

ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JOINT MEETING OF
RUTHERFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANUARY 6, 2005

The Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees met jointly with the Rutherford County Commissioners and the Rutherford County Board of Education on Thursday, January 6, 2005, in Seminar A of The Foundation. The following trustees were present: Ron Paris, Second Vice Chairman; Bobby England, James Hutchins, Jervis Arledge, Terry Hines, Kenny Hankinson, and David Herndon. Staff members present were: Willard Lewis, Myra Johnson, Bruce Waddingham, Kim Gold, Scott Scheer, and Glenda Scruggs.

The following members of the Rutherford County Board of Education were present: John Mark Bennett, Chairman; David Herndon, Gail Parton, Rick Henson, Clarence Campbell, and Ronnie Holland. The following staff members were present: Donna Peters, Pam Hutchins, Anna Renfro, Robin Davis, Janet Mason, Phil Cook, Chris Fuller, and Sandra Tinsley. Dr. Martin Eaddy, Consultant, was also present.

The following members of the Rutherford County Commissioners were present: Charles Hill, Chairman; Chivous Bradley, Paul McIntosh, Amanda King, and Brent Washburn. The following staff members were present: John Condrey, Hazel Haynes, Judy Toney, and Rob Bole.

Morgan Neely from **The Daily Courier** was also present.

Chairmen Charles Hill, John Mark Bennett, and Ron Paris called their respective boards to order.

Dr. Donna Peters discussed the progress of the proposed innovative high school program. Tentatively titled the Rutherford Early College High School, the innovative program has been in the planning stages for the past year. Rutherford County was one of ten municipalities in the state to be awarded seed monies for planning the program and, if approved, would be one of the first high school college programs of its type, not only in North Carolina, but in the United States. Funding for the development of innovative high schools came from the New Schools Project, an organization supported by an \$11 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Peters announced that this spring, Rutherford County Schools, in partnership with Isothermal Community College, will submit another grant application for an implementation grant for the innovative school, which is scheduled to open on the

campus of Isothermal Community College in the fall of 2005. The school will be designed for 300 students with 30 students beginning the program this fall.

Ms. Janet Mason, who has led the planning phase for the innovative school, stated that the goals of the new school would be to reduce the dropout rate, increase the rate of students going to college, and contribute to the economic development of the community. Students may enroll in five curriculum areas: construction technologies, computer engineering, business and finance, medical science and biotechnology, and education.

President Willard Lewis stated that students attending the innovative high school should know that the design of the program is rigorous. Dr. Lewis further stated that since Isothermal Community College partners with several universities to offer four-year degree programs from its Spindale campus, it would be possible for some students to continue studying at Isothermal after earning their associate's degree. Dr. Lewis stated that by creating a better trained workforce, Rutherford County could be more attractive to business.

Dr. Lewis thanked board members for attending the informational session and stated that a formal proposal would be presented to the board at the appropriate time.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.


CHAIRMAN


SECRETARY