

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 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 April 14, 2016, regular School Board meeting. There were none.

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

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

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was a presentation.

Dr. Nichols introduced Dr. Wells, Ms. Hollie Jennings, and Dr. Pamela McFaden.

Dr. Wells, Ms. Hollie Jennings and Dr. McFaden provided Board members the mandated quarterly update concerning the Office of Civil Rights. Information included:

- Documentation of Changes to the School Resource Officer Program and Training
- Documentation of Root Cause of Racial Disparity and the Plan to Address
- Document Action of the Implementation of the Behavioral Support Plan
- Documentation of the Student Forum and Recommendations
- Complaints Received about Discipline
- Discipline Referral Form
- Survey Results and Comments

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

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was Public Comment. Mr. Wood asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

The following citizens addressed the Board regarding organizing a Task Force to review options on the future of Pleasant View Elementary School:

Ms. Kate McPhatter - 973 Lewis Keith Road
Ms. Nicky Moore - 7279 Lexington Turnpike
Mrs. Vanessa Haynes – Plantation Road
Mrs. Lindsay Massie Terwilliger – 3140 Buffalo Springs Turnpike
Mr. Doug Turner - 101 Maple Creek Road
Mrs. Joy Foster – 1100 Pera Road
Ms. Dawn Wooten – 1412 Wagon Trail Road

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Wood asked if there were any changes. There being none, Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes of the March 10, 2016, regular School Board meeting, the minutes of the March 16, 2016, School Board Retreat, confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of March 21, 2016 through April 8, 2016, and a trip request for four students from Amherst County High to travel to Reston, Virginia to participate in the Student Virginia High School League Leadership Conference on Friday, April 15, 2016 through Saturday, April 16, 2016.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to discuss the FY17 School Operational Budget.

Mrs. Crouch shared the following information that reflects changes to the FY17 School Operational Budget:

Thursday, March 24, 2016 – the members of the Amherst County School Board approved the FY17 School Operational Budget by resolution that reflected a deficit of \$424,566. The approved budget included a 2% increase for all employees beginning July 1, 2016. On Friday, March 25, 2016, the resolution was submitted to Mr. Rodgers, County Administrator.

Tuesday, March 29, 2016 – the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors reviewed information regarding the FY17 County Budget. During the meeting, members of the Board of Supervisors reviewed and discussed the request for \$424,566 additional funds to the local appropriation of the FY17 School Operational Budget. After deliberation, the members of the Board of Supervisors did not approve any new local funds to the FY17 School Operational Budget. The Board of Supervisors did approve the facilities request of \$610,034 to be used for one time projects. The funds were removed from the FY17 School Operational Budget and placed in a separate account in the County Budget. Projects approved by the members of the Amherst County School Board will be submitted to the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors for the appropriation of funds. These funds cannot be used to balance the FY17 School Operational Budget.

Based on the action by the Amherst County Board of Supervisors, this leaves the FY17 School Operational Budget with a deficit of \$424,566.

Since the March 24, 2016, regular School Board meeting, it was discovered that if Amherst County Public Schools does not certify that the salary increase has been provided to employees effective December 1, 2016, then Amherst County Public Schools does not qualify to receive the compensation funds for the 2017-18 school year, which starts July 1, 2017.

Information was presented to Board members with an option to balance the budget. In order to comply with receiving State funds for salary increases over the next two years, information presented will include a salary increase for all employees effective December 1, 2016. Attached is a copy of the excel document that was presented to School Board members.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. The Board agreed to review and consider approval of the FY17 School Operational Budget on Thursday, April 28, 2016.

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 shared the following information regarding accountability measures:

1. The final round of school visits from Consultant David Wymer had been completed for Amelon Elementary School, Central Elementary and Madison Heights Elementary School. Mr. Wymer met with each administrator and the division team to discuss the classroom observations and to provide direction for instruction within the 45 Days prior to SOL Testing. The goal was for the team to focus on:
 - a. Additional "student reading" with an increased amount of teacher feedback given to students.
 - b. Monitor and closely align individual student activities that would extend the instructional activity initiated by the teacher in small groups.
 - c. Ensure reading resources were differentiated for students in small groups.
2. All schools had filed a "Challenged Schools Report" that consists of information gathered from our HR Department, Student Information, Administrator Observations and Teacher Attendance.

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

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

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

Dr. Rogers reminded Board members that Teacher Appreciation Week was May 2-6, 2016. Dr. Rogers stated a schedule of pizza delivery was at each Board member's place. She stated that someone from senior staff would meet Board members at the schools to assist with pizza distribution.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would provide an update on the budget monitoring and other financial reports.

Mrs. Crouch stated the Board had at its place copies of the budget monitoring reports for expenditures and revenue, the revenue report, and the budget summary by object code report for the month of March 2016. Mrs. Crouch informed the Board that preliminary ADM for March 2016 was 4002.

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

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

Mr. Wood asked Dr. Nichols if there was anything else.

Dr. Nichols reminded Board members the VSBA Forum at Jefferson Forest High School was on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. Dr. Nichols stated he would meet Board members at the high school.

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

Ms. Carmen Sitten, Vice-President of the Amherst Education Association, expressed disappointment regarding the outcome of the salary increase for employees for the 2016-17 school year.

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

Mr. Summers thanked the citizens of Pleasant View Elementary School for being professional regarding the discussion of the future of the school.

Mr. Henderson stated he represented the School Board at the Cultivate Amherst meeting and there were some exciting opportunities presented. The Summit is scheduled for the fall.

Mrs. Liggon thanked the administrative staff for the options that were provided to Board members regarding finalizing the 2016-17 School Operational Budget. Mrs. Liggon stated the OCR report was informative.

Mrs. Liggon stated she had not had any direct conversation with anyone regarding the closure of Pleasant View Elementary School nor had she heard all of the information pertaining to the closure of the school. Mrs. Liggon stated she believed the members of the School Board need to talk about the information prior to the May 5, 2016, Public Hearing. Mrs. Liggon stated the time was coming to vote; however, based on the conversation by the Board, she does not feel she could provide a valid vote concerning the future of Pleasant View Elementary School.

Mrs. Cumby stated she enjoyed the *Honey Bee Festival* at Amherst County High School and asked if the students who assisted with the festival would be recognized.

Mrs. Cumby stated she attended a meeting with her son at Delegate Garrett's office in Richmond, Virginia. Mrs. Cumby stated she wanted to go on record to say that she appreciates Delegate Garrett's dedication to the local art students. She stated he displays the art work at his office in Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. Wood asked Dr. Nichols to ask the County Administrator to provide an update on the status of Learning Lane, the road going into Madison Heights Elementary School.

Mr. Wood stated he attended a Governor's School Board meeting. He stated there would be additional state funding for the 2016-17 school year; however, the funds were not as much as originally forecasted.

Mr. Wood stated the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors would hold the Public Hearing on the 2016-17 County Budget at Amherst County High School on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Wood asked that in the future the OCR information be provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The consensus of the Board was to receive the information prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated he would like to appoint a committee to review the outsourcing of payroll for Amherst County Public Schools. Mr. Wood asked Mr. Bumgarner, Mr. Summers, Mrs. Kendrick and Mrs. Crouch to serve on the committee and report back to the Board.

Mr. Wood stated at the March 22, 2016, School Board meeting, the Board decided to form a committee to review pupil/teacher ratios. Mr. Wood asked Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Massie, Dr. Rogers, Mr. Young, Mrs. Scott and Ms. Cundiff to serve on the committee and report back to the Board.

Mr. Wood stated he would work with Dr. Nichols on the agenda for the April 28, 2016, regular School Board meeting so that discussion of Pleasant View Elementary School could be conducted by the Board.

Mr. Wood reminded Board members that on April 28, 2016, Mr. William (Bill) Gillespie would present information to the Board regarding the PPEA project for each school.

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Summers, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools