

**SUPPORT STAFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2010 – 8:30 A.M.
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE**

Present were:

Mark Bias	Maintenance Department
Charles Collins	Neff Center Custodian
Michelle Larson	Payroll Clerk, Finance Department
Jason Salyers	Technology Department
Alan Lee	Division Superintendent
Tom Graves	Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Graves opened the meeting by welcoming the group. He asked how things were going and if they had any suggestions for the budget process. Responses were:

- Mark Bias: The Maintenance Department recently lost an employee, and that work has been divided. He works at Greendale Elementary, Abingdon Elementary, Watauga Elementary and the Neff Center. He has eight work orders outstanding. He spent four days running power and putting overhead projector mounts at Abingdon Elementary. Securing people's jobs should be a priority in the budget.

Dr. Graves commented that people would be the last thing to be cut.

Dr. Lee said that currently there is approximately a \$6.8 million funding deficit (Governor McDonnell's Budget Proposal). It has been identified, and recommendations will be presented to the School Board on Monday. Maintenance and Technology personnel are not affected at this point. We will lose some positions, and as people leave and positions are not filled, it provides a buffer from having to let people go.

In spite of immediate economic problems, our buildings and equipment still have to be maintained. The Board was previously presented a plan that would preserve programs and increase student/teacher ratios. The Board, however, does not want to increase student/teacher ratios.

Dr. Lee informed them that he attended the Board of Supervisors meeting last night, and the County Administrator proposed a \$550,000 increase in local funding. Every account in the school budget has been reviewed, and reductions have been made.

He asked if there were any questions, and Mr. Bias asked if steps would be honored. Dr. Lee responded that he hopes salaries and steps can be brought back up to where they should be in the future.

Mr. Collins asked if after-school activities would slow down, and Dr. Lee responded yes.

Dr. Lee encouraged them to let him know of any ideas or suggestions they might have.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9.