

June 21, 2024

Hey all,

Here's this week's report.

Blessings and keep the faith.

Bill

Williamson County Commission

There were **three** meetings of import this week. **On Monday**, there was a hearing on the proposed new facilities for the county jail and the juvenile detention center. There has been a lot of concern from we the people with regards to cost and location of these facilities. I was only able to sit in on the first hour because I had to get over to the school board meeting that started a 6:30 pm.

I am linking you to the power point presentation and all I have to say is that we were told that we have to have these facilities or we are out of compliance with state law and basically behind the times. [Here](#) is the presentation and if I get more info, I will pass it on.

This meeting **should have been recorded** and is one more reason why we need more transparency from our county.

On Thursday, the commission approved the 24-25 county budget and [here](#) is the packet of resolutions and budget info. [Here](#) is the video.

There was a **short special session** just prior to the meeting to approve a resolution to forgive the Energy Savings Program debt payment by the school district for one year in the amount of **\$1,141,922**. The Energy Savings Program was an upgrade to school district buildings to make them more energy efficient. Those upgrades included windows, insulation and the like and was funded by issuing bonds. Each year, the school district gives back the interest on the bonds to the county and this year the county is forgiving the debt payment above.

We've been talking about the school budget for several months that started with a spending to revenue gap of **\$25+ million**. Now we have a budget that actually has a surplus and it looks like below.

After whittling down the **\$25+m** the last **\$7,585,123** was taken care of with teacher's salaries (**\$1,988,956**), technology (**\$3,999,800**), office of principals (**\$454,445**) and the debt forgiveness (**\$1,141,922**).

See pages 77 and 78 below.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION NO.
6-20-24-2 FOR GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND**

GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND		
71100	REGULAR INSTRUCTION	249,010,797
71150	ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION	738,297
71200	SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	81,034,473
71300	VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	10,245,244
71400	SITE BASED PROGRAM	2,035,000
72110	ATTENDANCE	786,664
2120	HEALTH SERVICES	9,511,246
72130	OTHER STUDENT SUPPORT	20,560,570
72210	REGULAR INSTRUCTION PROGRAM	16,581,271
72215	ALTERNATIVE SUPPORT	378,906
72220	SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	11,560,646
72230	VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	557,678
72250	TECHNOLOGY	14,920,427
72310	BOARD OF EDUCATION	25,723,356
72320	OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT	2,463,113
72410	SCHOOL ADMIN-OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL	32,657,834
72510	FISCAL SERVICES	2,862,583
72520	HUMAN RESOURCES/PERSONNEL	3,003,407
72610	OPERATION OF PLANT	23,118,849
72620	MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	13,145,104
72710	STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	25,106,465
73300	COMMUNITY SERVICES	1,563,929
73400	EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	1,051,169
TOTAL GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND		548,617,028

With the approval of Resolution No. SS-6-24-1(\$1,141,922) during the special session of the Williamson County Board of Commissioners, the amended consolidated budget would be as follows:

WILLIAMSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS - GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND
JULY 1 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025

Row Labels	22.23 LY Actual	23.24 CY Original Budget	23.24 CY Revised Budget	24.25 Board	Reduction	Board Approved
141 - GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL						
Revenue	-467,332,856	-474,824,550	-505,207,694	-493,509,547		
40000 - REVENUES	-467,332,856	-474,824,550	-505,207,694	-493,509,547		
Expense	466,633,379	517,589,466	549,451,667	548,617,028	\$ (6,443,201)	\$ 555,060,228
71100 - REGULAR INSTRUCTION	219,876,102	234,386,949	243,793,251	249,010,797	\$ (1,988,956) *	\$ 250,999,752
71150 - ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION	687,841	785,382	849,882	738,297		
71200 - SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTION	66,470,879	75,606,094	79,488,777	81,034,473		
71300 - CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION	9,709,336	9,908,222	10,535,998	10,245,244		
71400 - STUDENT BODY EDUC PRGM	1,780,901	1,970,000	1,970,000	2,035,000		
72110 - ATTENDANCE	561,419	763,572	779,019	786,664		
72120 - HEALTH SERVICES	8,187,426	8,758,813	9,386,605	9,511,246		
72130 - OTHER STUDENT SUPPORT	16,623,586	19,529,229	21,588,252	20,560,571		
72210 - INSTRUCTION SUPPORT	15,186,176	16,082,761	17,026,976	16,581,271		
72215 - ALTERNATIVE SUPPORT	217,051	296,362	375,202	378,906		
72220 - SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT	9,630,410	11,003,368	11,449,624	11,560,646		
72230 - CAREER/TECH EDUC SUPPORT	494,902	547,021	591,352	557,678		
72250 - TECHNOLOGY	12,452,249	14,002,177	14,182,478	14,920,427	\$ (3,999,800) **	\$ 18,920,227
72310 - BOARD OF EDUCATION	8,338,678	23,888,571	9,739,450	25,723,356		
72320 - OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT	1,943,966	2,267,744	2,412,552	2,463,113		
72410 - OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL	29,374,702	31,073,904	32,387,502	32,657,834	\$ (454,445) ***	\$ 33,112,279
72510 - FISCAL SERVICES	2,332,872	2,647,771	2,777,771	2,862,583		
72520 - HUMAN SERVICES/PERSONNEL	2,340,987	2,576,600	2,715,215	3,003,407		
72610 - OPERATION OF PLANT	20,111,944	22,539,183	23,016,609	23,118,849		
72620 - MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	11,256,657	12,415,006	14,573,822	13,145,104		
72710 - TRANSPORTATION	24,611,491	24,063,623	28,390,963	25,106,465		
73300 - COMMUNITY SERVICES	1,304,838	1,529,394	1,592,144	1,563,929		
73400 - EARLY CHILDHOOD/PRE K	896,279	947,720	1,006,703	1,051,169		
99100 - TRANSFERS OUT	2,132,000.00	0.00	3,252,690.00	0.00		
141 - GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL Total						
Grand Total	-699,477	42,764,916	44,243,973	55,107,481		

\$ (493,509,547) PROJECTED REVENUE
 \$ (71,759,287) EST FUND BALANCE 6/12/24
\$ (565,268,834) TOTAL RESOURCES
 \$ 548,617,028 EXPENSES
 \$ 16,458,511 3%
\$ 565,075,538 TOTAL EXP AND 3%

\$ (193,296) NO GAP

Notice the \$193,296 surplus.

There will be no tax increase, it will stay at \$1.88 per \$100 of assessed value.

Resolution No. 6-20-24-4
Requested by: Finance Director

FILED 6/6/24
ENTERED 11:55 a.m.
JEFF WHIDBY, COUNTY CLERK J W

**RESOLUTION FIXING THE TAX LEVY IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY,
TENNESSEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024**

SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Williamson County, Tennessee, assembled in regular session on this **20th day of June, 2024**, that the combined property tax rate for Williamson County, Tennessee, for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2024**, shall be **\$1.88** on each \$100 of taxable property, which is to provide revenue for each of the following funds and otherwise conform to the following levies:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>RATE</u>
County General Fund	\$.38
Solid Waste/Sanitation Fund	.05
General Purpose Schools Fund	1.09
General Debt Service Fund	.22
Rural Debt Service Fund	.14
Total	\$1.88

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certain revenues including the county's portion of local option sales tax and interest income are allocated at the designated amount in this document to the respective funds.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all revenue collected from the business tax for the 2024-25 fiscal year designated for the Highway/Public Works Fund that exceeds \$3,550,000, and all revenue collected from the wheel tax for the 2024-25 fiscal year designated for the Highway/Public Works Fund that exceeds \$5,000,000, shall be designated to the Williamson County General Fund.

SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Resolutions of the Board of County Commissioners of Williamson County, Tennessee, which are in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it. This resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

Passed this 20th day of June, 2024.



Chas Morton, County Commissioner

Everything else in the budget passed. Do take some time to peruse the 81 pages if you want to see more detail.

[Here](#) is the schedule for next week.

Williamson County School Board

There was a full board meeting on Monday. [Agenda video](#)

Video segments of interest and their times are approximate:

Superintendent contract renewal and extension 59

Pay increases for arts teachers 1:15

School safety 1:17

Bullying 1:19

22 students failed the TCAP this year 1:19:30

Celebration of student successes 1:22

Superintendent evaluation 1:30

Amended budget 1:39

Supplemental pay inequities 1:45

New library policy 2:54

PECCA 3:08

Superintendent Golden talked about safety in our schools to include all students feeling safe in the classroom setting. He talked about bullying and the fact that it was highest in the middle schools. He mentioned that addressing bullying was a very high priority. The board Extended Golden's contract for one year which, with the 6% increase, would make it **\$348,740**. Vote was 9 yes, and two no who were Donna Clements and Dan Cash.

The budget got a lot of discussion. It turns out that we have gone from a **\$25+ m gap** to a **\$193,296 surplus**. There was a long discussion on whether or not to use this surplus to increase art teacher's pay. An amendment was put forth by Jay Gailbreath that the surplus be used for the art/band teachers. It was voted down with the idea that it will be taken up later. Rick Wimberly mentioned that all teachers and staff are underpaid without exception and Eric Welch mentioned that there are a number of teachers and staff who go above and beyond their job description who should be included as well. The amended budget passed 11-0

The Library policy got a fair amount of discussion which was mostly a re-hash of past discussions. It passed 8-3, Welch, Haugh, and Wimberly were the three nos.

PECCA is new to me, and you can read the policy and memorandum in the agenda and watch the video. Basically, it is teacher input and this year they have changed the amounts of supplemental income for a few job descriptions including band and drama. It passed 10-1 with Gailbreath voting no.

Point of clarification

After last month's school board meeting, I published the following on 5/24:

Several board members spoke about this policy. **Rick Wimberly** noted that we have 50 librarians in the district and each of them, in order to evaluate 15% of their collection, would have to read approx. 1,800 each year. **Eric Welch** noted that the district has been notified that 118 books are ready to be challenged (I checked with the superintendent's office and got this response:

"Williamson County Schools does not have a current book challenge. You can email Mr. Welch to see who he was talking about during the meeting.")

I neglected to contact Mr. Welch before publishing my 5/24 Recap. I should have contacted Mr. Welch and gotten clarification from him.

To be clear, this is what he said:

"We've already had a group who has submitted a list to us of 118 books that they disagree with, that exists". He used the terms **submitted** and **to us**. Go to approx. 2:27:01 [here](#) to see for yourself.

Since then, I have communicated with him and asked him for further clarification and this is what I got from an email he sent:

"I never stated that WCS had received that many formal book challenges, but that there were groups who'd indicated that they had existing lists that length. The number I referenced refers to an ongoing lawsuit and I can't expand beyond that. Another example is when I testified at the Capitol and another speaker referenced more than one hundred books they'd identified and were ready to challenge. Had you asked me this earlier & directly I would have happily clarified for you, but you did not. You misunderstood and you not-so-subtly suggested I was lying in both your email to me and your MFL update."

I asked for further clarification and, until now, I've gotten no reply. I asked him to explain what he meant by **"submitted"** and **"to us"** and he has not responded. So, as far as I'm concerned, the matter is closed and I accept his clarification, such as it is.

There are no school board meetings in July.

Williamson County Election Commission

There were no meetings this week and none are scheduled for next week.

Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA)

There wasn't much this week, but next week is loaded [here](#)

School board election

All six republican candidates could use some help.

The election is on August 1st. and early voting runs from July 12-27. We need folks who are willing to do the following:

Knock on doors for the candidates. Face to face, person to person is very powerful. It lets people know that the election is important and why. It also allows the homeowner to ask questions and get clarification on the issues. As we get schedules from the candidates, we will be sending out **a signup genius for each candidate.**

Put up yard signs. First, you can put a yard sign at your home (if you live in an odd district). Secondly, we may have a need for a few of us to put out signs for some of the candidates and finally, you can encourage friends and neighbors who live in an odd district to take a sign.

Hold signs at voting places. During early voting and on election day, we need people to hold signs at voting locations. It may be hard to believe, but many people who come to vote don't know much about any of the candidates. At the last election, I was holding a sign for a candidate and several people stopped to ask about her and some of them were very favorable after talking with us.

Attend and encourage others to attend any event put on by the candidate(s). Meet and greets, campaign kickoffs, debates and forums are great places for potential voters to size up the candidates. The more we get people out to see our candidates the better.

Talk to people at your church, service organization, Bible study, bridge club etc. We all need to be talking about the candidates and recruiting everyone we know to get informed and get involved. This is a group effort and we all need to pitch in to ensure that our candidates become school board members and not also rans.

Write them a check. Campaigns aren't free. Flyers, yard signs, text messages, videos all cost money.

Here are the candidates:

District 1
Republican Tony Bostic. [website](#)

District 3
Republican Dr. Dennis Driggers [website](#)

District 5
Republican Dr. Margie Johnson. [website](#)

District 7
Republican Angela Beaton [website](#)

District 9
Republican Claire Reeves [website](#)

District 11
Republican Tonja Hibma [website](#)

District 65 Election

I am supporting Michelle Foreman, and this is her [website](#).

If not me, who?
If not now, when?

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1)