



Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting
Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room
805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC

PRESENT: Vice Chair Brad George
Commissioner Jerry Groves
Chairman Randy Burton
Commissioner Brent Springer

ABSENT: Commissioner Jimmy T. Tate

OTHER PRESENT: Colby Sawyer, County Manager
Meg Blue, Assistant County Manager
Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burton called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

2. INVOCATION

Commissioner Groves led the Invocaton.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Springer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice Chairman George made a motion to adopt the agenda.
Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

5. CIP/PROACTIVE MAINTENANCE UPDATE

The Board of Education stated they had a super productive year in regard to maintenance. They cleaned out warehouses and listed surplus items on GovDeals, completed 4814 work orders, purchased 2 new trucks, a 40' cat walk to clean buses, several HVAC systems and painted some schools. During the summer, they plan to work on some of the roofs and windows.

6. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

The Board of Education stated that the \$400,000 received from the county for radios had made them very effective and efficient. The radios actually paid for themselves the first day when there was an accident on Hwy 53. The buses are driven a million miles in the nine-month school year.

7. NC CAPITAL NEEDS BASED GRANT

Dr. Breedlove explained the School Board had applied for the grant in the last few years. Pender County is listed as a tier three (3) and the grant goes to tier one (1) or two (2). The School Board applied again this year and did not receive it.

8. TRANSPORTATION FACILITY/FLEET GARAGE

Sarah Fulton, Strategic Director, presented the combined fleet garage. The site is across from Rocky Point Elementary and would contain the city garage, Pender EMS & Fire and the school garage handling around 800 vehicles. The first phase is \$153,000 for the conceptual design and would take about 90 days to complete once approved. Then they would be able to provide a preliminary cost to build.

9. FUTURE SCHOOL BOND DISCUSSION

Vice Chairman George suggested the Board of Education put all their needs in the request and let the Board of Commissioners take the heat for items being cut.

10. ROOFING NEEDS FOR CFCC/BMS

Dr. Breedlove mentioned the roofs at the Burgaw Early College, Pender High and Topsail Annandale. Topsail Annandale was the most critical. Vice Chairman George noted that Cape Fear Early College was in the budget this year.

11. MUTUAL LOBBYING & LONG-TERM PLANNING EFFORTS

Colby Sawyer, County Manager, stated he was going to talk with lobbyists to reassess Pender County's tier status. It should be two (2).

Dr. Breedlove stated his long-term goal was investment in infrastructure and human capital as well. He has a five (5) year plan, planned to work on grants and go to Raleigh to ask for support.

12. VAPING IN SCHOOLS PRESENTATION

Chairman Burton explained that Kevin Taylor was supposed to present but was unable to come.

Dr. Breedlove stated that vaping was a current issue in middle and high schools. There have been 68 incidents in the last year, 20 in middle schools and one (1) in elementary.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commission Springer made a motion to adjourn at 7:53pm.

Vice Chairman George seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]