

Monroe A. Miller Jr.  
19 Big Spruce Lane  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
August 5, 2014

**Subject:** My Public Comment at the August 4<sup>th</sup> County Commission Meeting.

“We met with Dr. Doris Hammett last Thursday to discuss the “Funding Formula”. She is a delightful person, 90 years old and sharp as a tack.

The next day, Friday, she sent an e-mail to Chuck Francis, Chairman of the Haywood County Board of Education. She copied the entire elected Board of Education and send an additional e-mail to you all, the elected Board of County Commissioners.

Since all of you received this e-mail, I’m going to read her e-mail now for the benefit of the citizens of Haywood County, here in this courtroom, and for those watching this video.

Dear Mr. Francis:

My meeting with Monroe Miller was interesting and informative. I found his figures documented and definitive. I found the use of the “funding formula” historically unreliable and if it is to continue to be used, the funding compared with this years increase per pupil of 2.33%, next year 2014-2015 will be 0.89%. Social Security (COLA) is 1.5%. This year’s increase does not cover the needs of our Haywood County students to give each child the opportunity to develop his/her capabilities to the full extent.

My position is that every individual, business, community, organization and church has a responsibility to see that our schools have this funding. This responsibility begins with the Haywood County Commissioners and the Board of Education. Our elected officials must resolve the problem with the “funding formula” for our school system. I cannot pass the responsibility of inadequate funding to the federal and state governments although each share part of the funding difficulty.

I will continue to work for our students in the many ways available, but I cannot ask individuals, business, organizations, communities or churches to do so until our elected leaders understand and resolve the problem of the “funding formula”. I shall delete the topic on our agenda for the upcoming Conference with the Foundation on “Excellence in Education” August 7th . I cannot ask the support of the Board of Education for solicitation of the community until the concern of the “funding formula” is resolved. The community needs the leadership of the Commissioners and the Board of Education.

Doris B. Hammett, MD

Your call, Gentlemen.  
Thank you.”

**[Editors Note:** Commissioners sat stone-faced during and after this public comment. At the end of the public comment period, when commissioners usually comment on the public comments, they discussed the old prison revitalization, the purchase of the hospital by Duke, but not a single peep regarding the “Funding Formula”. I was completely ignored.]