

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 8, 2014 2:42 PM

**To:** 'Ridenhour, Matthew R.'; 'Fuller, Trevor M.'; 'Marvin Bethune'

**Cc:** 'Clarke, Dumont'; 'Ratliff, Kim M.'; 'Pat Cotham'; 'Bentley, Karen'; 'Leake, Vilma'; 'Dunlap, George'; 'Diorio, Dena R.'

**Subject:** secret sales tax increase meeting with CMS

**Importance:** High

7-8-2014

Matt –

Thanks for the heads up about the meeting. Secret meetings to talk about how to divvy up a tax increase or how to plot to present it to the public are unseemly and diminish the Board as a whole. I hope that those planning this cabal thing again about the wisdom of having such a meeting.

With a personnel matter there was the information of a potential employee to protect. This meeting sounds like a secret planning meeting to figure out how to present the sales tax proposal to the media/public without them knowing about the details in advance. If the Democrats want to do that they should just go somewhere else other than the government center to hatch their plans. They certainly shouldn't involve the County Manager and sup.

Attached are excerpts of two board policies. The first entitled '*Consideration of Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board issues*' was adopted May 7, 1990. I don't recall it was ever repealed.

That policy (page 95) requires that if a BOCC policy is decision is required (e.g. how to allocate sales taxes on a proposed tax increase), '*the matter and all background information will be submitted to the [BOCC] at a regular/special meeting ONLY AFTER it has been discussed and approved by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board*'. The object is to require that the School board REQUEST specific items from us and then the full board discuss them. Having the Democrats on the School board meet in secret with the Democrats on the County Commission and hatch a plan with the County Manager and Sup isn't the process the board policy endorses.

The second policy says '*the following meetings shall also be open to the public and any persons is entitled to attend such meetings*'. Then it lists 'meetings among the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board AND another party'.

Section IV of this policy says that '*any county official who plans to participate in such a meeting shall be responsible for notifying the County [PS&I]*'

Whether these policies still exist I don't know but they existed under the Republicans to prevent this exact sort of activity.

Recently, the media sniffed out the secret plan to put the sales tax on the ballot and disclosed it. Now, there is another secret meeting to either (a) work up a plan to market it to taxpayers (using government resources which is against state law by the way), and/or (b) to work up a funding formula for the tax increase that should be debated and discussed in the open.

I would point out that government resources of ANY kind can't be used to promote or support a ballot initiative. Ultimately, what is the reason for meeting with CMS and the various managers but to coordinate ballot support in violation of state law. Specifically, this includes e-mails via government servers, PTA lists maintained by schools, CMS copiers, employee time and efforts.

Bill