

Dr. Nichols introduced Dr. Wells, Ms. Jennings, and Dr. McFaden. As part of the quarterly update that is required by the Office of Civil Rights, Dr. Wells, Ms. Jennings and Dr. McFaden shared information with the Board on the meetings of the Working Group, as well as the results of the School Climate Survey. Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. No action was taken regarding the information provided.

Dr. Nichols and Board members expressed appreciation to Dr. Wells, Ms. Jennings and Dr. McFaden for the information provided.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was information regarding a New Innovation Learning Outdoor Classroom.

Dr. Nichols stated the Governor recently mandated that School Divisions across Virginia be required to come up with programs that reflected innovation in learning. Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Wells would share information regarding how Amherst County High School wishes to address innovation in learning.

Dr. Wells provided information to the Board concerning constructing an innovative outdoor classroom. Dr. Wells stated the proposal places the outdoor classroom area in the front of the Amherst County High School where the old tennis courts were removed. Dr. Wells stated the students will be completing a lot of the construction of the outdoor classroom. Dr. Wells stated he will be contacting area businesses for donations to assist with the project. Dr. Wells shared a clip from WDBJ 7 of an interview regarding the proposed outdoor classroom.

Dr. Nichols asked that the Board consider a formal vote to accept the proposal and rename the area *The New Innovation Learning Outdoor Classroom and Center*. Dr. Nichols stated with the support of the Board, Amherst County can report to the Governor's Office that we are in compliance.

Mrs. Cumby stated she recalled the tennis court area was supposed to be utilized for the marching band practice. Mr. Wells stated that marching band practice is conducted on the back parking lot because the area in front of the building was not wide enough for the marching band. Mrs. Cumby asked if the area would be handicapped accessible. Dr. Wells stated the area would be handicapped accessible.

Mrs. Thompson asked how information regarding the compliance of innovative learning will be reported to the Governor or State. Dr. Nichols stated Amherst County would notify the Governor's Office that Amherst County had developed and constructed the outdoor innovative classroom.

Mr. Henderson asked if the Board wished to consider Dr. Nichols recommendation to approve the proposed outdoor classroom and name the area *The New Innovation Learning Outdoor Classroom and Center*.

Mr. Mayo made a motion to accept the proposal of the Amherst County High School and name the location *The New Innovation Learning Outdoor Classroom and Center*. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was Public Comment. Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board. The following citizen addressed the Board:

Ms. Carmen Sitton 124 Forbes Street Madison Heights, Virginia 24572

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of March 20, 2017 through April 21, 2017, a field trip request for Amherst County High School students (4) to attend the Virginia High School League Ken Tilley Leadership Conference at Freedom High School in South Riding, Virginia on Friday, April 28, 2017 through Saturday, April 29, 2017, and approval of the employee holiday calendars for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Henderson asked what changes needed to be made to the minutes.

Mrs. Thompson stated on the minutes of the March 9, 2017, meeting, two field trips had been excluded from the minutes. Mrs. Thompson stated the dates listed on the minutes of the March 23, 2017, meeting, were incorrect and the correct dates should have been February 9, 2017, February 17, 2017, and March 2, 2017.

Mrs. Crouch stated the corrections have been made to reflect the correct information.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board approved the revised minutes of the March 9, 2017, School Board meeting, the revised minutes of the March 23, 2017, School Board meeting, the April 5, 2017, School Board meeting and the minutes of the April 20, 2017, School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to discuss the 2015-16 County Audit Report.

Mrs. Crouch stated information on the 2015-16 County Audit Report was provided to Board members on March 9, 2017. Mrs. Crouch stated the audit report includes the County as well as the school division. Mrs. Crouch stated some of the concerns noted in the audit report regarding duties have been addressed by adding an additional employee in the Business Office.

Board members reviewed and discussed the 2015-16 County Audit Report. No action was taken.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was proposed revisions to the APCS Policy Manual.

Dr. Nichols asked that Dr. Rogers and Dr. Norman provide an overview of the changes to the APCS Policy Manual for Instruction and Support Services. Dr. Rogers and Dr. Norman highlighted proposed policy changes. Board members reviewed and discussed information provided. The Board will consider approval of the proposed policy changes at the May 2017 regular School Board meeting.

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

Dr. Norman provided the following update on accountability measures:

VDOE Report Update:

New State/Federal Accountability Report is now available to school divisions. This report was used in the fall 2017 OSI Technical Assistance Sessions. It shows a six-year look at state accreditation and federal accountability data. In response to division requests, the report is now being made available to school personnel. (Individual school reports are in your folder)

Section One: New information regarding the tasks completed or in progress with Amelon, Central and Madison Height Elementary based on the requirements from the Memorandum of Understanding between ACPS and VDOE. Details are as follows:

- 1. A meeting with the VDOE Office of School Improvement Director, Dr. Bev Rabil, was held March 29, 2017 in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Nichols, Dr. Rogers, Dr. Norman, Dr. McGinnis, Ms. Duke, Ms. Smith, Dr. Albon, Ms. Cardwell, Mr. Lyle and Mr. Gallagher attended. Dr. Rabil and her staff allowed one hour per school and 30-45 minutes for the division staff to respond to questions, clarify VDOE concerns and address academic progress, or the lack thereof, for the two denied accreditation schools and the reconstituted school.*
- 2. Before the school division review Dr. Rabil provided the group with an update on the changes that will begin July 1, 2017. These changes are due to the updated Federal Accountability Law; Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Changes include:*
 - The state will require a new comprehensive school plan for all schools that will begin July 1, 2017 utilizing the framework of the state's new Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CAN) – which hasn't been created yet.*
 - The division must provide school specific artifacts so the state can determine progress – all must be research based and no additional state funding will be provided.*
 - The cycle of review is as follows:*
 - Initial review (completed March 29, 2017)*
 - In 4 months the state will check for progress. If it is met we continue on as is, if not met, another review will be conducted in 2 months.*
 - In 2 months the state will check for progress. If it is met we continue on as is, if not met, a meeting between State Superintendent Steven Staples and Division Superintendent Steven Nichols will be scheduled.*
 - The Superintendent meeting will set new goals for the schools and provide the division another 2 months in order to show progress.*
 - If progress is still not made, state funds will be withheld from the division.*
- 3. After the update on changes, Dr. Rabil spent the next three hours reviewing with each school and the division staff the artifacts that show implementation of the MOU and the corrective action*

plans.

Take aways from the meeting are as follows:

- Focus on the alignment of content, cognition and standards with the task in a lesson.
 - Feedback should be stated, "as evidenced by...." And provide the example of the evidence.
 - A variety of reading items – passages, poetry, directions, science/history text, novels short stories should be consistently used in the reading curriculum.
 - Reading comprehension skills should not be taught in isolation, but with the content of what students are reading – example: prefix "guide words" In reading a passage a student may not know a word; use the guide word to look it up. It is not giving students a predetermined list of words to look up and read the meaning.
 - Authentic reading should produce authentic writing.
 - VDOE discourages % being used as a target for student goals.
 - If each school meets the benchmark and makes accreditation VDOE tracks the school for 3 years after the initial year is out, so the school doesn't go back into improvement.
4. The next VDOE OSI Review meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2017 from 9-5p.m. in Richmond, Virginia.

Not Required By VDOE but Implemented by Division

1. An update was provided to all principals on April 18, 2017 regarding the new CAN: Comprehensive School Plan. Training for all administrators is scheduled for June 7, 2017, 8:30-noon.
2. Madison Heights Elementary School and Central Elementary School principals met with Mr. Jim Gallagher and officers of TTAC to review commendations and recommendations from the site visit in March.
3. After being provided funding clarification and approval from VDOE, a summer pilot program for rising K, 1, 2 students will be implemented June 12 - June 29, 2017 in order to provide support in curtailing summer learning loss with our neediest students.

Section Two: Updates of previous mentioned items are in Red. These items are of the various tasks required by VDOE.

1. State Contractor met with division personnel and each school administrator on February 7th, 13th, 14th, and 20th. Classroom observations for grades 3-5 were conducted at each school, with a debriefing meeting of the instructional staff and contractor to provide feedback to the school principal. The final state contact meetings were held March 30th at Madison Heights Elementary and March 31st at Central Elementary. The focus of the last state contractor visit was to observe each classroom for baseline data for the state.
2. The DLST (Division Level Support Team) meeting was held on April 3, 2017 to review data and prepare items for supporting the schools Corrective Action Plans. DLST members include the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Academics, Supervisors (6), and the Student Information Manager.
3. Data and school overview was provided to the members of the School Board at the February 9, 2017 Board retreat. Division information on the overall data, as well as school specific was reviewed. School principals presented information on their interventions, remediation, parental involvement, and process used to create 45 Day Plans for each grade level. Completed.
4. Budget discussion with the Board regarding support for an assistant principal position at Central Elementary to align with supports given to the other two schools. Assistant Principal position approved.

5. *Budget discussion with the Board regarding support for a math coach position to be shared among the three schools to align with the supports given in the content area of reading. Position not in budget.*
6. *Review of 45 Day Plans by the division liaison to the school. All three schools have begun their implementation. Completed. Testing begins May 2, 2017.*
7. *All members of the School Board, along with administrative staff, must attend School Improvement training that is being provided by VDOE in conjunction with VSBA. VSBA Executive Director, Gina Patterson, has contacted Dr. Nichols to schedule the governance training required under the established MOU. It requires the entire Board and Superintendent to participate in the all-day training. The training must take place before May 1, 2017. (training in Charlottesville) Training Date scheduled for April 5, 2017. Completed*
8. *Provide the School Board with monthly updates regarding the improvement process. Documentation must be submitted to the Office of School Improvement each month confirming this has been completed. On-going*
9. *The Superintendent and Instructional Team must meet with VDOE in Richmond tri-annually. Next meeting has been confirmed by VDOE for August 28, 2017.*
10. *An asset mapping review for Amherst County will be completed by a team from VDOE in conjunction with members of senior staff. No action from state on this.*
11. *An Instructional Audit will be conducted by members of the English, math, science and Special Services departments in VDOE with recommendations provided to ACPS and the Office of School Improvement. No action from state on this.*
12. *A new system of monitoring school performance will be implemented in the 2017-2018 school year that will replace the current Indistar program (no longer funded by VDOE). No action from state on this.*
13. *A Quarterly Data Report from Amelon, Central, and Madison Heights Elementary must be submitted to VDOE Office of School Improvement February 10, 2017, April 14, 2017 and June 30, 2017. Principals are currently compiling first quarter data – due to Director by January 20th. Due to a glitch with Power School and extension was given and the report is due to the Director of Academics by February 8th. Quarterly Data Reports for all three schools have been submitted and accepted by the state. The next quarterly update to VDOE will be June 9, 2017.*

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

Dr. Norman stated the travel authorization report for January 2017 through March 2017 was provided to each Board member. Board members reviewed the information provided. No action was taken regarding this matter.

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

Dr. Rogers reminded Board members that Teacher Appreciation week is the week of May 8 – 12, 2017. Dr. Rogers stated Board members had been provided the delivery schedule for each location. Dr. Rogers informed Board members the Retirement Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at the regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the budget monitoring reports.

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would provide information regarding the budget monitoring reports.

Mrs. Crouch stated the Board members had at their place the budget monitoring reports, revenue and receipts for the month of March 2017. Mrs. Crouch stated the ADM for March 2017 was 3940. Mrs. Crouch stated she was glad to answer any questions.

Board members reviewed the information. No action was taken.

Mr. Henderson asked if there has been any news on the State Enrollment Loss money that Amherst County is supposed to receive during the 2016-17 school year. Mrs. Crouch stated once the March 30, 2017, ADM Report has been filed and accepted by the Department of Education, revised revenue projections will be sent to all school divisions for the 2016-17 school year which should include the Enrollment Loss State funds. Mr. Henderson asked Board members if they wished to discuss school buses at the May 11, 2017, regular School Board meeting. The Board agreed to discuss school buses at the next meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was revisions to Freedom of Information Act Regulation KBA-R of the Amherst County Public Schools Policy Manual.

Dr. Nichols stated the Freedom of Information Action Regulation KBA-R of the Amherst County Public Schools Policy Manual has been changed to mirror the FOIA Policy of Amherst County.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Mr. Cocke would provide an update on the facilities.

Mr. Cock provided an update on the PPEA Projects and other construction projects for Amherst County Public Schools.

Dr. Nichols informed Board members that a list of student suspensions for March 2017 was at their place.

Dr. Nichols provided the following information to Board members:

- May 4, 2017 - Golden Tassel at Amherst County High School Cafeteria at 7:00 p.m.
- May 8, 2017 - Golden A Dinner at Sweet Briar College at 6:00 p.m.
- May 16, 2017 – Awards Ceremony by the Amherst County School Board at Amherst County High School Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.
- May 20, 2017 - Graduation at Liberty University at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

Mr. Terwilliger stated he registered his son at Elon Elementary School and that went very well. Mr. Terwilliger stated he attended the Pleasant View Elementary School Reunion.

Mr. Terwilliger stated he had questions regarding the bus fleet. Mr. Terwilliger stated he would email his questions to staff.

Mrs. Thompson stated she also attended the Pleasant View Elementary School Reunion.

Mrs. Thompson stated she had heard concerns regarding when out-of-zone requests will be approved and bus routes identified.

Dr. Rogers stated that Elon Elementary School out-of-zone requests were being accepted and approved. Dr. Rogers stated that bus routes would not be available until later.

Mrs. Cumby asked about a potential YMCA Program at Temperance Elementary School for before and after school care.

Dr. Rogers stated staff is still working with the YMCA regarding implementing a YMCA Program at Temperance Elementary School. Dr. Rogers stated a problem the YMCA is having is finding staff to run the program.

Mrs. Cumby stated recently a concern was addressed with her regarding how a citizen gets in contact with Board members. Mrs. Cumby stated she shared information with the citizen on how to contact School Board members.

Mrs. Cumby stated a citizen had contacted her about volunteering for the Community Outreach Program with Scott Zion Baptist Church. Dr. Norman stated that notification had been received from the State regarding the Outreach Program. Information regarding this matter will be forthcoming.

Mrs. Cumby stated she also attended the Pleasant View Elementary School Reunion.

Mrs. Liggon stated she would be attending an upcoming Laurel School Board meeting.

Mrs. Liggon asked if the assistant principal position at Central Elementary School had been advertised. Dr. Rogers stated the assistant principal position at Central Elementary School had been advertised.

Mrs. Liggon asked if there had been discussion regarding outsourcing transportation. Dr. Nichols stated there had been no discussion regarding outsourcing transportation.

Mr. Henderson stated if the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors approve the 2017-2018 County Budget on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, then he believes the members of the Amherst County School Board should approve the final 2017-18 School Operational Budget at the May 11, 2017, regular School Board meeting. Dr. Nichols stated the item would be placed on the agenda of the May 11, 2017, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was a closed meeting for a personnel matter and land acquisition.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and (7), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for a personnel matter – Superintendent's evaluation and land acquisition.

Dr. Nichols stated action would be taken.

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

AYES: Henderson, Liggon, Cumby, Summers, Mayo, Thompson, Terwilliger

NAYS: None

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

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mr. Summers and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools