

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, May 10, 2018, in the Board Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:00 p.m.

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

Haleigh Tomlin, 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 were any changes to the agenda for the May 10, 2018, regular School Board meeting.

Mrs. Thompson asked that Item 4.02 Consider confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions the period April 2, 2018 through May 4, 2018 be removed from the consent agenda and asked that a closed meeting be added to the end of the agenda for discussion of personnel matters – Item 4.02 personnel actions for period April 2, 2018 through May 4, 2018.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the May 10, 2018, regular School Board agenda as amended.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the May 10, 2018, regular School Board meeting, as amended.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was presentations.

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

Dr. Nichols introduced Dr. Marvin McGinnis, Principal at Madison Heights Elementary School. Dr. McGinnis introduced Mrs. Paulette Williams, music teacher at Madison Heights Elementary School. Students from Madison Heights Elementary School performed two musical numbers for the members of the Amherst County School Board. Dr. McGinnis, Principal at Madison Heights Elementary School, thanked Board members for their support.

Dr. Nichols recognized the following individuals for the contributions to the school division:

Sheriff E. W. Viar, Amherst County  
Captain John Griesser, Amherst County Sheriff's Department  
Deputy Noel De Palma, School Resource Officer  
Deputy Lewis Goldman, School Resource Officer

Deputy Brian Tharpe, School Resource Officer  
Mr. Gary Roakes, former Public Safety Director  
Ms. Haleigh Tomlin, Student Representative

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

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board. The following parent addressed the Board:

Mrs. Sandra McConnell  
3465 Elon Road  
Madison Heights, VA

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mr. Cassise, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the April 12, 2018, regular School Board meeting, minutes of the April 14, 2018, special School Board meeting, minutes of the April 26, 2018, special School Board, minutes of the May 3, 2018, special School Board meeting, the 2018-2019 Special Education Annual Plan Assurances, a supplemental appropriation and transfer to the 2017-2018 School Operational Budget, and the Gifted Program Plan for the 2018-2025 school years.

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

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

Dr. Norman provided the following update on accountability measures:

*On Wednesday, April 25, 2018, Amherst County Public Schools Accreditation Committee hosted Ms. Connie Ratcliff, School Improvement Contractor for the Virginia Department of Education, in an end of year review. The meeting was scheduled to discuss data and supports for the three schools under the Memorandum of Understanding ~ Corrective Action: Amelon, Central and Madison Heights. This update is specific to that review.*

1. *Update on Attendance by Ms. Patron (School Accountability Coordinator)*
  - a. *A division focus has been the increase of daily student attendance. In order for students to advance in their education, they must be present for instruction and supported in their learning.*
  - b. *Each school has made it a priority to create an incentive program for attendance: ice cream tickets, pizza parties, parent contacts, lunch with the principal, morning announcement leader, etc.*
  - c. *Based on 145 days in school at the point of calculation the schools have the following attendance rate: The VDOE required rate for accreditation is 85%.*
    - *Amelon is currently at 90.9%. A total of 21 students have missed 17 days.*
    - *CES is currently at 86.2%. A total of 30 students have missed 17 days.*
    - *MHES is currently at 85.2%. A total of 33 students have missed 17 days.*

2. *An update from members of the Division Team was provided to the VDOE contractor regarding changes made this year to increase student performance and determination of their impact.*
  - a. *All three schools shifted personnel within the school to provide the strongest support for beginning readers and those in tested grades.*
  - b. *Reading Plus program was purchased for all three schools, implemented with fidelity at two of the three schools. Results showing gains in student reading levels were comparable to schools that used the program consistently.*
  - c. *Shift in the reading coach model for Amelon with a division level Reading Instructional Specialist split time between Central and Madison Heights.*
  - d. *Lesson alignment was a focus that was stressed by VDOE in order to provide specific feedback to administrators and teachers.*
  - e. *Master Schedule at Central was changed in order to have multiple teachers responsible for 5<sup>th</sup> grade science instruction. This was completed based on a VDOE requirement within the Corrective Action Plan. However, I believe this negatively impacted the master schedule specific to reading instruction.*
  - f. *A focus on the number of minutes for students to be reading grade level text was an ongoing effort at all three schools.*
3. *Focus moving into next year (Next Steps):*
  - a. *Continued work on tight alignment (from beginning to end of lesson-emphasis with closure) including increased time in text.*
  - b. *Understanding of new English standards*
    - *Planning units*
    - *Follow through of delivery of instruction*
    - *Understanding the connection between skill/strategy*
  - c. *Remediation / Intervention next steps*
    - *Remediation:*
      - *Utilizing data reports in Power Assessment to determine focus of specific strands and individual students needing additional instruction.*
      - *Planning remediation and utilizing pre/post-test, as well as, reporting on post-test outcomes at each PLC.*
    - *Intervention:*
      - *Skill specific and student specific.*
      - *Focus on prior year(s) content & skills.*
4. *Master Schedule Requirements:*
  - a. *A review of master schedules for each elementary school should be completed based on the following;*
    - *Mr. Jim Gallagher to discuss supports for students with disabilities.*
    - *Dr. Brendon Albon to ensure math instruction time allotments.*
    - *Mr. Wayne Lyle to confirm reading specialist schedule and allotment of time for reading instruction.*

❖ *Next Meeting with VDOE: August 15, 2018 at 9:00am*

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was an update on Career and Technical Education Programs.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman would make the introductions.

Dr. Norman introduced Mr. Craig Maddox, Supervisor of Career and Technical Education. Mr. Maddox shared information with the Board regarding the Career and Technical Education Programs in Amherst County Public Schools. The Board reviewed and discussed the information provided. No action was taken.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the travel authorization report.

Dr. Norman provided members of the Amherst County School Board the travel authorization report for January 2018 through March 2018. The Board reviewed the information. No action was taken.

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

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

Dr. Rogers thanked the Board members who assisted with employee lunches. Dr. Rogers invited Board members to attend an informal well wishes reception for Dr. Nichols at Amherst County High School on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was budget monitoring, revenue receipts and other financial reports.

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would provide an update on this matter.

Mrs. Crouch stated the Board had at its place revenue receipts and budget monitoring reports for the month of April 2018. Mrs. Crouch stated the budget summary by object code was also at their place. Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. No action was taken.

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

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

Mr. Cocke provided Board members an update on the PPEA projects. Mr. Cocke informed the Board that the contractor had started working on repairing white boards in all the schools.

Dr. Nichols stated a list of student suspensions for the month of April 2018 was available on BoardDocs. No action was taken.

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

Dr. Nichols reminded Board members of the following dates:

Special School Board meeting on Monday, May 14, 2018

Student Recognitions Ceremony on Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Golden A Ceremony at Sweet Briar College on May 21, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

Graduation at the Vines Center on Friday, May 25, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board. The following teacher addressed the Board.

Ms. Carmen Sitton  
286 Ridge Street  
Madison Heights, Virginia

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

Mr. Henderson thanked Ms. Tomlin for serving as Student Representative on the Amherst County School Board for the 2017-2018 school year.

Ms. Tomlin thanked the members of the Amherst County School Board for allowing her to serve on the Amherst County School Board.

Mr. Cassise informed Board members the Amherst County Education Foundation will host a Golf Tournament on Friday, June 22, 2018.

Mrs. Thompson stated she enjoyed the Madison Heights Elementary School student presentation.

Mrs. Thompson expressed appreciation to the Amherst County Public Schools Instructional Team for their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Mayo congratulated Ms. Tomlin on her upcoming graduation. Mr. Mayo thanked the staff for a successful year.

Mrs. Cumby stated that there will be a change to funding for Central Virginia Governor's School in the 2019-2020 school year. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended a reception on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, for Dr. Woo, President of Sweet Briar College at Second Stage.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda is a Closed Meeting.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for personnel matters.

Upon motion by Mr. Cassise, seconded by Mrs. Cumby 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 a 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 Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board certified that they discussed only permissible topics.

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

NAYS: None

Mr. Henderson asked if the Board wished to take action.

Upon motion by Mr. Cassise, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board approved Item 4.02 Confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of April 2, 2018 through May 4, 2018.

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Cumby, seconded by Mr. Cassise and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk  
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman  
Amherst County Public Schools