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"PCS provides learning experiences that equip every student to achieve their potential and enrich their community."

Superintendent
Dr. Brad Breedlove

June 22, 2026

Pender County Board of Commissioners

Chair Randy Burton
805 South Walker Street
Burgaw, NC 28425

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Pender County Board of Education, and as we have discussed, we respectfully request a joint meeting between our two boards at the earliest mutually agreeable date to discuss the fiscal challenges facing Pender County Schools and the educational impacts resulting from the current county funding allocation.

As elected officials, we share a common responsibility to serve the citizens of Pender County and to ensure that our students receive the educational opportunities and support necessary for their success. The funding level approved for the 2026-2027 fiscal year creates significant concerns regarding our ability to maintain critical services that directly support student achievement, school safety, transportation, exceptional children's services, academic intervention programs, and the recruitment and retention of qualified staff.

The Board of Education believes that a collaborative discussion is necessary to fully communicate the consequences of the current funding shortfall and to explore potential solutions that will minimize the negative impact on our students, families, and employees. We recognize the fiscal pressures facing the county and appreciate the difficult decisions required during the budget process. However, we also believe that an open dialogue between our boards is essential to ensuring that all decision-makers have a clear understanding of the educational consequences associated with insufficient funding.

Our goal is not simply to discuss budget numbers, but to examine how funding decisions translate into services provided to children in our classrooms every day. We believe a joint meeting would provide an opportunity for productive conversation, transparency, and a shared commitment to the future of Pender County.

We respectfully request that this meeting be scheduled as soon as practicable and are willing to work with county staff to identify a date and time that accommodates both boards.

925 Penderlea Highway Burgaw, North Carolina 28425 · Telephone 910-259-2187 · Fax 910-250-0133 · <https://pender.k12.nc.us>

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the citizens of Pender County. We look forward to working together in support of our students and community.

Sincerely,

Don Hall
Board Chair, Pender County Board of Education