that she is a parent of two children in elementary school and she gets upset when she hears that there is no money to educate her children. She told that when she hears that an additional 40 positions might be cut she gets upset, when she hears that a school may be closed she gets upset. She told that she wants to know why children are not a priority and why money is not given to our schools and our teachers before it is given to anyone else in this county. She told that we have schools that are falling down around our children yet money is given to others before it is given to the schools. She told that our teachers in Carroll County have been recognized for the outstanding work that they have done with our children yet their pay is not compensatory. She told that she is aware that the state has passed this crisis on to the Board of Supervisors and on to the School Board and aware that this is not your fault, but now you have to make the decision if you are going to follow the states example by passing this on to our children. She told that she has no problem paying more taxes if it means that it will secure the future for the children of Carroll County. She ask how our children are expected to compete with the bigger cities when they don't have the same opportunities. She told that it is why we hear about charter schools and private schools because they have small classrooms, better facilities and more individual treatment. She told that if you close Gladesboro you increase classroom sizes and if you cut 40 positions you increase classroom sizes and put more stress on teachers who are already at their

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capacity. She told that if you have never spent a full day in an elementary school classroom she challenges you to observe for one week and thinks that you would be amazed that by adding one more student in a room affects teaching. She told that closing a school also affects the parents that would be responsible for getting their child to another school that is much farther away. She told that the children are going to have to be bussed or driven to another school and that gas has to be taken care of in some way. She told that parents are told to put their children first, that we need to take them to the doctor or the dentist because it is for overall health, but why do we not hear that we need to make education a priority. She told that one day our children are going to be the leaders of our country. She told that we must make sure that we educate because education prevents crime and poverty. She told that you will always have distracters to education but like everyone here you will have those who will fight for their children and who like Thomas Jefferson believe in public education. She told that we chose to live in a rural area because there are green spaces in which to run and chose to return because we want our children to have ties to their families and to understand the rich Appalachian history and to fight where we hold dear as a family. She told that she is tired of having to read about public schools not being as good as private schools or charter schools. She told that they are the bedrock of our foundation and we need to fight for them. She told that she is asking you for funding to keep our schools open and our teachers working. She told that we have to fight for our children to have good quality schools that are competitive to bring industry to the area and we have to be able to compete so that our children might eventually leave for college and then return to continue to fill our area. She told that education is the future and without this funding our future does not look very bright.

Mr. Brandon Alley told that the Cavalier Battalion has maintained the highest rank in cadet command the honor unit with distinction for the past 14 years. He told that this year they have completed two more scheduled school service activities that will once again give us the 400 maximum points on their unit report and they will again achieve that standard.

Mr. Hunter Blessing told that there are over 100 cadets in JROTC and this semester they have 54; 44 males and 10 females. He told that of these 33 are new cadets and there are 21 returning cadets.

Mr. Tyler Krejci told that this year they have conducted 48 activities totaling over 1000 cadet hours. He told that of these activities 18 have been school service totaling 614 hours. He told that throughout the year they plan to conduct 6 more school service and 4 community service activities.

Mr. Jordan Youngblood told that he photographs and records all of their activities, maintains two bulletin boards and provides news releases to the newspaper. He told that this year they have had four stories in the paper and maintain a website.

Mr. Justin Segraves told that he is the captain of the Raider Team. He told that on March 3rd the Raider Team qualified as one of the twenty best teams in the 4th brigade

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area covering six states and 342 schools. He told that last weekend they tied 13th overall and 4th best team in the State of Virginia. He told that next year they plan to make the top three and compete in the national competition at Ft. Benning in Georgia.

Mr. Brandon Alley told that the battalion had several noteworthy individual accomplishments in the last couple of years. He told that Mr. Seagraves has been recommended for a four year scholarship into Sr. ROTC at Radford. He told that Seth Webb received a scholarship and Sean Barrows was the honor grad out of his class of 850 navy recruits. He told that as you can see behind him you have a lot of great programs at the high school. He told that he is a senior this year and most high schools that you go to don't have a bunch of opportunities like this. He told that it is a great thing to keep and he thinks it is very important for younger kids to have the same opportunities that he had like the ag department, building trades or whatever.

Mr. Dickson told that they certainly well represent the school, their dress is perfect and their shoes are shiny. He told that he does know one of the boys that he was talking about and it really made a difference. He told that he is sure that is just one program.

Ms. Ashley Quesenberry told that she has seen the program change lives and it has changed hers. She told that she has had opportunities that she would not have had other places. She told that she has gone on so many trips and has enjoyed them. She told that this is the one place that she fits in with her fellow cadets and she feels strongly that this program can change lives because she has seen it happen with her own life.

Mr. Austin Bowen told that he understands that these budget cuts are forcing you to make tough decisions. He told that he really enjoys the program and he doesn't think there is another opportunity like it. He told that it teaches them leadership roles and how to improve themselves not only physically but mentally and before now he has not found a program in school that he has been able to attach himself to. He told that with the ROTC program he feels like it is home away from home. He told that his parents have seen a difference in him since joining and he has worked hard at practice and he about kills himself on the 5k's he has had to run. He told they went to best of the best and did well and placed fairly high. He told that when he puts the uniform on he feels a sense of pride.

Mr. Jacob Sawyers told that he has a humble plea to be voiced. He told that these words mean a lot to them not only as cadets but as citizens. He told that this program is a brotherhood of fellowship and an organization built on the foundation of trust and leadership. He told that they embrace daily values as citizens and represent the army values in order to better themselves in day to day lives. He told that they are worried for grave and dire reasons. He told that the proposed budget cuts would remove our program and eliminate career futures and possibilities not only to us but to future generations. He told that they would implore you to not cut the program or others such as FFA, Cosmetology, and even Gladesboro School. He told that they will continue speaking up to make their program known. He ask the Board to hypothesize and orchestrate their minds to consider funding our schools budget or expanding upon it. He told that the

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program is an educational devise to help us graduate and succeed in their lives. He told that Carroll County needs programs like this to continue our education and open career pathways for its students. He told that they intrigue you to think about the consequences from the budget cuts and to also think about the students, parents, and community representatives that this affects.

Mr. Ricky Wilson told that he is a 9th grader and told that the mission of JROTC is to motive them to become better citizens. He told that for extracurricular activities they have the Raider Team, Color guard and the Rifle Team and he is in all three of those. He told that they are taught to exercise their rights, responsibilities, privileges and freedoms as American citizens. He told that they also teach leadership and the ability to work and communicate with others. He told that they are also taught to learn and tolerate a diverse society and they think logically and communicate effectively with others. He told that diet and exercise are vital for good health and personal appearance. He told that they learn skills such as drill and ceremonies and learn that community work and citizenship is very important in society. He told that they have learned a lot about American history and the cultures and they have taken many field trips. He told that they have learned the dangers of substance abuse and about sexual harassment. He told that the program helps them academically and also to set goals for themselves. He told that he switched schools to come over here from Galax just for JROTC because he had to have this to get to where he wanted to go and it has changed him greatly. He told that he is more responsible and has the values you need to be a successful citizen. He told that people come in and they are hot shots but when they come out they are responsible. He told that there is no program like this in the area. He told that is the program is done away with the army will take everything that is theirs and you can't just pick it back up the next year, we would have to go back on a waiting list. He told that they have support from the VFW and he feels like Carroll County is known for its program. He told that most cadets will go into the military and others will have values that they can use in life. He ask the Board to fund the program because its means a lot to them.

Mr. Steve Burnette told that he is not here representing the Sheriff's Department he just did not have time to go home and change.

Mr. Martin told that he is a citizen and he is entitled to speak.

Mr. Burnette told that he is here as a parent and his son is in the 9th grade and this is his first year in JROTC. He told that he understands this is your first look at the budget and you have to go back and do some head scratching and figuring. He told that the most important thing about this meeting is for these kids to get up and speak and for the program to get out there. He told that if it comes down to the fact that we have to raise taxes to fund the school budget he thinks the citizens of Carroll County need to know where the money is going. He told that if you look at these young men and women ten years from now they will be the ones leading this country. He told that this program shows them what it means to be a citizen, gives them discipline and leadership. He told that the more the public knows about this program the better and the school is the stepping stone for the community. He told that if our schools fall apart everything else

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will go downhill from there, but his big concern is the JROTC Program. He told that he has two daughters that are coming up and one of them has already challenged his son in the program. He told that it is something that they look forward to doing. He told that he retired after 27 years of active duty in the army reserves, has been deployed twice and has spent the past month spending time doing stuff with these kids and they do it right. He told that he has went to their competitions and watched them compete and they give it their best. He told that it is a working program. He told that you have a hard job and thank God he is not in your shoes because he does not know what he would do, but this program and the school system is important and if it comes down to increasing taxes – are our kids worth the extra ten dollars on a hundred or whatever the rate will be. He told that to him they are and to the people here they are. He told that there are some people out in the county they are not and that is fine but it is the majority. He told that he appreciates being able to speak and for the Board listening and the job that you have to do because he knows that it is not going to be easy, but asks that you do the best you can do and try to help the school system and the programs out as much as you can.

Ms. Becky Krejci told that she is a mother of three and her youngest son is in the JROTC Program. She told that she has had two children that have already graduated from Carroll County High School and went on their way. She told that her oldest son is in law school and her daughter is going back to nursing school. She told that her children were ready to go out and start their lives and the school gave them that basis. She told that her son is in JROTC and she can't say that when he joined she was happy because it was like giving away her baby to a program that could lead him down a road that she didn't want for him. She told that this program out of all the programs that her children have been in has given her son something her other children had as much of and at a very young age he has a lot of self esteem and pride in himself. She told that it came from the instruction and the program teaches them how to be great young men and women, to be leaders, to contribute and how to be proud of their community. She told that it is a great program and it would be a shame to cut it and leave the hole for the few that fit into the program so well. She told that she looked into the funding of what a JROTC program costs because you look at these boys and girls and they have on nice shiny shoes and uniforms. She told that the county funds a lot but most of the funding comes from the Armed Forces and we have something that is primarily in place through another organization and all we have to do is add a small amount. She told that she thinks the school is only giving the facility to operate in and 50% of the salaries for the two educators and it seems like that is such a small price to pay for such a great program. She told that she hopes you look at this very carefully.

Ms. Sarah Allen told that she is PTSO president at Gladesboro Elementary School and her son Steven is in the first grade there. She told that she would like to speak to you about the budget and the possibility of Gladesboro closing. She told that if the budget is not met Gladesboro could potentially be closed and if this were to happen it would be devastating not only for the students, teachers and faculty but for the community as well. She told that most of them heard at the School Board meeting on March 19th there are many reasons why we should leave the school open. She told that if Gladesboro were to close the county would have to redistrict and this would not only affect our children but

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all of the elementary schools in the county. She told that the children have formed bonds and they are special and it would be unfair to them to have to break them. She told that children already struggle with pressure from school and their peers and they do not need to have to worry about overcrowded classrooms and if Gladesboro were to closed this would force more children per classroom making student achievement go down and test scores decrease. She told that this is a challenge that our educators do not want to face because test scores are critical. She told that she has a letter that was written by a 4th grade student whose name is Brett Bowman; I do not want Gladesboro Elementary School to close down because I have good memories there such as field trips, activities and the staff. I would hate to see all of us split up and go to other schools. Please don't shut down Gladesboro Elementary because I want other kids to experience these good memories to. Ms. Allen told that many of our children are affected by this and they hear their parents talking about it and they are worried. She told that she knows you are in a tough position but she asks that you look into your heart and think about the children and to support the budget.

Mr. Austin Taylor thanked the JROTC for not only mentioning us but supporting us and he thanks Mr. Burnette for his service. He told that he is the FFA President at the Intermediate School. He told that it was brought to his attention that part of the proposed budget is to cut one ag teacher. He told that he cannot tell you how much of a negative impact that would have on their organization. He told that cutting one ag teacher would mean that either the 8th or 9th grade ag would have to be split in half and one teacher at the Intermediate School cannot handle eight classes. He told that the half left would have to choose another class that they probably would not want to take and this would lead students to doing poorly academically and could also cut potential successors out of an ag class. He told that he stands before you to speak of why we should keep ag; it has taught him so much and without ag and FFA he would not have had the courage to stand here today nor would he have the courage to stand up for the organization. He told that he is proposing another idea instead cutting an ag position or JROTC. He told that the county could take donations or hold a fundraiser. He told that there would be many people in the community that would love to support these programs and he does not believe that cutting things out of the budget is the solution and there are many other options that have not been exhausted. He asks, please do not cut an ag teacher because that should be a last resort. He thanked the Board for listening and told that they could ask questions now or after the meeting adjourns.

Ms. Bonnie Webb told that she teaches at Woodlawn School and has been a teacher for 32 years. She told that when she first started teaching she heard students talking about going home to parents or grandparents who ask them about their day as they sat down to eat a snack and discuss their homework. She told that she does not hear those stories anymore but now sees students with house keys hanging around their necks or out of their pockets. She told that they ask if they can call a parent because they are unsure of which parents home to go to after school. She told that she hears stories about parents losing their jobs and how hard it is for the family to pay bills or to provide a good healthy meal. She told that it has gotten so bad over the last couple of years that some school leaders have opened areas of their buildings for students and parents to visit to get

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clothing that teachers and others have donated. She told that on any given Friday in the halls of their schools you will see staff members visiting student lockers to hide healthy snacks so they will have something to eat over the weekend. She told that she was raised on the philosophy that I want better for my children and her parents helped her to be provided with that but times have changed. She told that today's parents find it much more difficult to provide better for their children no matter how hard they try. She told that students, parents, teachers and the entire community needs your help and schools are all that some students have to provide the basics. She told that they come each day depending on a quality education, two warm meals and the individual attention that they all deserve. She told that many rely on the schools to provide arts, vocational classes, sports and other programs that you have heard about tonight that help build their self esteem and help prepare them for the future. She told that if our school system is forced to make budget cuts difficult decisions will have to be made and the students could lose some of the basic programs that they depend on and deserve. She told that at a time when students needs have never been greater our educational resources will be spread even thinner. She told that she remembers a time in the mid 1980's when their resources were pretty thin and she taught a combination class 30 of 2nd and 3rd grade students in one room and she had no trouble teaching the materials but does not believe that she had the resources to give each student the individual attention that they all deserved. She ask if we want to go back to that especially when the needs are so much greater. She told that what she is asking for is not wants, but for you to support our students basic needs. She told that this world gets more and more competitive and asks for support to help our students be the best they can be both academically and socially in this ever changing society. She told that the students of today are our future and we must always invest if we want our tomorrows to be better than today. She told that as a teacher she wants better tomorrow's for her students and you are sitting in your seat tonight because you want better for Carroll County. She told that by the nature of what they do they can never stop investing in our students if we expect better. She told that as the government leaders of our county she recognizes that you are faced with tough decisions and former President Franklin Roosevelt also faced some very tough decisions when he led our nation out of the great depression but he recognized the importance of our educational system when he said " the school is the last expenditure on which America should be willing to economize". She thanked the Board for allowing her to speak on behalf of our county's children and all of us who want better for them today for their better tomorrow.

Ms. Patricia Sharp told that she is a parent and her son transferred from Grayson County and with him being in the FFA it has made a huge difference not only on his self esteem but his academics as well. She told that he never had a chance like this in Grayson and it has had a remarkable impact on his life. She told that he went from making failing grades to making A's and B's. She told that he recently won 2nd place for the Parliamentary Contest and he was so excited and kept calling her that day before they left and told her that he was going to win and make his school proud and she received a phone call on his way home and he did win. She told to cut that would mess these kids up academically and Mr. Carpenter and the other teachers at the Intermediate School are wonderful. She told that if it were not for these two teachers the kids would not be where they are today. She ask for the Board to please not cut the program.

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Mr. Gabriel Johnson told that he is in the 5th grade at Gladesboro and he is here about that because closing the school would be a big mistake and you would be hurting a whole lot of education. He told that they have had a very good education and they won a Governor's award. He told that the education that you would be hurting would be very big and it would also mean moving to bigger classrooms and it would be harder for kids to listen and get good test scores. He told that the bus rides would be much longer and there won't be much time. He told that he already rides an hour to school and it would be even longer when you move these kids to Hillsville or Fancy Gap. He told that you wouldn't only be hurting the kids that go to that school but also the community because this school holds a lot of memories and people are proud and it wouldn't be a very good idea. He told that you already shut down Laurel Fork and please do not do the same to Gladesboro.

Mr. Martin ask if Gabe is married and a parent at the high school. He ask what he made on his SOL's last year.

Mr. Johnson's mother replied 600.

Mr. Martin told that is very good.

Ms. Stephanie Bowman thanked the Board for allowing her to present tonight. She told that her son is Brett Bowman and he is the one who wrote the letter that Ms. Allen read and she is here to make her feelings known about Gladesboro closing. She ask for the county leaders to reconsider closing Gladesboro. She told that although there is a budget situation and they must all work together to find solutions, this option does not seem fully thought out regarding both the immediate and future impact of the potential closing. She told that the impact will result in extended bus rides and that already affects her. She told that she lives one mile from the school and if she allowed her son to ride the bus he would have to get on at 7:20 a.m. to ride one mile over the hill to start school at 8:15 and it is the same thing in the evening. She told that it will also increase class sizes and the quality of education will also be lost as Gladesboro was the 2009 winner for the Governor's VIP award for education excellence. She told that she believes that leaders and parents and the children at other schools don't realize the impact that this proposed closing will have as the district boundaries will have to be reconfigured not effecting just Hillsville and Fancy Gap, but resulting in further shifting of students within the county. She told that both of these schools are already filled to capacity in many grades and classes. She told that census numbers are on the rise and we must look to the future to analyze the true needs as we move forward. She told that the most recent statistics from the Weldon Cooper website indicate that Carroll County has grown 2.7% although a complete age breakdown has not been completed. She told that we have to consider the long term needs of the county and our education system beyond one budget cycle. She told that perhaps the question should be can we really afford to close the schools and she believes not. She told that we need to work together as parents, students, educators, county officials and residents to find alternatives that would better suit our needs. She told that her son is in the 4th grade and he is really into the military stuff right

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now and if he could have been here tonight he would have really enjoyed hearing the JROTC people talking and knowing that there is a program out there for that. She told that is something that her son will want to be a part of in the future so she has to support that after hearing all the comments from that group. She told that she knows it is a hard job and she does not want to be in your shoes and thank you for listening to all our concerns.

Mr. Andy Jackson told that he appreciates being here and being on this side of the podium tonight as it is probably a blessing to be on this side. He told that he has been a life long resident and his mother taught at Gladesboro for many years. He told that on that end of the county there is only one school which is Gladesboro. He told that at one time they had Dugspur, Laurel Fork, and Mt. Bethel below the mountain and now they are all closed except for Gladesboro. He told that after hearing them talk about the bussing it would be easier to bus the students to Meadows of Dan than into town but that is in a different county. He told that that when he went to school most of the people graduated from Meadows of Dan because they did not want to come all the way to Hillsville and below the mountain a lot of them went to Mt. Airy. He told that you have about a dozen years left on the bill for Phase I.

Mr. Martin told that it is \$1.5 million.

Mr. Jackson told that it is about \$170,000 per year so it is probably closer to \$2 million. He told that if the school is closed you are going to have the Lincoln Continental sitting there empty with these big payments. He told that he hopes you take that into consideration and he knows that the cuts on this does not come from you all they come from the School Board. He told that he hopes you all can get together and take a butcher knife and peel some of the fat off the top and leave the lean at the bottom alone. He told that the other two things that have been spoke on tonight so far are the FFA and JROTC. He told that the ones of you that have been in the military know that there is nothing more that helps you in life than being in the military and it makes him proud to see them. He told that we are an agriculture county so we depend on FFA to bring future farmers. He told it looks to him like we are cutting off things that are most important to us and he wonders if a lot of it is a scare tactic to hold you hostage. He told that we need to get our children educated with the best education that they can get but at the same time we have to keep our taxes where the senior citizens can pay it too. He told that there has to be a trade off somewhere to balance the scale and he does not envy you. He told that it is a big problem for both boards and hopes you can come up with a good solution.

Mr. Eli Barr told that he is a student from Gladesboro Elementary. He told that it is an excellent school and has fantastic staff. He told that there is always someone there and if Gladesboro is closed it will be tragic. He told that his little sister will be split up at different schools from her friends and she will not get the level of attention that she deserves. He told that Gladesboro may be small but they have a big heart. He told that the community is nothing without Gladesboro and he is an example of what our small school has done. He ask the Board to please not close their school.

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Ms. Tonya Evans told that the JROTC program means a lot to her because she plans to go to basic training in the fall. She told that her sister is in the 7th grade and she is looking forward to being in the program. She told that this morning before school they were talking about it and she was not able to be here, but she wanted to send her request for you not to take the program away because she is excited about it. She told that the program is more than just a school activity. She told that she has changed as a person and her school grades have been up since she started. She told that she has made some good friends and they all get along well. She told that they learn to lead, march, and all kinds of other stuff. She told that they have formal inspection and they plan to keep their honor star and she requests that you not cut the JROTC program.

Mr. Martin ask Mr. Brian Spencer if he could enroll Mr. Hendrick and Mr. McCraw in the JROTC Program and sign their papers for them.

Mr. Brian Spencer told how humbling it is to be the School Board Chairman and how wonderful it is to see everyone in this room. He told that his little 5 year old would say my heart is very happy right now. He told that if we could go to Richmond he thinks we would and our voices would be heard because as a parent he is tired of seeing our school systems cut and not by you gentleman. He told that the county board in the previous years have been very generous in their support and you need to know that. He told that we also have to understand that the mandates that we are having, the \$1.9 million and the budget that three of you voted for last year, this is exactly the same budget. He ask how many can go out to the grocery store or the gas pumps and get the same thing for the same dollar that you did a year ago. He told that the mandates are passing on. He told that Mr. Jackson said if we could cut the fat from the top, there is no more fat. He told that there might have been fat years ago, but there is no more. He told that they have lost \$3.4 million since 2008, we lost the stimulus money which is \$1 million and if you add that in it is almost \$4.5 million cut. He told that we are asking you to approve a budget that you approved last year but we are asking to pass the mandates because there is no more money. He told that the list that school administration passed as possible cuts sickened him, but the reality is that we have no fat left. He told that they have robbed text book supplies and have kept our staff and we plan to fight for that staff again. He told that if we could take everyone here and send them to Richmond we would. He told that these gentleman up here are the Board of Supervisors and they are parents and a product of our school system. He told that these men are our friends, but we have to support these gentleman also and knowing what we are asking them to do and that is to find us the \$1.9 million that we need to keep our school system running like it did last year. He told that our administrators and teachers that are wearing two and three hats now we are asking to not give them a fourth hat because they don't have room. He told that if we could go to Richmond we would, if we could go and not print lists of possible cuts he would love that, but that is why you are here because you realize that there are no more cuts. He told that if you talk to the teachers and the people in the school system they will tell you of all their different activities, it is exhausting. He told that he was proud to be part of the committee that picked Teacher of the Year and was worn out when he read the resumes and needed a drink. He told that there is no more room so everyone in here if you will contact your State legislators and let them know that we need

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the funding just like we have let the gentleman know tonight. He told that we are fed up as parents, teachers and educators and we will support you, we will walk in step with you but if you think this crowd will dissipate, it will not. He ask that everyone in this room talk to five neighbors and bring them with you to the next meeting on April 9th and we may need to have it at the auditorium. He told that they are tired of the cuts just like you are and we will support you, but please support our kids because we need a school system for tomorrow, not yesterday.

Ms. Janet Tate told that it has been so nice to hear all the comments. She told that she has been to a lot of meeting since 2005 and this has a real nice feeling to it and it looks like people really want to come together and accomplish this. She told that she wants to reiterate what Mr. Spencer said, you can call or email every Senator in the State of Virginia. She told that she looked at that when she votes and she did not vote for the folks that are up there because she values education. She told that Bonnie Webb is wonderful, she thinks all of her kids had her and she was a volunteer there because they saw the overcrowding and she is a firm believer in public schools. She told that everyone should have the same start because we are not all born in the same families. She told everyone to call and email and have your kids do it and let them know that we need more money. She told that everyone could see that this was going to happen because you can't keep cutting and not expect it to come to the local level. She told that she has ran for office a couple times and hasn't made it and that is alright. She told that she has talked to a lot of people and her father included, when you are on a limited fixed income it is scary when taxes go up. She told that Roanoke County has a meals tax and why can't we do a meals for kids tax and it will all go for schools or maybe try to find some money in the fund balance but it is really scary when you talk about property taxes because or properties don't make any money and it is a burden for so many people. She told that Northern Virginia and other parts of the State can handle it better. She told that there are other ways to raise revenues and she is all for it and she will do anything she can to help.

Mr. Dickson thanked the speakers for coming including the young speakers and the comments that were made. He told that their eyes are not closed and he did learn some things tonight. He told that you can see the progress of the schools in the children and he sees that daily. He told that a couple of the speakers ride his bus as he is a 40 year school bus driver. He told that they do appreciate it.

AUTHORIZE PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET FY13

Upon motion by Mr. Hutchins, seconded by Dr. Littrell and passing, the Board authorized to hold a Public Hearing on the Proposed School Budget FY13 on April 9, 2012 at Carroll County High School beginning at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as practical.

He told that we say 6:00 or as soon thereafter as practical because we will have other things on the agenda and there is a possibility of it running over. He told that we will start as close to the time scheduled as possible and it will not be before 6:00 p.m.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET FY13

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Dr. Littrell and passing, the Board approved to advertise the proposed School budget for FY13.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

Mr. Martin told that before he came tonight he was watching television and it was Sheriff Andy and it was the episode where the \$7 million worth of gold was coming through town in an armored vehicle. He told that the Sheriff was not telling everything to Barney but would tell enough so that Barney would know not to tell, and that lasts about a minute and a half until he calls his girlfriend to tell her something big is going to happen and gives her five guesses. He told that in a matter of minutes it gets all over town. He told that only after the Sheriff and Barney put their differences aside and work together they were able to catch the band of robbers and it is a beautiful day and all the problems are solved.

Mr. Martin told that he has concerns that he has shortcomings of not pushing working closer with the School Board. He told that it wasn't the Sheriff's fault or Barney's fault. He told that it is everyone's problem and whatever he has come up short on he pledges that he is going to push for better relationships and us communicating because there is no reason for us to have ill words or whatever. He told that we have a common problem and we can get through it.

Mr. Dickson told that the previous Board did do well working with the School Board and most were pleased with the budgets that were passed the previous four years. He told that he sees no reason why this cannot continue even though we have three different ones instead three of the same ones. He thanked everyone for coming.

(Order)

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ADJOURMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Dr. Littrell and passing, the Board adjourned.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

Chairman

Clerk