

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Joint Meeting with the Avery County Board of Education on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Phyllis Forbes, Vice-Chair (via telephone); Scott Heath  
Martha Hicks; Glenn Johnson

Members Absent: None

Board of Education Members Present: John Greene, Chairman; Kathy Aldridge; Robert Clark; Steve  
Smith; Keith Tutterow

**Call To Order**

Chairman Poteat called this meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.  
Chairman Poteat led prayer.

**Ingress & Egress—New Banner Elk School**

Robert Wiseman, County Manager, explained that he, David Burleson, Danny Clark and Kenny Poteat met in Wilkesboro with the NC Department of Transportation to discuss the issues at hand concerning the traffic flow at the entrance of the Banner Elk Elementary School. This had undergone several changes since the project was first conceived. At the beginning of construction of the new Banner Elk School, the NC Department of Transportation was recommending a turn lane off of the highway at Apple Orchard Lane. At the first investigation it looked as if there would be eight pieces of private property that Avery County would have to obtain a right of way to build the turn lane. The actual construction was not going to be a county responsibility. The county would be responsible for the acquisition of right of ways across those pieces of property which would have been approximately \$250,000 plus. The engineers came up with an alternate plan which was to build a mini roundabout. Another meeting was scheduled with members of the Board of Commissioners, Banner Elk Town Council, Board of Education and Department of Transportation at the location of the turn lanes. Mr. Pettyjohn with the NC DOT explained option one which was the turn lane, option two which was the roundabout and option three which would be to wait at this point in time because one school year has not been completed. Mr. Wiseman said he asked Mr. Pettyjohn if nothing was done right now would there be an opportunity a year from now to proceed and the answer was yes.

Debra Wilcox, principal at Banner Elk Elementary School, stated that she did not think there was a problem with traffic flow at this time at the Banner Elk Elementary School. She said she had spoken with Bill Burleson, Chief of Police in Banner Elk, and he had not identified a problem with traffic flow at this time either.

John Greene, Chairman of the Board of Education, advised that the consensus with the BOE at this time is to watch and see if the traffic situation becomes a problem.

Martha Hicks commented that she pushed for some school zone signs but NC DOT said they could not do a school zone but they might put up a sign for buses entering highway.

Scott Heath said he would go to a meeting of the Banner Elk Town Council to convey the sentiments of the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education regarding the mini roundabout at the new Banner Elk School.

**Capital Outlay Projects Update**

Danny Clark, Director of Auxiliary Services for Avery County Schools, updated the Board on the current capital projects that are in process in the various schools and the completed projects.

**Recess**

Chairman Poteat called for a recess.

Chairman Poteat declared the meeting to be back in order after a recess.

**1:1 Computer Initiative Budget Discussion**

Dennis Brown, Director of Technology Avery County Board of Education, presented a video presentation showing children from Newland Elementary School working on the new Ipads.

**New High School**

Chairman Poteat read an excerpt from the Board of Commissioners meeting March 21, 2011 when a high school task force committee meeting was discussed. The committee composition discussed would be the superintendent of Avery County Schools, BOE board member, ACS director of maintenance, ACS finance officer; composition from the Board of Commissioners would be county manager, board members, finance officer and tax administrator. By consensus, the composition of the committee would be as discussed previously. The superintendent and county manager will work toward an initial meeting.

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Scott Heath and second by Martha Hicks to adjourn this meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.**

---

**Kenny Poteat, Chairman  
Avery County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk