

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, January 12, 2017, in the Board Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:10 p.m.

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

Nathan Gowdy, Student Representative

ABSENT: Randy V. Summers

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order, asked that a moment of silence be observed, and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Henderson asked if there were any changes to the January 12, 2017, regular School Board meeting agenda. There being none, Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board approved the January 12, 2017, regular School Board meeting agenda as presented.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was recognition of school bus drivers and transportation staff.

Dr. Rogers expressed appreciation to the bus drivers and transportation staff for their hard work and dedication to serving the students of Amherst County Public Schools. Dr. Rogers introduced Mr. David Randall, Supervisor of Transportation.

Mr. Randall expressed his appreciation to the bus drivers. Mr. Randall introduced Mr. William Cox, President of the Bus Driver Association, Mrs. Tina Cox, Vice President of the Bus Association, and Mrs. Deborah Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer of the Bus Driver Association. Mr. Randall recognized the bus drivers who were in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Cox expressed appreciation to the Board for the bonuses that were provided to all contracted employees. Mr. Cox asked Board members to consider salary increases for school bus drivers during the upcoming budget discussions.

Mr. Henderson thanked the bus drivers and transportation staff for their dedication and hard work.

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

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

The following people addressed the Board:

Mrs. Julie Steele	146 Newberry Street	Madison Heights, Virginia 24572
Mrs. Carmen Sitton	124 Forbes Street	Madison Heights, Virginia 24572

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to approve the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the December 8, 2016, regular School Board meeting, and the confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period December 5, 2016 through January 6, 2017.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to discuss the transition from appointed School Board to elected School Board.

Dr. Rogers introduced Mr. Sam Vance, Attorney with Overbey, Hawkins, and Wright. Dr. Rogers stated Mr. Vance was available to answer questions that Board members may have regarding the transition process.

Mr. Vance provided information regarding his background as an attorney and stated he was attending the meeting on behalf of Mr. Frank Wright, attorney with Overbey, Hawkins, and Wright. Mr. Vance referenced the letter that Mr. Frank Wright provided to Board members at the December 8, 2016, regular School Board meeting. The letter outlined the process for transitioning from an appointed School Board to an elected School Board.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information regarding the process. Additional questions will need to be answered by Mrs. Fran Brown, Registrar for Amherst County. Board members agreed that they would like to continue with the seven member School Board; however, no formal action was taken. The Board will continue its discussion at the February 9, 2017, regular School Board meeting and consider taking action on the term of the two at-large positions.

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

Dr. Rogers stated that Dr. Norman would provide an update on accountability measures.

Dr. Norman provided the following information regarding accountability measures:

Under the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding between ACPS and VDOE, I am submitting information to you regarding the tasks completed or in progress with Amelon Elementary, Central Elementary, and Madison Heights Elementary. Details are as follows:

- 1. The Reconstitution Plan for Amelon Elementary School has been submitted to the VDOE Office of School Improvement and will be presented to the State Board of Education at their January meeting.*
- 2. The Memorandum of Understanding for Central Elementary and Madison Heights Elementary has been submitted to the VDOE Office of School*

Improvement and will be presented to the State Board of Education at their January meeting.

3. The draft Corrective Action Plans for Central Elementary and Madison Heights Elementary have been presented to each staff, as well as parent and community groups by each school's principal. Additional meetings are being scheduled for later this month.

a. The drafts have also been reviewed with members of the Education Foundation Board to gain additional input.

b. All revisions are to be finalized by January 30th, signed by the Superintendent and submitted to VDOE Office of School Improvement.

c. The State Superintendent will then sign the Corrective Action Plans, and they will be submitted to the State Board of Education at their February meeting.

4. Please Note the Update of Previous Mentioned Items in Red Regarding the Various Tasks Required by VDOE.

a. Provide the School Board with monthly updates regarding the improvement process. Documentation must be submitted to the Office of School Improvement each month confirming this has been completed. Ongoing

b. All members of the School Board, along with administrative staff, must attend School Improvement training that is being provided by VDOE in conjunction with VSBA.

i. VSBA Executive Director, Gina Patterson has contacted Dr. Nichols to schedule the governance training required under the established MOU. It requires the entire Board and Superintendent to participate in the all-day training. The training must take place before May 1, 2017. (training in Charlottesville)

c. The Superintendent and Instructional Team must meet with VDOE in Richmond tri-annually. Next meeting has been confirmed by VDOE for March 29, 2017.

d. An asset mapping review for Amherst County will be completed by a team from VDOE in conjunction with members of senior staff. No action from state on this.

e. An Instructional Audit will be conducted by members of the English, math, science and Special Services departments in VDOE with recommendations provided to ACPS and the Office of School Improvement. No action from state on this.

5. A new system of monitoring school performance will be implemented in 2017-2018 school year that will replace the current Indistar program (no longer funded by VDOE). No action from state on this.

6.A Quarterly Data Report from Amelon, Central, and Madison Heights Elementary must be submitted to VDOE Office of School Improvement February 10, 2017, April 14, 2017 and June 30, 2017. Principals are currently compiling first quarter data - due to Director by January 20th.

NOTE: The Office of School Improvement is providing a state contractor to work 6 hours a week for 11-15 weeks with the three schools not fully accredited. The contractor has been assigned and will begin meeting with ACPS personnel in January 2017. To date we have not been contacted by the state contractor.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. Board members asked that copies of the MOU and the draft corrective action plan be provided. Dr. Norman stated she would email the information to Board members.

Dr. Norman provided an update from Mr. Joe Goldman, Supervisor of Technology, regarding upgrades to bandwidth and networks for Amherst County Public Schools.

Dr. Norman stated a copy of the travel authorization report for October 2016 through December 2016, had been provided to Board members.

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

Dr. Rogers shared some dates with Board members for the Virginia Department of Education mandatory training that will need to occur for School Board members and the Superintendent prior to May 1, 2017. Dr. Rogers stated that Dr. Norman briefly spoke about the training during her update to Board members concerning school improvement. Board members provided Dr. Rogers a couple of dates for the training.

Dr. Rogers informed Board members that she had met with the Mr. Fitz Rodgers, Representative from RCM& D, the health insurance consultant. Dr. Rogers stated that Mr. Rodgers plans to attend the School Board Retreat to review health insurance options for the 2017-2018 school year.

Dr. Rogers provided an update on the Pleasant View Elementary School transition committee. Dr. Rogers stated the Pleasant View Elementary parent letter from Mr. O'Brien will be mailed out on Friday, January 13, 2017.

Dr. Rogers informed Board members that Temperance Elementary School was planning an open house on February 2, 2017, for the students who will be transferring from Pleasant View Elementary School to Temperance Elementary School for the 2017-18 school year. An open house will be scheduled at Elon Elementary School in the near future for the Pleasant View Elementary School students who will be transferring to Elon for the 2017-18 school year.

Dr. Rogers asked if the discussion regarding the information provided to Board members for out-of-zone students could be discussed during the School Board Retreat. Board members agreed that information regarding out-of-zone students could be discussed during the School Board Retreat.

Dr. Rogers informed Board members there is a change to the grievance policy that has taken effect immediately. Dr. Rogers stated in the past the employee would submit the grievance to the Human Resources Department and the determination would be made from that office whether or not the employee's grievance was valid. The change is: If the employee does not agree with the decision of the

Human Resources Office the employee can appeal the decision to the Board. Dr. Rogers stated that additional information on the change in policy will be forthcoming.

Dr. Rogers informed the Board that the bonuses would be paid on January 13, 2017. Dr. Rogers expressed appreciation to the staff in the business office and the county accounting office for their work in processing the bonuses.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the budget monitoring reports.

Dr. Rogers stated Mrs. Crouch would provide information regarding the budget monitoring reports.

Mrs. Crouch stated the Board members had at their place the budget monitoring reports, revenue receipts, the budget summary by object code, and enrollment information for December 2016. Mrs. Crouch stated the average daily membership for November 2016 was 3951. Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. No action was taken. Mrs. Crouch informed Board members the cost of the bonuses for employees was \$347,844.

Mrs. Crouch reviewed the calendar for the preparation of the 2017-18 School Operational Budget. The Board agreed to schedule the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2017-18 School Operational Budget for Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the School Administration Office. The Board also agreed to schedule the School Board Retreat for Thursday, February 26, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., in the School Administration Office. The consensus of the Board was to approve the proposed 2017-18 budget discussion calendar.

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

Dr. Rogers stated Mr. Cocke would provide an update on the facilities.

Mr. Cocke provided Board members an update on the following PPEA projects:

Southern Air is working on jobs at various schools.

Roof Replacements at various schools

Construction projects that had been approved by the School Board members.

Dr. Rogers informed Board members that a list of student suspensions for December 2016 was at their place. Dr. Rogers informed Board members there was an error on the report for Monelison Middle School which showed zero suspensions. Information will be provided to Board members during the OCR update from Hollie Jennings at the February 9, 2017, School Board meeting.

Dr. Rogers informed Board members that Principals' Appreciation Week is January 22, 2017-January 28, 2017. Dr. Rogers stated a breakfast will be provided for principals at their meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, and Mr. Henderson plans to attend.

Dr. Rogers stated the Archery Tournament will be held at Sweet Briar College on Saturday, January 14, 2017. Dr. Rogers invited Board members to attend.

Dr. Rogers stated the Honey Bee Festival has been renamed to the Blue Ridge Blossom Festival. The Blue Ridge Blossom Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2017.

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

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board. The following person addressed the Board:

Mrs. Carmen Sitton 124 Forbes Street Madison Heights, Virginia 24521

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

Mrs. Cumby expressed her appreciation to the bus drivers for their hard work and dedication; she thanked Amherst Elementary School for the refreshments, and thanked the school and county finance departments for processing the bonuses.

Mr. Mayo also expressed his appreciation to the bus drivers for their hard work and dedication; he thanked Amherst Elementary School for the refreshments, and expressed appreciation to the school administration staff and county finance department for processing the bonuses.

Mrs. Thompson expressed her appreciation to the bus drivers for their hard work and dedication; she thanked Amherst Elementary School for the refreshments, thanked the school and county finance departments for processing the bonuses and thanked Dr. Rogers for stepping in during Dr. Nichols absence.

Mr. Terwilliger thanked the bus drivers for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Terwilliger asked Dr. Norman to provide him the approved copies of the reconstituted school plans for Amelon Elementary School, Central Elementary School and Madison Heights Elementary School.

Mr. Gowdy thanked the bus drivers for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Gowdy asked Board members to come out and support the basketball team. Mr. Gowdy informed Board members that the one act plays will be held at Amherst County High School on January 19 and 20, 2017. Mr. Gowdy asked Mr. Cocke if he could provide any information on the outdoor classroom at Amherst County High School. Mr. Cocke stated that he could talk with Dr. Wells about the outdoor classroom.

Mrs. Liggon expressed her appreciation to the bus drivers for their hard work and dedication; she thanked Amherst Elementary School for the refreshments, and thanked the school and county finance departments for processing the bonuses. Mrs. Liggon stated she enjoyed attending the basketball games.

Mrs. Liggon asked Dr. Rogers what type of wellness benefits does Amherst County Public Schools provided employees. Dr. Rogers provided Board members a few of the benefits employees receive regarding wellness.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the *Christmas Carol* play at Amherst County High School and the students did an outstanding job.

Mr. Henderson stated that Board members had at their place an invitation for the Amherst County Public Schools Education Foundation luncheon scheduled for Friday January 27, 2017.

Mr. Henderson asked Dr. Rogers if Board members were required to attend the staff development on Friday, January 13, 2017. Dr. Rogers stated that Board members were welcome to attend; however, it was not a requirement.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the reorganizational meeting of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Henderson stated Mrs. Claudia Tucker was the new chair person. Mr. Henderson stated that Mrs. Tucker had asked if the school system was working with anyone to provide before and after school child care at Temperance Elementary School. Dr. Rogers stated that Dr. Nichols has a meeting scheduled with a representative from the YMCA in early February. Dr. Rogers stated that she and Mr. O'Brien both have made contact with YMCA regarding this matter.

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools