February 25, 2010

The Martinsville City School Board met in special session Thursday, February 25, 2010, at 4:00 P. M. in City Council Chambers.

Present: James H. Johnson, Jr., Chairman; Bill R. Manning, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Nancy L. Baker; Robert A. Williams; Mrs. Carolyn M. McCraw; Dr. Scott R. Kizner, Superintendent; and Mrs. Lynda W. Pulliam, Clerk

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. Johnson.

In his presentation of the 2010-2011 School Budget with the title, “An Investment in Our Children – An Investment in the Future of Martinsville City”, Dr. Kizner reviewed the following: Core Beliefs, Important Points to Consider for 2010-2011, Martinsville City Challenges, and Martinsville City Public Schools Accomplishments. He said Martinsville City Schools “have made great gains because we have invested in people, resources, and support systems wisely and efficiently” and “we can not afford to go backwards….We must find solutions to help move us forward and towards academic excellence for ALL”. Martinsville City Challenges include highest unemployment in the state, city below the state and national average for high school and college graduates, teenage pregnancy and low birth rates above the state average, and 68% of students living in single parent homes.

Among Martinsville City Public Schools accomplishments, Dr. Kizner cited all schools are accredited and have met division-wide Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), achievement gaps are non-existent or greatly reduced, advanced placement, dual enrollment, and ACE programs offered to ALL students, advanced diplomas for minorities have more than doubled, and on-time graduation rate is above state average and drop-out rate is below the state average.

Dr. Kizner further gave statistics identifying student progress in reading and math and in earning advanced diplomas. He reported data showing 71% of students on free and reduced lunch, rising from 57% in 2005-06 to 71% in 2009-10.

Using 2007-08 data, Dr. Kizner compared local per pupil expenditures of $10,352, ranking Martinsville City in comparison with 35 Virginia cities.

Dr. Kizner emphasized that the Evergreen Solutions, LLC, School Efficiency Review final report to be released March 11, 2010, states “The School Division (MCPS) is already operating at very cost efficient and effective levels”.

Dr. Kizner provided information from the proposed state budgets from former Governor Tim Kaine, the House and the Senate and the effect of each on the city schools. Since a final state budget has not yet been passed by the General Assembly, local budgets remain undetermined at this time.
At this time Mr. Johnson declared the Public Hearing in session. The following teachers, community leaders, and citizens spoke urging the Board to retain present programs, staff, and all funding that affects children’s education:

Rob Tolbut – MEA President and teacher
Adele Boyle – Clearview teacher
Kim Norris – Clearview teacher
Brad Johnson – Patrick Henry PTO President
Roslyn Simmons - Parent
Ashley Buck – Martinsville Middle School student
Dr. Cynthia Ingram – Patrick Henry Community College Administrator
Claire Miller – Albert Harris teacher
Marie Stone – Martinsville High School teacher
Chad Martin – Minister
Heather Tolbut – Martinsville High School teacher
John Duggan – Clearview parent
Malvester Muhammed – Minister
Donald Kirby – Citizen
Cristy Sellers – Martinsville High School teacher
Senora Carter – Parent
Tim Halpin – Parent
Sandy Haley – Parent and former School Board member
Mark Stroud – City Councilman
Tamika Grogan – Parent
Katherine Dietrich – Parent
Grayson Givens – Parent
Ron England – Citizen
Tamika Aiken – Parent

With no one else requesting to speak, the Public Hearing was closed and upon a motion by Mrs. Baker, seconded by Mr. Williams, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P. M.

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James H. Johnson, Jr., Chairman                             Lynda W. Pulliam, Clerk