

The Amherst County School Board met on Thursday, March 14, 2019, in the Public Meeting Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:06 p.m.

PRESENT: W. Michael Henderson, Chairman  
Priscilla M. Liggon, Vice Chairman  
David S. Cassise  
Francisco D. Mayo  
Craig S. Terwilliger  
Abby J. Thompson  
Amanda Wright

Indeya Paige, Student Representative

ABSENT: None

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 was a motion to approve the agenda for the March 14, 2019, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the March 14, 2019, School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was a presentation by students from Elon Elementary School.

Dr. Arnold introduced Mrs. Scott, Principal at Elon Elementary School. Mrs. Scott stated in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month, the third grade students from Elon Elementary School would perform a Readers Theatre. Mrs. Scott expressed appreciation to the third grade teachers for organizing the performance.

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

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

Mrs. Stephanie Moehlenkamp, Coordinator of School Counselors for Amherst County Public Schools, invited School Board members to a community event titled Amherst County's "Caring Community" Kick-off Event. Mrs. Moehlenkamp stated the event would be hosted by the Amherst County Trauma Informed Community Network on Friday, March 22, 2019, at the Sherriff's Department.

Mr. Josh Neighbors, Supervisor of Student Services, invited School Board members to a Family Education Fair at Amherst County High School on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., hosted by the Amherst County Special Education Advisory Committee.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mr. Cassise, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the February 14, 2019, regular School Board meeting, confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of February 11, 2019 through March 8, 2019, a field trip request for the Amherst County High School track team to travel to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on April 5-6, 2019, to attend the Track Invitational Competition and the 2019-20 Special Educational Annual Plan Assurances.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was an update on administrative services.

Dr. Wells provided Board members an update on the PPEA Grant, the School Resource Officer Grant through the Amherst County Sheriff's Department and the EPA Grant. Dr. Wells informed the Board that the lighting at the Transportation Department did not meet the criteria for a PPEA project.

Dr. Wells informed Board members the report on student suspensions for the month of February 2019 was available on BoardDocs.

Dr. Arnold stated Mrs. Crouch would provide information from the finance department.

Mrs. Crouch informed the Board that the budget monitoring reports, revenue receipts, budget summary by object code, and enrollment information through February 2019 was available to Board members on BoardDocs. Board members reviewed the information. No action was taken.

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

Dr. Norman informed Board members that all elementary schools are currently in the process of implementing their 45-Day Plans. Amherst County High School and Amherst Middle School have already built into their Comprehensive Improvement Plans their remediation and intervention process. Dr. Norman stated Monelison Middle School had developed a new 45-Day Plan to coincide with the needs of the individual school. Dr. Norman affirmed that supports have been put in place to assist schools with their needs.

Mrs. Thompson asked if Dr. Norman was planning to share the mid-year data with Board members. Dr. Norman verbally shared information with the Board on data and ways the staff is working with schools to provide assistance. Dr. Norman stated she could prepare information to share with the Board.

Dr. Arnold stated a concern that Dr. Norman's staff is limited; however, they are working hard to meet the additional needs of the schools.

Mrs. Liggon stated she thought it would be helpful to look at some data.

Dr. Norman stated the next item on the agenda was the Committee Proposal for the upcoming textbook adoptions for math and social studies. Dr. Norman shared information with the Board on the timeline of the committee and how information had been shared with teachers, parents and community members.

Dr. Norman and Mr. Maddox shared the following proposal from the Textbook Committee for History and Math textbooks:

*Based on School Board Policy IIAA, which states:*

*“The School Board may adopt textbooks, including print or electronic media, for student use that serve as the primary curriculum basis for a grade-level subject or course from the list of textbooks approved by the Board of Education. The School Board may also adopt books which are not on the state-adopted list in accordance with the Board of Education regulations.*

*In approving textbooks, the School Board:*

- *appoints evaluation committees to review and evaluate textbooks,*
- *gives notice to parents that textbooks under consideration will be listed on the division’s website and made available at designated locations for review by any interested citizens,*
- *creates opportunities for persons reviewing such textbooks to present their comments and observations to the School Board,*
- *creates procedures to ensure appropriate consideration of citizen comments and observations and*
- *establishes and makes known selection criteria*

*The Math and History Textbook Review Committee met on February 19, 2019 to review all textbook data gathered during the adoption process. After reviewing the data the committee has the following recommendations to the School Board:*

#### Math

- *Grades K-2 will be provided 7 years of printed textbooks and 7 years of digital textbooks for each student with a total cost of approximately \$ 93,938.25.*
- *Grades 3-8 will be provided 7 years of printed textbooks and 7 years of digital textbooks for forty-four classroom sets at a cost of \$ 111,060.75*
- *Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry will be provided printed textbooks and 7 years of digital textbooks for fourteen classroom sets at a cost of \$ 48,947.40*
- *Total Math Adoption: \$ 253,946.40*

**\*\*SEE GRADE LEVEL BREAKDOWN ON THE 2018-19 MATH TEXTBOOK BUDGET WORKSHEET**

#### History

- *Grades K-2 will be provided printed textbooks and a 1 year digital textbook for each student with a total cost of approximately \$ 33,407.50*
- *Grades 3-7 will be provided printed textbooks for thirty-six classroom sets and a 1 year digital textbook for each student at a cost of \$ 50,700.00*
- *World History I, World History II, US/VA History, and Government will be provided printed textbooks and 7 years digital textbooks for fourteen classroom sets at a cost of \$45,107.10*
- *Total History Adoption: \$ 129,214.60*

***\*\*SEE GRADE LEVEL BREAKDOWN ON THE 2018-19 MATH HISTORY BUDGET WORKSHEET***

*Additional Digital Textbooks can be purchased from the publishers at the following cost for six years:*

*Five Pond – K – 7<sup>th</sup> grade range from \$28.50 to \$46.00 per student  
 HMH - \$77.00 per student  
 Pearson- K- 12<sup>th</sup> grade range from \$73.00 to \$82.00 per student  
 Big Ideas Learning LLC- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade \$75.00*

**Chromebooks**

- *Grades 3-12 Math will receive 24 classroom sets of Chromebooks at a cost of \$155,910.80*
- *Grades 3-12 History will receive 23 classroom sets of Chromebooks at a cost of \$152,072.85*
- *Total Chromebook Cost: \$ 307,983.65*

***\*\*SEE BREAKDOWN PER SCHOOL ON THE 2018-19 CHROMEBOOK WORKSHEET***

<b><i>Total Math Adoption:</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 253,946.40</i></b>
<b><i>Total History Adoption:</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 129,214.60</i></b>
<b><i>Total Chromebook Cost:</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 307,983.65</i></b>
<b><i>Total Textbook Adoption and Chromebooks:</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 691,144.65</i></b>
<b><i>Total Shipping:</i></b>	<b><i>\$ <u>25,476.72</u></i></b>
<b><i>Grand Total over two year period:</i></b>	<b><i>\$ <u>716,621.37</u></i></b>

Board members reviewed and discussed the aforementioned information in detail. Board members asked for additional information on the following:

- Is the academic vocabulary consistent between publishers?
- Do parents understand the process?
- How does the division communicate with parents to ensure that student achievement is not jeopardized?
- How does the division communicate with parents that textbooks are available to students if there is not internet for the chromebooks?
- Does the division need to adopt textbooks from the same publisher?
- Has data been confirmed between publishers?
- Is the goal to eventually switch to chromebooks?
- How long do chromebooks last?
- How close is the division to one-to-one for chromebooks?
- How does the student access the homework if they do not have internet access to at home?

Dr. Norman stated she would provide additional information to the Board regarding their questions and/or concerns.

Dr. Norman stated with the permission of the School Board, a Public Hearing could be scheduled on Thursday, April 11, 2019, to receive citizen comments regarding the textbook adoption proposal. The Board agreed to schedule the Public Hearing on April 11, 2019, for citizen input.

Dr. Arnold stated there would not be an update concerning Human Resources.

Ms. Indeya Paige, Student Representative, stated Amherst County High School students have discussed altering times for the flex days at Amherst County High School. Dr. Arnold informed the Board that Mr. Young, Principal, has a focus group which is reviewing issues of students as well as teachers.

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

Dr. Arnold stated Board members reviewed and discussed the proposed 2019-2020 School Operational Budget at the School Board Retreat on Thursday, March 7, 2019. Dr. Arnold stated on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., he and Mr. Henderson would be presenting the Proposed 2019-2020 School Operational Budget to the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors. Dr. Arnold stated he had not received any feedback from Board members to make changes to the proposed budget. Dr. Arnold stated he needed consensus from the Board that was the Proposed Budget was what they wished to have presented to the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors.

The consensus of the Board was to present the Proposed 2019-20 School Operational Budget to the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Arnold asked Board members if there was a need to have the March 21, 2019, Special School Board meeting.

After discussion by the Board, Mr. Mayo made a motion to cancel the March 21, 2019, special School Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried.

Dr. Arnold stated in 2004, a group of parents discussed building a baseball/softball facility. Dr. Arnold discussed establishing a baseball/softball facility exploratory committee to engage parents, community and students.

Mrs. Liggon stated she thought the committee was a good idea.

Dr. Arnold informed Board members on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at 11:30 a.m., he and Mr. Rodgers, County Administrator, would be presenting information to local realtors regarding Amherst County and Amherst County Public Schools. Dr. Arnold stated the meeting would be held at the Wailes Conference Center at Sweet Briar College.

Dr. Arnold informed Board members that Dr. James Lane, State Superintendent, would be visiting Madison Heights Elementary School at 11:00 a.m., on Friday, March 15, 2019.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was public comment. Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Mrs. Donna Ratliff, teacher at Amherst County High School, stated regards to the math adoption it was very important for students to have the chromebooks to practice with the desmos calculators prior to SOL testing.

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

Mrs. Wright stated she attended the art display at Second Stage. Mrs. Wright stated there was a good turnout at the event.

Mr. Terwilliger thanked all of the schools for recognizing the School Board members during School Board appreciation month.

Mrs. Thompson thanked the staff and committee for all the work on the proposed textbook adoptions. Mr. Mayo stated he attended a Governor's School meeting. Mr. Mayo asked if the winners of the Science Fair could be recognized.

Mrs. Liggon stated she enjoyed the Board meeting, the School Board Retreat and she had received good feedback from the budget presentation. Mrs. Liggon asked if the Board was going to get an OCR update.

Mr. Henderson thanked the staff for the work in developing the 2019-2020 School Operational Budget. Mr. Henderson stated it was a very smooth process.

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

Teresa C. Crouch

Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk  
Amherst County Public Schools

W. Michael Henderson

W. Michael Henderson, Chairman  
Amherst County Public Schools