

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, February 27, 2014, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia, at 5:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Randy V. Summers

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 Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda of the February 27, 2014, regular School Board meeting.

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

Mr. Wood provided Dr. Nichols and Dr. Rogers a revised copy of the proposed 2014-2015 Governor's School calendar. Mr. Wood stated the members of the Governor's School Board plan to approve the proposed 2014-2015 Governor's School calendar in the upcoming week.

Mr. Wood stated he received notification from Dr. Nichols regarding the annual tornado drill scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 9:45 a.m. for all of Amherst County Public Schools. Mr. Wood stated he believed the tornado drills are good.

Dr. Nichols encouraged Board members to attend one of the schools to observe students participating in a tornado drill.

Mrs. Massie stated there was no new information to share on the STEM Academy.

Mrs. Massie stated the staff at Amherst Education Center provided an appreciation plaque for each School Board member and the plaque was at their place.

Mrs. Massie informed the Board that the staff at Amherst Education Center had treated her to a tea party and she enjoyed the recognition.

Mrs. Morton stated she shared lunch with the first grade students at Amelon Elementary School and while she was there she visited the classrooms.

Mrs. Morton stated she attended Elon Elementary School and was treated very well.

Mrs. Gamble stated she enjoyed a concert at Amherst Middle School and she received a bouquet of candy from Temperance Elementary School.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended Monelison Middle School where she received a vase of Skittles in school colors, attended the funeral for a chicken, and received a birdhouse from Mr. Mark May.

Mrs. Liggon expressed concern about the number of bomb threats in Lynchburg over the past few days.

Mrs. Liggon stated she enjoyed sharing a movie at Amherst County High School with Mr. Derrick Brown and the IRON Club.

Mr. Stanley stated he visited Amherst County High School where he experienced "controlled chaos" during the class changes in the hall.

Upon motion by Mrs. Gamble, seconded by Mrs. Morton and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes, with attachments, of the February 17, 2014, regular School Board meeting; minutes, with attachments, of the joint Board meeting held on February 19, 2014, between Amherst County School Board and Amherst County Board of Supervisors; confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period February 10, 2014 through February 21, 2014; requests to home educate children under religious exemption, Section 22.1-254 (B) of the Code of Virginia; a field trip request for the Amherst County High School band and choral students to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, to compete in parade and choir contest, Friday, April 11, 2014 through Tuesday, April 15, 2014; a field trip request for Amherst County High School elite track team members to travel to New York, New York, to compete in a national competition, Wednesday, March 12, 2014 through Saturday, March 15, 2014; a field trip request for Amherst County High School Advance Placement Environmental Science students to travel to Wallops Island, Virginia, to participate in an ecology learning event in an authentic coastal setting, Sunday, April 13, 2014 through Wednesday, April 16, 2014; and field trip request for two students in the welding class at Amherst County High School to travel to Roanoke, Virginia, to participate in a state level competition, Friday, April 4, 2014 through Sunday, April 6, 2014.

Dr. Norman stated that Mr. Dave Wymer, State Contractor with the Virginia Department of Education, plans to present information to the School Board on March 13, 2014. Dr. Norman stated during the presentation, Mr. Wymer plans to provide a list of suggestions to the Amherst County School Board for the division to implement regarding school improvement. Dr. Norman stated Mr. Wymer's presentation will be approximately ten minutes and he will answer questions from the School Board. Dr. Norman stated that once the report is complete, Mr. Wymer will be providing the information to the Department of Education.

Mr. Stanley asked if any Board member had questions regarding the Proposed FY15 School Operational Budget.

Mr. Wood asked if a new contract would be signed with Ameresco.

Dr. Nichols stated prior to a new contract with Ameresco for the next construction phase, the Amherst County School Board has to agree on how they wish to proceed on the proposed construction projects. Dr. Nichols stated that he would present the information to the Amherst

County Board of Supervisors for its approval because they are the governing body that approves the funding.

Mr. Wood asked once the construction projects have been completed can the price of the annual review of expenditures on utility costs be negotiated with Ameresco. Dr. Nichols and Mr. Cocke stated it could be part of the discussion.

Mr. Wood stated in the Ameresco proposal there is a large amount of equipment. Mr. Wood asked if the amounts listed for equipment are estimated cost or actual cost.

Mr. Cocke stated the cost for the equipment listed in the proposal is actual cost.

Mr. Wood asked if Ameresco could provide a sample boilerplate contract to Board members.

Mr. Wood stated in the proposed FY15 School Operational Budget, there is \$100,000 allocated for construction. Mr. Wood asked if that was in addition to the approximately \$600,000 left in the construction funds for the current year and would that money be added to the construction account.

Mrs. Crouch stated with the upcoming RFP for roof repairs and replacements, the school division may spend part of the \$600,000 construction funds during the FY14 school year. Once the fiscal year is complete and the balance remaining in the construction account was verified, the Amherst County School Board will ask the Amherst County Board of Supervisors to appropriate the remaining FY14 balance in the construction budget to the FY15 construction budget.

Mr. Wood asked if information could be provided at the March 6, 2014, School Board Retreat on the following:

- School bus replacement in the County Budget
- Standards for replacement
- Number of buses in fleet
- Age of fleet
- Student Enrollment by School by Grade
- Special Education Numbers by School by Grade
- Master schedule for Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, & High School

Mr. Wood asked if the school system plans to apply for a School Safety Grant.

Dr. Nichols stated that one concern when the division applies for a School Safety Grant is the required local match.

Mr. Wood asked that information be provided to Board members regarding the School Safety Grant for Board discussion.

Mrs. Massie asked how an additional van would assist with the transportation for the homeless students.

Dr. Nichols stated the purchase of a van was an additional way of transporting students who live outside of the district that attend Amherst County Public Schools without using a school bus. Under Federal Law, any student who begins school in a district becomes displaced and resides in another county during the school year has the right to continue their education in the district in which they started the school year. That district is responsible for providing transportation for the remainder of the year.

Mrs. Morton asked how many homeless students live outside of Amherst County and attend Amherst County Public Schools.

Mr. Cocke stated there are ten students who are considered homeless that live outside of Amherst County but are transported to Amherst County Public Schools.

Dr. Nichols stated the definition of homeless continues to change.

Mrs. Gamble stated she has had conversation with individuals who have expressed concern about the proposed stipend for National Board Certification. Mrs. Gamble stated she understands the proposed stipend is not very much; however, these individuals receive a \$5,000 stipend from the Department of Education for their first year and \$2,500 stipend each year after that as long as the certificate is valid. Mrs. Gamble suggested recognizing these individuals for their accomplishment other than monetary.

Mrs. Morton asked how many individuals have the National Board Certification.

Dr. Nichols stated Amherst County Public Schools has six employees with their National Board Certification.

Mrs. Liggon asked how many school resource officers are there in Amherst County Public Schools.

Dr. Nichols stated there is one school resource officer in Amherst County Public Schools. Dr. Nichols stated he talked with the Sherriff about using the schools as substations; however, due to the limited number of deputies and regulations regarding mental health, the Sherriff does not believe this is an option.

Mrs. Liggon expressed concern that there are no resource officers at Monelison Middle School and Amherst Education Center. Mrs. Liggon suggested this be an area to look at in the future.

Mr. Cocke informed the Board there were five contractors at the pre-bid meeting for roof repairs and replacement. Mr. Cocke stated bids for roof repairs and replacements are due on March 11, 2014.

Dr. Nichols informed the Board the RFP for the efficiency study is due on March 11, 2014. Dr. Nichols stated the proposal is a week late due to a technical error.

Dr. Nichols provided Board members an absence report for January 2014 for teachers and students.

Dr. Nichols reminded Board members the School Board Retreat is Thursday, March 6, 2014, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The agenda consisted of the following:

- Ameresco
- FY15 Budget Discussions

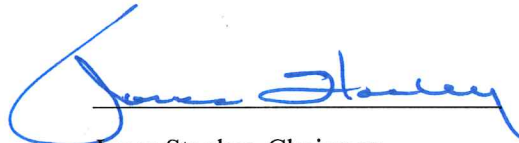
Mr. Stanley asked the administrative staff to provide current ADM data at the School Board Retreat.

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mrs. Morton and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 5:43 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk  
Amherst County Public Schools



Jones Stanley, Chairman  
Amherst County Public Schools