

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, January 11, 2018, in the Board Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Priscilla M. Ligon, Vice Chairman
David S. Cassise
Jennifer E. Cumby
Francisco D. Mayo
Craig S. Terwilliger
Abby J. Thompson

Haleigh Tomlin, Student Representative

ABSENT: None

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order and asked that a moment of silence be observed.

Mr. Henderson asked if there were any changes to the agenda for the January 11, 2018, regular School Board meeting. There being none, Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda.

Upon motion by Mr. Terwilliger, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the January 11, 2018, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was a performance from Amherst Middle School students.

Dr. Nichols introduced Mrs. Amy Snead, Principal at Amherst Middle School. Mrs. Snead introduced Mrs. Linda Zabloski and Mrs. Ann Hartman, teachers at Amherst Middle School. Mrs. Zabloski provided an overview of the play that sixth grade Amherst Middle School students wrote on anti-bullying. Mrs. Zabloski stated the students would be performing a couple of parts of the play. Mrs. Hartman assisted with the choral part of the program. The students performed two parts of the play for the members of the Amherst County School Board.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was a presentation from the elementary Math 24 Team.

Dr. Nichols introduced Dr. Brendon Albon. Dr. Albon introduced four elementary students who participated in the Math 24 Team. The students competed against members of the Amherst County School Board.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was public comment.

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one addressed the Board.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of File JR -- Videotaping of Students, to the Amherst County Public Schools Policy Manual.

After discussing the proposed policy, Board members recommended additional revisions. The members of the Amherst County School Board delayed taking action on proposed policy JR – Videotaping of Students until the February 8, 2018, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the December 14, 2017, regular School Board minutes and confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of December 11, 2017, through January 5, 2018.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was an update on accountability measures.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Rogers would share information regarding accountability measures.

Dr. Rogers stated that Dr. Nichols received notification that the meeting with the Virginia Department of Education regarding accountability was changed from January 5, 2018 to February 22, 2018.

Dr. Rogers shared information with the members of the Amherst County School Board regarding the usage of the Wi-Fi at Elon Elementary School after hours. Board members asked the administrative staff to notify all schools that the public could use the Wi-Fi at Elon Elementary School, Monday through Friday from 5 p.m. through 9 p.m.

Dr. Rogers informed members of the Amherst County School Board that bullying instruction is provided to all students on an annual basis.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was an update from Human Resources.

Dr. Nichols stated that Dr. Rogers would provide an update from Human Resources.

Dr. Rogers provided Board members a letter from Mr. Jay Parker, representative of the YMCA regarding the program funding in Amherst County Public Schools. Dr. Rogers requested the Board to consider approving the funding to continue the YMCA program at Temperance Elementary School next year, so that it may be advertised earlier.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the financial reports.

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would share information with the Board regarding the financial reports.

Mrs. Crouch stated the budget monitoring reports, revenue reports, revenue receipts, budget summary by object and enrollment information for the month of December 2017 was available to Board members on BoardDocs.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was information concerning the 2016-2017 County Audit.

Mrs. Crouch distributed information regarding the 2016-2017 County Audit. Mrs. Couch asked Board members to review the information and let her know if there were questions or wished to discuss the audit during the School Board Retreat.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was an update on facilities.

Dr. Nichols stated Mr. Cocke would not provide an update on facilities.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was student suspensions.

Dr. Nichols stated the student suspension report for December 2017 was at their place.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was Superintendent Matters.

Dr. Nichols informed Board members there was not a need to have a reorganizational meeting in January.

Dr. Nichols asked if the School Board Retreat could be changed from Thursday, February 22, 2018 to Wednesday, February 28, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The consensus of the Board was to change the meeting. Mr. Mayo asked that the agenda for the School Board Retreat be provided to all Board members at least a week before the meeting.

Dr. Nichols stated he will present the Proposed Superintendent's 2018-2019 School Operational Budget on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Nichols stated there will be a Student Discipline Hearing prior to the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Nichols stated that Mrs. Cumby, Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Mayo will be serving on the discipline committee for the second semester.

Dr. Nichols stated all offices will be closed on Friday, January 12, 2018 and Monday, January 15, 2018.

Dr. Nichols informed Board members that Ms. Nicole Steenburgh, reporter for the Amherst-Nelson newspaper would be leaving. Dr. Nichols stated that Ms. Steenburgh had done a great job reporting information for the school division and wished her the best.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was information from Board members.

Mrs. Thompson stated the archery tournament at Sweet Briar College was a success. Mrs. Thompson stated she enjoyed the play the Amherst Middle School students performed. Mrs. Thompson suggested rescheduling the transportation meeting from Friday, January 12, 2018 to Friday, January 19, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., at the Transportation Department.

Mr. Mayo stated both groups of students did a great job. Mr. Mayo stated he had attended a couple of girls' basketball games.

Mrs. Cumby welcomed Mr. Cassise as the newest elected member to the Amherst County School Board.

Mrs. Cumby stated she attended the archery tournament at Sweet Briar College. Mrs. Cumby stated she enjoyed the play as well as the Math 24 games.

Mr. Terwilliger stated he enjoyed both performances and welcomed Mr. Cassise to the Board.

Mr. Cassise stated he enjoyed the performances. Mr. Cassise thanked everyone for the warm welcome and hospitality.

Ms. Tomlin stated she enjoyed the performance by the Amherst Middle School students and the Math 24 games.

Mrs. Ligon wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mrs. Ligon stated she enjoyed the middle school performance. Mrs. Ligon stated she had attended several basketball games. Mrs. Ligon expressed appreciation to the administrative staff for the delayed openings and closing of schools due to weather.

Mrs. Ligon expressed concern about the number of students in the high school band. Mrs. Ligon stated students need to be encouraged to stay in the arts.

Mr. Henderson reminded Board members the luncheon for the Amherst Education Foundation was Friday, January 19, 2018, at Sweet Briar College.

Mr. Henderson reminded Board members the Statement of Economic Interest was due by February 1, 2018.

Mr. Henderson asked if Amherst County Public Schools had a Title IX compliance officer.

Dr. Rogers stated that she was the Title IX compliance officer for Amherst County Public Schools.

Mr. Henderson thanked Ms. Steenburgh for her support of the school division.

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one addressed the Board.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was a closed session for personnel matters.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mrs. Ligon, seconded by Mr. Cassise and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for personnel matters.

Upon motion by Mrs. Ligon, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board resumed their meeting in open session.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Amherst County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative record and in accordance with provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2 - 3712 (D) and 2.2 - 3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in accordance with provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Amherst County School Board hereby certifies that to the best of each members knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which certification applies, and (ii) only such public matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

Upon motion by Mr. Cassise, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board certified that they discussed only permissible topics.

AYES: Henderson, Liggon, Cumby, Mayo, Thompson, Terwilliger, Cassise

NAYS: None

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools