

Fairhope Public Schools Commission
January 6, 2021

Members present: Ken Cole, Robin Coleman, Amy Foley, Carrie McLemore, Miranda Schrubbe, Cornelius Woods

Members absent: Robert Brown, Paul Hannon, Danielle Mashburn-Myrick, Hill Robinson

Principals present: Jon Cardwell, FHS; Carol Broughton, FEE; Julie Pierce and Caroline Hollowell, FWE

Guests: John Wilson, Baldwin County Board of Education Chief School Financial Officer; James Watkins

Ken Cole called the meeting to order and welcomed new commission member Amy Foley. A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes of the December 2nd meeting of the commission.

At this organizational meeting for the new year, the 2021 officers were elected:

Chair – Carrie McLemore

Vice-Chair – Amy Foley

Secretary – Miranda Schrubbe

Chief School Financial Officer for Baldwin County Public Schools John Wilson presented a year-end financial update, showing ad valorem (3-mill) and probate (car tag) revenue collected and expenses paid, broken down by FY 20, FY 21, and as of December 31st, 2020. He also shared the estimated total revenues and approved budgeted expenditures for the school year along with actual totals. Budgeted and actual expenditures for each school are broken down separately as well. *See attached financial update report.*

Mr. Wilson noted that personnel expenditures are managed at the county level and paid over 12 months; non-personnel expenditures are managed at the school level and paid with funds that have been transferred to the school accounts. Because of delays in finding and hiring personnel at the beginning of the school year related to reconfiguration of the elementary schools and adjustments to the pandemic environment, actual personnel expenditures will be lower than budgeted for the school year and those unspent funds will carry over. Looking ahead, Mr. Wilson suggests that the commission adjust the cycle for approval of requests to better align with the fiscal year on which the system operates (October 1 through September 30), and agreed to return to a future meeting to lead a work session to plan for the upcoming cycle. He confirmed that the school system would again accommodate approved budgeted expenditures for the next school year prior to collection of revenues in order to have personnel and materials in place when school starts in August. The process in this first year has gone very smoothly, and seeing the successes in Fairhope and Spanish Fort, Mr. Wilson said that other communities are moving ahead with efforts to secure the additional funding for their schools.

A change to the time of the commission meetings has not yet been made. The next meeting of the FPSC will be on February 3rd at 4:30 p.m. at the Nix Center.

Respectfully submitted by
Miranda Schrubbe