



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

500 N. Main St., Room 921 • Monroe, NC 28112 • Phone (704)283-3810 • Fax (704)282-0121

News Release

Court of Appeals Rules in Budget Dispute

April 7, 2015 Monroe, NC – The North Carolina Court of Appeals ruled today in a unanimous decision that the budget dispute between the Union County Board of Education and the Union County Board of Commissioners was restricted to the budget amount that was requested by the Board of Education for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and that the trial court erred in allowing the Board of Education to introduce evidence of needs that were not part of that year's budget request. As a result of the decision, the \$91 million jury verdict was vacated and the case has been remanded for retrial.

Although the Court of Appeals sent the case back to the trial court for a new trial, the amount in dispute is now less than \$3 million dollars, after taking into account additional funding provided by the County after the trial. The amount in controversy is no longer the \$91 million awarded by the jury.

“We are pleased by the decision, and we are appreciative of the hard work done by the judges on the Court of Appeals,” said Union County Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard Helms. “The relationship between our two boards is now stronger than it has been in years. Personally, I look forward to the boards working together to resolve the remaining issue for the taxpayers of Union County without a retrial.”

“Union County has enhanced public communication and transparency through its budget process,” Helms said. “Over the past year, we have developed a more open line of communication and I believe both groups have learned more about each other's organizations. Union County looks forward to continuing to build on this relationship.”

Chairman Helms will be available at the Union County Government Center from 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. today for further comment.

###