

The Amherst County School Board met in special session on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia, at 6:20 p.m.

PRESENT: Jones H. Stanley, Chairman  
Elizabeth S. Gamble, Vice Chairman  
Priscilla M. Liggon  
Patricia C. Massie  
Margaret R. Morton  
Randy V. Summers  
Alan J. Wood

ABSENT: None

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Gamble, seconded by Mrs. Morton and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda of the January 28, 2014, special School Board meeting.

The purpose of the January 28, 2013, special School Board meeting, was a presentation by Ameresco concerning the Energy Audit for Amherst County Public Schools.

Dr. Nichols stated the representatives from Ameresco would introduce themselves. Introductions from the representatives of Ameresco as well as Mr. Charlie Barksdale, representative for the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME) were made.

Mr. Richard Ritter, representative of Ameresco, provided an overview of the energy audit.

Mr. Charlie Barksdale, representative of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, gave a brief history of the role his department plays during an energy audit.

Mr. Stanley asked if Mr. Barksdale works directly for the State. Mr. Barksdale stated he does work directly for the state and he reviews the information provided by Ameresco to ensure the savings are real and realistic.

Mr. Ritter informed the Board that over the past eight months Ameresco engineers have evaluated every school and all of the equipment in the schools.

Mr. Wood asked long the 245 ton chiller has been in service. Mr. Raper stated the chiller was approximately 20 years old. Mr. Wood stated he thought the savings would be greater by replacing the 245 ton chiller. Mr. Raper discussed the methodology for calculating the saving for the equipment.

Mr. Ritter complimented the maintenance department on the service of the existing equipment in the Amherst County Public Schools.

Mr. Summers asked what the normal operating life is for equipment. The equipment life is 15 to 20 years; however, if service and maintenance is provided on the equipment the life span may be longer.

Mrs. Massie asked what some of the abbreviations stand for:

- UV            Unit Ventilator
- PTAC        Package Terminal Air Conditioner
- MAU        Makeup Air Unit
- WSHP       Water Source Heat Pump
- RTU        Roof Top Unit

Mr. Raper discussed the following two scenarios:

- Program Addressing 100% Self-Funded Projects (This is approximately a \$6,000,000 project paid by saving in utilities over a 15 year period.)
- Program Addressing All Identified Capital Needs (This is approximately a \$12,000,000 project, which will require approximately \$5,700,000 new money.)

During the overview of the two scenarios, Mr. Wood stated, it appears the replacement of the chiller at Amherst County High School is not paying for itself but the saving is averaging out because of the other projects. Is that correct? Mr. Ritter stated that was correct.

Mr. Barksdale stated this is an opportunity for Amherst County Public Schools to address equipment needs utilizing current funds as well as new money.

Mr. Summers asked what happens if the equipment does not last 15 years, what the warranty period is on the new equipment and who provides the service to the equipment.

Mr. Raper stated all the equipment carries at least a one-year warranty; however, some of the equipment has warranties up to 5 years. The maintenance on the equipment will not change. The equipment has a useful life of 15 to 20 year lifetime warranty; however, the equipment may last longer with maintenance and service.

Mr. Planck reminded Board members the self-funded projects are guaranteed savings. If the savings are not realized then Ameresco writes a check for the difference to Amherst County Public Schools.

Mr. Summers asked how Ameresco monitors the savings. Mr. Planck stated the savings will be monitored annually, yearly maintenance logs will be reviewed, the equipment will be checked to ensure it is running properly, and actual energy usage will be compared to previous bills.

The complete power point presentation from Ameresco is attached to the minutes, which includes the self-funded projects, the report with all of the identified capital needs, the cost associated with the projects, as well as expected savings.

After the presentation was completed, Dr. Nichols asked Board members how they wished to proceed. Dr. Nichols asked if the Board is ready for Ameresco and Mr. Barksdale to make a presentation to the Amherst County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Stanley stated the work needs to be done; therefore, he believes the Amherst County School Board needs to present the information to the Amherst County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Stanley stated the longer we wait the more expensive the projects.

Mr. Summers stated he would like to review the information and wished to be a part of the decision making; however, he is unavailable for the month of February.

Mr. Wood stated he would like to review the information before making a decision. Mr. Wood reminded Board members of other CIP items in the school division that need to be addressed. Examples Mr. Wood provided were roof replacement and security needs.

Mr. Wood stated he believes the self-funded projects are an easy decision; however, did not know how much of the additional projects the School Board wished to proceed with.

Mrs. Massie asked what other decisions in Virginia in close proximity have completed energy audits. The list included Greene County Public Schools, Cumberland County Public Schools, Virginia Beach Public Schools, Nottoway County Public Schools, Shenandoah County Public Schools, and Isle of Wight Public Schools.

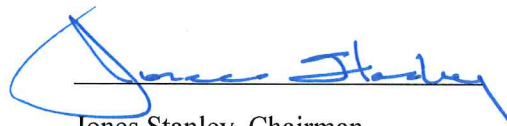
Mr. Wood asked if this information can be discussed during the School Board Retreat on March 6, 2014.

Dr. Nichols stated the energy audit will be the first item for discussion at the March 6, 2014, School Board Retreat agenda.

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk  
Amherst County Public Schools



Jones Stanley, Chairman  
Amherst County Public Schools