

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 28, 2016, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:04 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

ABSENT: Camryn Garrett, Student Representative

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 28, 2016, regular School Board meeting. There were none.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the April 28, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the April 28, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was a presentation from the Save Pleasant View Elementary School Task Force. Mr. Wood stated Board members would wait until the end of the presentation to ask questions.

Mrs. Heather Davilla, Mrs. Melissa Mays, Mrs. Lisa Lloyd and Mrs. Kate McPhatter, representatives of the Task Force reviewed the following information:

- School overview
- Capacity versus enrollment
- Cost comparison of Pleasant View Elementary School with other elementary schools in Amherst County
- Amherst County Public Schools Elementary Geographic Zones
- The Weldon Cooper Center of UVA Five-Year Projections
- Other services to consider at Pleasant View Elementary School:
  - Alternative Education
  - Bridge
  - Bus to Childcare Facility
  - Historic Preservation
  - Increase Building Use
  - Learning Lab
  - Magnet School
  - Multi-Age Curriculum
  - On-Site Childcare
  - Open Enrollment

- Pocket Redistricting
- Preschool
- Public Charter School
- Redistricting
- Summer Use of the Facility
- Sustainability Initiative
- Impact of closure
- Facilities of past schools that were closed
- Bus ride concerns
- Closing costs
- Growth potential
- Gym debt
- Class sizes at Elon Elementary School and Temperance Elementary School if Pleasant View Elementary School closes
- Potential reason for decreased enrollment in Amherst County Public Schools
- Property values and property tax revenue
- Reduced community services

The members of the Task Force encouraged Board members to ensure the data is accurate; the process is reliable; and the process is defensible before making a decision to close Pleasant View Elementary School. Members of the Task Force also encouraged Board members to review the timeline in making a decision on when to close the school.

Mr. Wood thanked the members of the committee and citizens for submitting information and questions to the Board and senior staff.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided from the Task Force well as the information provided by staff members. Board members asked staff members to clarify information that was discussed during the Task Force presentation. The following information was reviewed by Board members:

- Transportation for child care
- Redistricting options included in the Prismatic Study
- Parents volunteer for redistricting to Pleasant View Elementary School
  - Currently out-of-zone options are available to parents and students; however, transportation has to be provided by the parents
    - Could centralized transportation be provided for parents who wish their child to attend Pleasant View Elementary School
      - Reserve buses could be used; however, additional staff would be needed for transportation
- Provide child care services at Pleasant View Elementary School
- Magnet School
- Headstart Program removed from Pleasant View Elementary School because of the decline in enrollment
- Per-Pupil costs for Elementary Schools for Amherst County Public Schools
- Debt Service for Pleasant View Elementary School
- Use of Pleasant View Elementary School by the County
- Per-Pupil costs provided compared to the Per-Pupil costs provided by Prismatic
- Pupil/Teacher ratios at Elon Elementary School and Temperance Elementary School if Pleasant View Elementary School closes
- Bus rides for students if Pleasant View Elementary School Closes

- Behavioral Health Program moved from Lynchburg to Pleasant View Elementary School
- Money saved if Pleasant View Elementary School closes for the upcoming year
- Savings realized this year might be reduced in the future by members of the Board of Supervisors
- Homeschool numbers might increase if Pleasant View Elementary School closes
- Charter School at Pleasant View Elementary School
- Redistricting the total county would affect over one-fourth of all elementary students
- Combining grade levels – difficulty in teaching two grade levels
- Transition for students who attend a small elementary school to middle school
- Concern about the inequity of teachers who teach six students versus teachers who teach 20 students
- Closing cost associated with Pleasant View Elementary School

Mr. Wood stated the Board would have a Public Hearing on the future of Pleasant View Elementary School on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at the School Administration Office at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Wood thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the Board would take a five minute break.

Mr. Wood called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was a presentation regarding the Public-Private Education Act (PPEA) Project.

Mr. William (Bill) Gillespie, Project Manager for Amherst County, provided Board members information regarding the pending Public-Private Educational Act Project for all Amherst County Public Schools. Mr. Gillespie discussed projects that will be addressed at individual schools and the timeline of the projects.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. The Board did not make any decision on the information provided.

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

Dr. Nichols stated it was the recommendation of staff that the Board approve the FY17 School Operational Budget with the modifications suggested at the April 14, 2016, School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated that Mr. Bumgarner was not present at the April 14, 2016, regular School Board meeting and asked Mrs. Crouch to review the information regarding the FY 17 Proposed Budget.

Mr. Bumgarner stated that he had previously discussed with Mrs. Crouch the information regarding the Superintendent's recommendation to balance the FY17 School Operational Budget. Mr. Bumgarner stated he did not have any questions regarding the recommendations to balance the Proposed FY17 School Operational Budget.

Mrs. Crouch stated the recommendation of the Superintendent on the FY17 School Operational Budget included a variance between expenditures and revenue of \$45,156. Mrs. Crouch stated the recommendation of the Superintendent was to include the assistant to the CFO which would leave a balance of \$5,220 and asked the Board to consider placing those funds in Health Insurance Cost.

Mr. Wood expressed appreciation to staff for the work on the Proposed FY17 School Operation Budget. Mr. Wood stated that staff had made it clear that a position for the Talented and Gifted Program was not a priority. Mr. Wood stated some Board members indicated agreement that a position in the Talented and Gifted Program was not a priority. Mr. Wood stated he hopes in the future Amherst County will make this position a priority and hire additional staff for that program in order to serve "Every child, every day". Mr. Wood stated as far as redeployment of some of the facilities funds, he was comfortable with shifting this relatively small amount for a chance to take advantage of as much as \$580,000 of available state dollars for our staff.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the FY17 School Operational Budget with the Superintendent's recommendations.

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the FY17 School Operational Budget with the changes recommended by the Superintendent.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk  
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman  
Amherst County Public Schools