

**Minutes of the 16 March 2015
Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners
Held at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room
Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, North Carolina**

Present at the 16 March 2015 meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners were Chairman Johnny Riddle, Commissioner Jill Austin, Commissioner Byrl Ballew, Commissioner Randy Ollis, Commissioner Jeff Whitson, County Manager Nathan Bennett, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson, County Planner Jamie McMahan, Finance Director Lynne Hensley, and Finance Officer Brandi Burleson. The Board was joined by Yancey County Board of Education members and staff: Mr. Mike Orr, Mr. Bill Whiteside, Mr. Norb McKinney, Ms. Angie Weatherman, and Ms. Jeanne Tyner, along with Dr. Tony Tipton and Ms. Robbie Renfro.

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chairman Riddle called the meeting to order and asked the Board to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ollis made a motion to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Commissioner Whitson. The motion to approve was unanimous. (Attachment A)

Schools Discussion

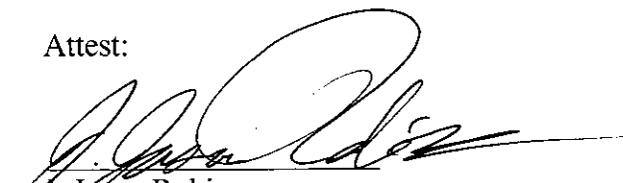
The joint meeting between the Yancey County Commissioners and the Yancey County Board of Education began by Dr. Tony Tipton addressing the Board of Commissioners concerning current needs by the school system. Dr. Tipton spoke about the 20% increase that was given to the schools in 2008 and about the 5% reduction of funds in 2010. Dr. Tipton asked the Board to consider giving Yancey County Schools an additional \$243,000 this fiscal year. Dr. Tipton highlighted some concerns with the aging buildings in the Yancey County School System. Commissioner Ollis asked about the amount of lottery funds that Yancey County Schools receive. Dr. Tipton stated that the schools receive about \$70,000 annually and have saved about \$700,000 to date of lottery funds. School Board Chairman Mike Orr next spoke to the Board concerning a long and short term solution for the aging buildings in the Yancey County School System. He stated that the school system is trying to be proactive to address some problems. However, Mr. Orr further stated that the quality of the buildings is not what it was 30 years ago and also we can't expect the quality of the buildings to continue unless there is some money put into them. Mr. Orr suggested the formation of a committee to come up with a plan concerning what to do about the aging school buildings, whether to spend money on the current schools or look to another option. Commissioner Ollis suggested that a study of the buildings might be a good idea and asked about the demographics of the school system. Mr. Bill Whiteside stated that it would be good if this committee would find leaders in each community to talk about the condition of the school in that community. Discussion followed about the makeup of a committee. Upon conclusion of the discussion, Commissioner Ollis made a motion to appoint Chairman Riddle and Vice-Chair Austin along with County Manager Nathan Bennett to this committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitson and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Riddle stated that he is interested in the school board also coming up with a plan to help guide the discussion.

Adjournment

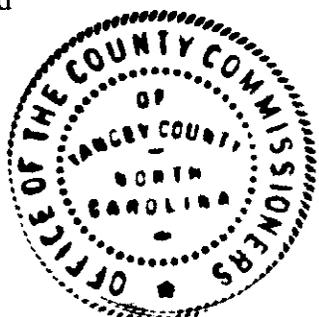
Having no further business Commissioner Whitson made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Commissioner Austin. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

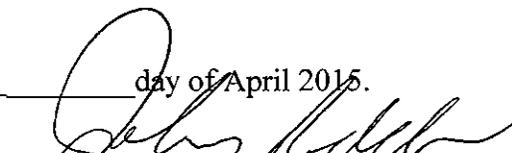
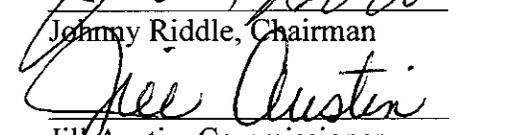
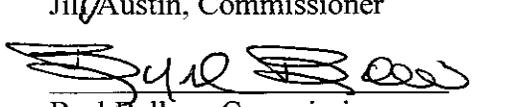
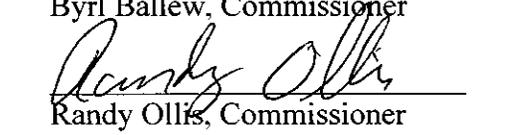
Approved and authenticated on this the _____ 13th _____ day of April 2015.

Attest:

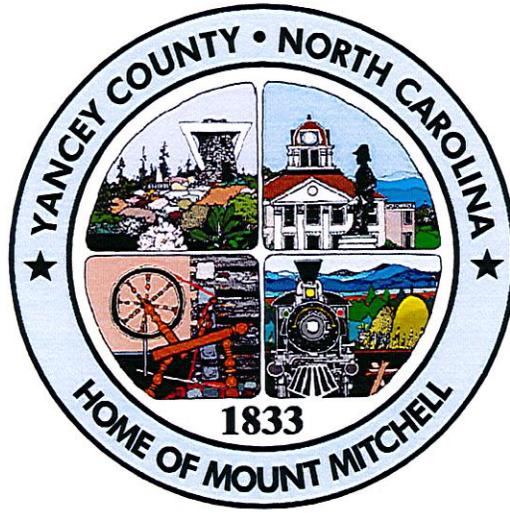

J. Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board

(county seal)




Johnny Riddle, Chairman

Jill Austin, Commissioner

Byrl Ballew, Commissioner

Randy Ollis, Commissioner

Jeff Whitson, Commissioner



**AGENDA
YANCEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
March 16, 2015**

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Riddle
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Discussion of school related matters with Yancey County Board of Education
- IV. Adjourn