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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2019

MANSFIELD: I want to go back to the MAST thing cause I didn't finish all my questions because there was no need to keep Ms. Rosen up there - she did a great job doing the presentation - I think she's doing a great job running that program and I think it's a great program or we wouldn't have went out on a limb last year - which I apologize to the parents and the students who participated in that program because maybe we shouldn't have agreed to that funding and we wouldn't be in the spot we are in today. I think we made a mistake starting something without having adequate resources lined up. Now, I asked a question earlier Mr. Burns and I'm going to make sure I understood, but the \$59 almost \$60,000 was additional money last year. I'm kinda wanting to know what we gave last year plus what the additional funding was.

BURNS: That was on a five year plan that they presented.

MANSFIELD: I'm more concerned with last year and this year - what we would be spending this year in totality.

BURNS: So, last year we put in \$186. . .

MANSFIELD: Okay.

BURNS: And then this year an additional \$59,600.00.

MANSFIELD: So, \$186 and \$60 is going to be \$246 - \$245,000.

BURNS: Yeah.

MANSFIELD: Mat, I hate to ask you to do it - can you come back up to the podium?

UNKNOWN: So, this year would be \$245,958.

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**MANSFIELD:** For the record, Commissioner Farrington and myself were in school with Mr. Bottoms so - we'll go on record with that. So, I hate to even ask you this question cause I don't even - I don't want to - um, we're talking about \$245,000 and when you were here last time making the budget presentation we were talking about the threat of having to not rehire eight positions within the county, and, a hard time continuing to fund the MaST program or uncertain of the funding and not putting my money with eight teachers with a proven track record with the Carteret County School System. I mean, what are your thoughts there? We all agree the MaST program is a great program but if we don't fund it - I think it's irresponsible to wait until October. Dr. Hauser offered to use money from the Community College but he's asking for an additional \$100,000 this year that we're kicking in for that so are we gonna be coming back asking for more money? I don't see where the money comes from - I know you're saying you will cover it, but where's it coming from? That question may be more in your wheelhouse than his wheelhouse, but I want to make sure we all understand before -

**HAUSER:** So the \$100,000 we're talking about additional is to cover the county paid employees -

[Talking over each other]

**MANSFIELD:** I know what it's for but I'm just trying to figure -

**HAUSER:** Additional funds for the early college -

**MANSFIELD:** But why if you've already got the money there, then why are we not - either way -

**HAUSER:** We're the last stop. If it doesn't get funded by the state, Board of Education approves, you guys [inaudible] 45, then we're the last stop to fill the gaps to work through the budget to see what those gaps are - [inaudible] that comes from institutional money we gain from book store funds, from other institutional money that we get for - through services and something like that. Every

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college operates that way - institutional funds -  
[inaudible] operate that way

UNKNOWN: What happens next year if we are in the same situation?

HAUSER: We'll continue to do that.

UNKNOWN: What?

HAUSER: We'll continue to do that. Like I said, we can supplement instruction with our faculty.

MANSFIELD: It's going to grow by 50 kids every year so its gonna be a total cost of -

HAUSER: \$180,000 is what the state funding is so that's consistent.

MANSFIELD: So the \$180 plus the \$245? Is that right, I mean -

UNKNOWN: It'll be \$420 - almost a half a million -

BOTTOMS: The local portion goes up slightly for the five years. -

MANSFIELD?: [inaudible] to make up for the state not being there in three years.

BOTTOMS: Right.

MANSFIELD: My concern is and I said this last year that we needed to be careful if we went down this track - I pulled up the minutes and had it sent out to all the commissioners is as we get to need more money each year - how it affects upping it by 50 people per class that are going into a lottery to have the opportunity to get two free years of college education, but we've got 650 other graduates - don't we average about 700 graduates a year/

BOTTOMS?: About 600.

MANSFIELD: [inaudible] West Carteret graduated about 275. 275 and 225 is how much?

OTHERS: 500

MANSFIELD: That's what I thought, I was checking to make sure I wasn't missing something - and East Carteret graduated a little over a hundred. So 50 out of that 575 - we're being asked to pick winners and losers out of the funds giving 50 kids two years of college education and not the others - I mean I support the program but I'm just trying to make sure how I'm going to defend myself against people asking me why we're paying for this person's child to get two years free but my child doesn't get two years free.

COMER: Well, I think if you're on the advanced college track, that's a good argument, but on the career path, I don't think the same argument. I guess they get two years of college kinda sorta but you're pushing them into a career - a tech field. The problem I see with high schools - and it ain't none of y'all's fault - but the last many years, they can get everybody ready to go to college and everyone's tested on that and you got a populace that don't want to go there and you're losing them because of it. They're doing things other than school and they're getting lost. I see it - and I've said this to you and Bubba - Bubba and I got elected about the same time - I said we're missing the technical part in high schools. And, now it's national reporting - their talking about there's no laborers out there - no skilled help. So, I'm sitting here trying to figure out how to fight with this thing. I understood that it's over a four year period, is that correct?

UNKNOWN: That's correct.

COMER: And in the end, it's designed for us to pay for it anyhow, assuming that the state is not going to fund, is that correct?

UNKNOWN: In the end, when we get up to \$445, we're supporting (inaudible) -

COMER: You're assuming that there is no money in the budget for it -

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UNKNOWN: That's right - it was originally a five year period.

COMER: So we can sit here and decide if we're going to wait on this funding stream that's going to fizzle out in a couple of years anyway or we can go ahead and decide that if you feel like it is a good program, you bite the bullet. We're on the way to paying it all anyhow. Now, if you had told me tonight that a big, big hunk of these people are going for just a two year advanced college, I probably wouldn't have the same attitude, but when I see 90 plus percent going for some type of career-oriented and understand the populace that you're [inaudible], we're doing our community a service to put these kids out here with some skilled hands when they leave your institution. Hopefully, we're not picking them up and putting them in the jail because they're sidetracked ... you keep somebody's hands busy - idol hands - it's in the Bible - I think you may be helping us all out of situations. I'm having a hard time giving it up.

MANSFIELD: I'm still just asking questions that I've been asked. I'm just the messenger so don't shoot me, but we go back to the \$240, well, let's just use this coming year's - we said \$185,000 and \$62,245 - what's the per pupil expenditure the state ADM(?)? Where will that play into those students?

UNKNOWN: [inaudible] As Dee (?) showed you in her numbers, this school cost us about \$6200 a kid to educate there.

UNKNOWN: Her figures are \$69 versus \$6000 is the number she had on her paper -

UNKNOWN: It's closer to \$62 and our average is probably around \$7000 - in the range. It's an economy scale so our biggest schools are the cheapest schools. White Oak is in that same range. That's a large elementary school, and West Carteret is in that same range. So, it's at what our cheaper schools to operate right now. Part of that is just common sense in that the Community College is providing half - or more of - the teachers. We're only providing - when we get a hundred kids, we will provide four teachers. It does help for the fact

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that the Community College is taking on some of the burden of teaching the kids - the financial burden.

- MANSFIELD: Does anybody else have any questions about this?
- WHEATLY: I do. What is the - is there additional cost - [inaudible] early college - are there additional costs to that? Is that costing us for the present - is that a significant cost?
- UNKNOWN: It's included, correct?
- UNKNOWN: That is - yep - this is all one -
- WHEATLY: I've got some information that says that one of the third items included in the cost is \$250,000 for the Marine Science and Technological Early School, is that true or false?
- UNKNOWN: That's the total local portion.
- WHEATLY: That's the total local portion?
- UNKNOWN: [inaudible]
- MANSFIELD: You said you had something to say Commissioner Comer.
- COMER: Yeah, my statement is this. We started out thinking it was about the money. The reality of it is right now it's not about the money. Dr. Hauser has told us he would pull it out of his book sales and the little supportive profit centers he's got on the college to make up the difference until such time as we reach our full funding so money's off the table. We're back to [inaudible] now.
- WHEATLY: I don't see where the money's off the table. I don't see that at all.
- MANSFIELD: Let me just say this and then I'm probably going to try to make a motion to get this thing moving along. My math if we're going to fund that \$245, we can save almost five teaching positions if we reallocated the money from the MaST program to those teaching spots - locally funded teachers - and we wouldn't be letting the teachers go. But,

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that's not our job up here, that's the Board of Education's [inaudible] -

UNKNOWN: [inaudible] (Motion apparently made.)

MANSFIELD: I wasn't going to put him on the spot like that in public [laughter]. That's like saying which kid do you not want us to shoot. [inaudible chatter] So, I make a motion that we fully fund Dr. Hauser's, your recommended budget for the Community College, and the recommended budget for the Carteret County School System for the amount of money. But, I want to go on record that I don't think we ought to put on [???] that we have guaranteed funding. I think we ought to be saving five teachers, but that's not for us to say, that's for your board and your board to make those decisions because that's - we can't tell them what to do. We can tell you that we highly suggest because when you come back asking for teachers next year and saying we need more money, we're gonna say that we gave it last year to the MaST program - we already rank in the top 10% in the percentage of our budget that we fund education throughout the state. I mean, it's-

ROBINSON: Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding of the motion that you want to keep the money [inaudible] teaching positions that we've lost.

MANSFIELD: That's my personal preference. I can't mandate them to do that. I want to give them that amount of money and the monkey's on your back, I guess - I hate to say that.

ROBINSON: I want to second that Mr. Chairman.

UNKNOWN: Is that something you agree with Mr. Bottoms?

BOTTOMS: Um, I'd rather not comment on that because it's a tough spot, it is.

MANSFIELD: I know it's a tough spot to be in, but we want to fund education in this county. We all think the MaST program - we all like trades better - I wish it were a 100%. I mean if it were a 100%, then maybe there would be a different suggestion up here tonight.

BOTTOMS: We are looking into that.

MANSFIELD: I talked to Dr. Hauser today and nobody's willing to throw it out there so I'm throwing it out there - we'll see what sticks. But right now, I don't think we have that option. I don't think the Governor's going to agree to their budget. I don't think we'll know anything until November, and I think we failed the children this year. I don't want to fail them again. That's my motion.

ROBINSON: Or more of them.

[inaudible]

MANSFIELD: Funding for the Carteret Community College and Carteret County Board of Education - operating as presented and capital as presented. Saying I, I, I caution them to use that money to save teachers not continue to operate a program we don't know that we're going to have funding for. But I can't make them do that.

UNKNOWN: Do you understand that, Mr. Robinson?

UNKNOWN: Mr. Chairman [inaudible] back next year?

UNKNOWN: I understand that, that's why I worry the way I do.  
[laughter]

ROBINSON: If the Board votes for this Motion, what it's doing is actually trying to call on the school here to redirect this money that's in the budget to rehire teaching positions that [inaudible].

MANSFIELD: Well, in my opinion, it will save 3 people from the MaST program - they'd still have a job and possibly two additional positions the state's cut us that we wouldn't have.

UNKNOWN: [inaudible]

MANSFIELD?: That's round math - I know that may not plug into your budget

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BOTTOMS?: And even more than round math [inaudible] quarter million short of what we asked for. And, I think that's the quarter of a million that fills the -

MANSFIELD: I'm not looking at it as far as what you requested - I'm looking at what we funded last year and what we funded in addition to last year budget and what we have -

HAUSER?: But to meet the state's raises and those things they've put on us, that's all we've done - just put in those and so that's going to take that part - am I correct - it's about a half million dollars that you have -

UNKNOWN: I've got 555

MANSFIELD: Until they pass the budget, you can't have a raise. I think we're kinda like the Beaufort Fire Chief right there - we can't raise the tax not knowing [inaudible] approved the budget - to me, the best case is really November so I don't see anything happening with raises and if we have to come back and look at a reappropriation, then maybe we'll have to. But right now, I think we, I'm not going to be as harsh as the state right now. We'll have to look at an amendment later on if something changes based upon what they're going to do, but I -

UNKNOWN: That was my question. In the past, they've retroacted - they made those retroactive, too -

MANSFIELD: We'll have to figure that part out. I can't - we can't, we can't make a decision here tonight based on what we think the house, the senate and the Governor are going to do [inaudible]. We had a hurricane, we had a hurricane - we lost over a hundred kids due to them losing their home and they took the money away from us. When we were already down, they kicked us in the teeth and said we're going to talk half million dollars back.

UNKNOWN: [inaudible] July 1<sup>st</sup>?

MANSFIELD: I know you don't want to say that either.

[inaudible overlapping chatter]

UNKNOWN: [inaudible] Other counties have made the same argument.

MANSFIELD: There's a motion and a second on the floor. Recall the question.

COMER: Well, I'll say this. I think it's a mistake [inaudible]. You're are going to fund it - the fact of the matter is [inaudible] you got to fund it - that the state may or may not give - we got to plan it over here. We've got it taken care of. It was designed to not depend on state funding in a few years anyway.

MANSFIELD: So [inaudible] to give you that money and you're going to put it towards that program, we're still going to lose eight teaching positions -

COMER: If the state would bring the money in you're going to lose 8 positions - if the state brought the money in [inaudible] throw the money in there -

MANSFIELD: If we knew we had the money, it may be a different thought process.

[inaudible]

WHEATLY: We approved this [inaudible] based on the fact we were going to receive funding. We did not receive funding. We have not received funding for this year.

UNKNOWN: We did receive funding.

WHEATLY: You're talking about funding coming from the Community College. We don't know - we don't have that nailed down. [inaudible] based on a promise - we can't do that. What you suggest we do is taking the money and hiring the teachers that we're going to lose is a good idea. I think it's a good idea. I think it's fair. And [inaudible] for 3 to 5 years that we don't have the funding to do.

COMER: [inaudible]

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WHEATLY: I don't. . . I'm telling you that's a maybe.

ROBINSON: [inaudible] from one hand to another, if he's got that much sitting around [inaudible]. He got plenty of money sitting around over there, he don't need us. [inaudible]

UNKNOWN: The Board of Education can still do what you're saying if they choose to.

MANSFIELD?: We're basically taking it back to the Board of Education [inaudible]

MANSFIELD: I'm like Mr. Bottoms, I don't know if I can answer that question. The funding is there.

WHEATLY: I think we should give them the money based on the fact that they use that money to hire the teachers that we're going to lose. Period.

UNKNOWN: That's what I thought.

[inaudible]

MANSFIELD: All those in favor raise your right hand. (Pause)  
All those opposed raise your right hand.