

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, March 10, 2016, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:10 p.m.

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

Camryn Garrett, Student Representative

ABSENT: None

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 March 10, 2016, regular School Board meeting. There were none.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the March 10, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the March 10, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda were presentations.

Dr. Nichols stated that Mr. Brendon Albon, Supervisor of Math, Science and Gifted, would introduce winners from the Second Annual Math 24 Challenge.

Mr. Albon introduced the winners from the Second Annual Math 24 Challenge. The students shared their experiences with members of the Amherst County School Board and challenged Board members to play the Math 24 game.

Dr. Nichols introduced Ms. Sonny Monk, President of Second Stage.

Ms. Sonny Monk shared information with the Board regarding the status of Second Stage and invited Board members and administrative staff to attend a Strategic Planning Session on April 7, 2016; from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Wood asked if a Board member wished to volunteer to attend the Strategic Planning Session on April 7, 2016.

Mrs. Cumby volunteered to attend the Strategic Planning Session on April 7, 2016.

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

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

Mr. Chet McPhatter – 973 Lewis Keith Road, addressed the Board regarding the future of Pleasant View Elementary School

Mr. Wood asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Board.

Mrs. Kathleen Lloyd - 2516 Buffalo Springs Turnpike, invited Board members to attend the Science Fair at Pleasant View Elementary School on March 14, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Wood thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was the consent agenda. Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda items: minutes of the February 25, 2016, regular School Board meeting and confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period February 22, 2016 through March 4, 2016

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to approve the proposed 2017-2018 School Calendar.

Dr. Rogers stated the Board had at their place a copy of the proposed 2017-2018 School Calendar. Dr. Rogers reminded Board members the calendar was the second of a two-year calendar and stated the 2017-2018 calendar was based on the original recommendation of the calendar committee not the approved 2016-2017 calendar and she recommended approval.

Mr. Wood stated the members of the Board had heard the recommendation and asked if there was a motion to approve.

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board approved the 2017-2018 calendar as presented.

Dr. Rogers stated last year Board members reviewed the holiday calendars that were included with the contracts. Dr. Rogers asked if Board members wished to review the 2016-2017 holiday calendars that will be included with 2016-17 employee contracts.

The consensus of the Board was for Dr. Rogers to provide copies of the 2016-17 holiday calendars at the March 24, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to discuss the Proposed FY17 School Operational Budget. Mr. Wood asked Dr. Nichols if there was any new information regarding the FY17 Proposed Budget.

Dr. Nichols stated the General Assembly would adjourn on Friday, March 11, 2016. Information regarding the changes would be received either Tuesday, March 15, 2016, or Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

Mr. Wood asked if the information would be available for the School Board Retreat on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

Dr. Nichols stated the information would be provided to Board members as soon as the information had been received and analyzed.

Mr. Wood asked Board members if they had questions regarding the Proposed FY17 School Operational Budget. Mr. Wood stated information would be discussed at the School Board Retreat.

Mrs. Liggon suggested the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be removed from the agenda for the School Board Retreat.

Dr. Nichols stated the MOU would be removed from the agenda for the School Board Retreat and placed on the agenda for the March 24, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Bumgarner asked if the information from the General Assembly was not available should the date for the School Board Retreat be changed.

Board members agreed there was enough information to discuss at the scheduled School Board Retreat.

Mr. Henderson asked Mr. Cocke if the maintenance projects by school were listed in priority order. Mr. Cocke stated the information was listed in priority order.

Mr. Henderson asked Dr. Rogers if the Staffing Plan was based on the Standards of Quality. Dr. Rogers stated the information was based on the Standards of Quality.

Mrs. Liggon asked what the priority of the budget discussion workshop would be at the School Board Retreat.

Mr. Wood stated the budget discussion would include the Proposed FY17 School Operational Budget as well as the additional information that staff had provided.

Mr. Bumgarner asked Dr. Nichols if other areas in the Central Office had been reviewed to provide assistance to the CFO.

Dr. Nichols stated that all positions had been reviewed prior to requesting the position in the Superintendent's Proposed FY17 School Operational Budget.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion to receive proposals to outsource payroll and determine the cost for the services. Mr. Henderson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously carried.

The Board did not take any further action regarding the Proposed FY17 School Operational Budget.

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

Dr. Nichols stated there was no update on accountability measures.

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

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

Dr. Rogers shared information with the Board regarding Lynchburg College's "Grow Your Own Initiative."

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. Mr. Wood asked if the administrative staff supported the program.

Dr. Nichols stated the staff endorsed the program; however, he expressed concern regarding any financial obligation.

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

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

Mrs. Crouch stated Board members had at their place the budget monitoring report, revenue receipts and other financial reports for the month of February, 2016. Mrs. Crouch provided Board members an update on the average daily membership through February 29, 2016.

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

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

Dr. Nichols stated there was not an update on facilities at this time.

Mr. Wood stated the Amherst County Board of Supervisors approved the PPEA projects. Mr. Wood stated a presentation regarding the PPEA projects will be made to the Amherst County School Board at the April 28, 2016, regular School Board meeting. Mr. Wood stated LED lights will be placed in all of the buildings. He stated the approval of the PPEA projects by the Amherst County Board of Supervisors demonstrates how everyone can work together.

Dr. Nichols shared the following information:

- Art Show will be held at Sweet Briar College – March 17, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- VSBA Spring Regional Network Forum will be held at Jefferson Forest High School on April 20, 2016
- Education Foundation luncheon will be held at Sweet Briar College on Friday, March 18, 2016

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

Mrs. Sandy Jennings-Neblett - Deerfield Drive, requested the members of the Amherst County School Board support Dr. Nichols FY17 Proposed Budget as presented.

Mr. Samuel Mays – 1171 Sugar Hill Tunnel Road, addressed the Board concerning the future of Pleasant View Elementary School and the community.

Mr. Wood thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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

Mr. Bumgarner challenged the staff to find money to support the Early College Program.

Dr. Nichols stated information had been provided to Board members and would be discussed at the School Board Retreat regarding a plan to support the Early College Program.

Mr. Summers invited citizens to come to the School Board Retreat.

Mrs. Massie shared the following:

- She was sorry she was going to miss the program at Monelson Middle School
- Ms. Susan Cash wished to address the Board regarding the STEM Academy
- She enjoyed reading to the students at Amherst Elementary School.
- Thanked the administrative staff for all of the information that was provided regarding the FY17 School Operational Budget.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended the talent show at Amelon Elementary School and a basketball game at Madison Heights Elementary School. Mrs. Liggon thanked the members of the Amherst County School Board who served on the Building Committee.

Mrs. Cumby stated she attended the EDA Focus Group meeting held at Madison Heights Elementary School.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was a closed meeting.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (2), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for a student matters.

Dr. Nichols stated action would be taken.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Summers 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. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board certified that they discussed only permissible topics.

AYES: Liggon, Wood, Henderson, Massie, Summers, Bumgarner, Cumby

NAYS: None

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Summers and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Superintendent's recommendation.

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools