

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, January 14, 2016, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Alan J. Wood, Chairman
W. Michael Henderson, Vice Chairman
Jennifer E. Cumby
Priscilla M. Liggon
Patricia C. Massie
Randy V. Summers

Camryn Garrett, Student Representative

ABSENT: Alan H. Bumgarner

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

Mr. Wood asked if there were any changes to the agenda of the January 14, 2016, regular School Board meeting. There were none.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the January 14, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the January 14, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to recognize the schools who received the Title I Distinguished Award.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Rogers would provide information on the schools who received the Title I Distinguished Award.

Dr. Rogers stated that Amherst Elementary School and Pleasant View Elementary School received the Title I Distinguished School Award from the Virginia Department of Education. Dr. Rogers introduced Mrs. Julie Steele, Principal at Amherst Elementary School, and Mr. Michael O'Brien, Principal at Pleasant View Elementary School, for this honor. Mr. O'Brien recognized two teachers from Pleasant View Elementary School who attended the meeting. Dr. Nichols awarded Mrs. Steele and Mr. O'Brien with a Certificate of Recognition.

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

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

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was the consent agenda. Mr. Wood asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Henderson asked Dr. Rogers about a new hire at Amherst County High School. Dr. Rogers stated that was a budgeted math position that had been filled. Dr. Rogers stated because the position had not been filled, teachers at Amherst County High School had taught extra classes to accommodate the students.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mrs. Cumby, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda items: minutes of the December 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting; confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period December 7, 2015 through January 8, 2016; and the Amherst County Public Schools' Technology Plan Addendum for 2016-2018.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman would provide an update on accountability measures.

Dr. Norman informed the Board that representatives from the Virginia Department of Education had completed their visits to Amelon Elementary School, Central Elementary School and Madison Heights Elementary School. Dr. Norman stated Amherst County Public Schools is currently working in the 45 day window to implement the changes recommended by the Virginia Department of Education.

Dr. Norman informed Board members that information is being gathered for the Challenged School Report which includes information for Amherst County High School, Amherst Middle School, Amelon Elementary School, Central Elementary School and Madison Heights Elementary School. Information for the Challenged School Report will include information from the following departments:

- Human Resources Office
- Student Management Office
- Master Data Information
- Employee Attendance – Payroll Office
- Teacher Observations

Dr. Norman stated the Challenged School Report is due to the Virginia Department of Education by February 16, 2016.

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Marymargaret Cardwell, Supervisor of Federal Programs, and Mr. Wayne Lyle, Supervisor of Humanities, would provide information to the Board concerning the Title I program for the 2015-16 school year and information from the Humanities content area.

Mrs. Cardwell, Supervisor of Federal Programs, provided information to the Board regarding the Title I and Reading Programs for Amherst County Public Schools for the 2015-16 school year.

Mr. Lyle, Supervisor of Humanities, provided information to the Board on the United Way/Smart Beginnings Grant. Mr. Lyle also provided an update on the Virginia Department of Education's 2015 History and Social Science Standards of Learning. Mr. Lyle discussed information on the timeline for updating and implementing the new Standards of Learning.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information. No action was taken by the Board.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman would discuss information regarding an update on bandwidth services for Amherst County Public Schools.

Dr. Norman stated in October 2015, Mr. Joe Goldman, Supervisor of Technology, provided information to the Board regarding updating bandwidth services for Amherst County Public Schools. Dr. Norman stated at that time Mr. Hawkins, School Board Attorney, did not recommend accepting the ten year contract that Shentel had originally submitted. Dr. Norman informed Board members that Shentel submitted a revised proposed contract to update bandwidth services for Amherst County Public Schools and Verizon did not submit a revised contract. Dr. Norman stated that Shentel's revised contract is for five years and does not include any additional costs from the original proposal. Dr. Norman stated there was no change to the services Shentel will provide. Dr. Norman stated Mr. Hawkins had reviewed the revised contract. Dr. Norman asked the Board if they wished to approve the revised contract with Shentel.

Mr. Wood stated the Board would consider approving the revised contract for bandwidth services at the January 28, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Rogers did not have an update concerning Human Resources.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was the budget monitoring reports, revenue reports, revenue receipts and other financial reports.

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would discuss the information.

Mrs. Crouch stated that Board members had at their place the budget monitoring reports, revenue reports, receipts, and other financial reports for the month of December 2015. Mrs. Crouch stated information regarding student enrollment was also at their place.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. No action was taken.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Mr. Cocke did not have an update on facilities.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was information items from Dr. Nichols.

Dr. Nichols shared the following information:

- Amherst County High School received \$7,500 from Automated Conveyor Systems, Inc., for the art department and computers
- Superintendent's Proposed FY17 School Operational Budget will be presented at the January 28, 2016, regular School Board meeting
- Southern Air will be retrofitting the existing fluorescent lighting with LED lights in four classrooms in three different schools

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

Mr. Wood thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was items from School Board members.

Mrs. Massie stated on Saturday she attended the archery tournament at Pleasant View Elementary School and it was very successful.

Mrs. Massie stated she had a copy of the minutes from the last STEM Academy and asked if there were any Board members who wished to review the minutes.

Mr. Henderson congratulated the two schools for receiving the Title I Distinguished School award from the Virginia Department of Education.

Mrs. Liggon stated she had attended some of the basketball games. Mrs. Liggon stated she talked with Mr. Curd about having police officers in attendance at the events. Mrs. Liggon asked if this was a cost to the school division.

Dr. Nichols stated it was an additional cost to the school division. Dr. Nichols stated he had asked that an officer that was on duty stop by the schools when there was an event scheduled.

Mrs. Liggon asked what the Building Committee was doing with regards to the PPEA. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Wood stated that staff was currently working with representatives from Southern Air prioritizing the projects. Once that has been completed, a recommendation will be made to the members of the Building Committee.

Ms. Garrett provided an update on events at Amelon Elementary School and Amherst County High School.

Mrs. Cumby congratulated the schools for their awards. She also expressed appreciation to the reading teachers for their hard work.

Mr. Wood asked that information be provided to Board members at the next Board meeting regarding the fund balance for L.A.U.R.E.L. Mr. Wood stated the Amherst County School Board will need to provide direction to the L.A.U.R.E.L. representative with regards to the fund balance for Amherst County Public Schools.

Mr. Wood stated he asked Mr. Henderson, Mr. Bumgarner and Mrs. Crouch to serve on a committee to develop a dashboard matrix for information regarding Amherst County Public Schools.

Mr. Wood stated at a future meeting he would like to see financial information on the Child Nutrition Program.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Summers, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools