



## Union County Public Information Office

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**For Immediate Release**

### **County Staff Recommends New Budget Process to Commissioners**

**Monroe, NC – March 17, 2014** - Union County staff facilitated the second of three scheduled budget work sessions for the Board of County Commissioners on Monday. In an open meeting, County Finance Director Jeff Yates presented a recommended process on how the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education might work together to improve the budget planning process.

The recommended revised process removes the funding formula that was introduced last year and replaces it with a recommended process based on four core principles: cooperation, transparency, communication and public dialogue. Union County government staff recognizes that the process used last year could be improved upon.

Among the goals of the revised process are to ensure fiscal sustainability and adherence to general state statutes. Union County government also desires to create transparency, gather public input and participate in regular communication with the Board of Education.

The presentation included a chart showing a parallel process of benchmarks for each board to consider, submission guidelines and a new format for budget requests. All these items are recommended with the intention to make the process more clear and not to create more administrative tasks for each group.

Yates concluded by saying that the recommendation this year will provide a predetermined process, not a predetermined financial formula or outcome and that the county is recommending a process based on open communication between the two elected boards with input from the public.

The special meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners advertised for Tuesday, March 18 at 6 p.m. for the purpose of holding a joint meeting with the Board of Education will not be held due to the anticipated lack of a quorum. The lack of a quorum is anticipated to allow members of the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education to attend visitation services due to the death of a parent of a member of the Board of Education. A notice will be posted when the meeting has been rescheduled. The improved recommended process will be presented to the Board of Education at that meeting.

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