



Union County Public Information Office

500 N. Main St., Room 921 • Monroe, NC 28112 • Phone (704)283-3546 • Fax (704)282-0121

News Release

Union County Commissioners Allow More Time for Board of Education to Review Settlement Offer

MONROE, NC (December 9, 2013) – The Union County Board of Commissioners at their special meeting on Monday extended the deadline to Friday, Dec. 13 for the Union County Board of Education to respond to a settlement offer to Union County Public Schools in place of the \$91 million court ordered amount .

“In order to allow the Board of Education time to review our settlement offer at their meeting this week, we will extend the offer until Friday, Dec. 13,” said Union County Board of Commissioner Chairman Frank Aikmus.

The settlement offer is based on the funds available and includes a plan to incur limited additional debt which would provide funding greater than requested by the Board of Education in their FY 2014 budget submittal. The Commission appreciates the input they have received from parents and teachers since disagreement over funds began. Therefore, the Commission made special effort to include money in the offer that addresses the concerns expressed to the Board of County Commissioners by parents and teachers over the past few months. County officials wanted to offer an amount that would show they hear the concerns and want to help improve Union County Schools.

The settlement offer includes:

- \$5.3 million that was appropriated by the County on October 21, 2013, to fully fund UCPS FY 2014 Capital request and would increase safety and security for children and in schools, provide for ADA projects, technology needs, maintenance projects, athletic facilities, and \$2.4 million for requested roofing projects
- The County would borrow an additional \$9.4 million for roofs in need of repair as identified by Nelson Hall during the trial, an amount not originally requested by UCPS
- The additional \$9.4 million, along with the other \$8,357,859 previously appropriated, provides a total of \$17.76 million for FY 2014 capital needs, sufficient, based on the roofing expert Nelson Hall’s assessment, to address the current roofing needs
- \$1.8 million to provide classroom teachers an average increase of \$561 per teacher to raise Union County’s teacher’s supplement to the State average



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- \$761,451 in additional funds, from the funding formula trueup, to provide salary increases to UCPS non-classified employees
- Each party would bear its own costs and expense for litigation

Chairman Aikmus, County Manager Cindy Coto and Union County Executive Director of Administrative Services/Chief Financial Officer Jeff Yates discuss the settlement offer on “Union County Conversations,” which can be seen on UCTV 16 or the county’s YouTube site at www.youtube.com/unioncountync.

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