

The Amherst County School Board met on Thursday, August 9, 2018, in the Public Meeting Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:02 p.m.

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

ABSENT: David S. Cassise

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 August 9, 2018, regular School Board meeting agenda.

Mrs. Liggon asked that a personnel matter be added to Item 11.01 Closed Meeting.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the August 9, 2018, School Board meeting as amended.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the August 9, 2018, School Board meeting as amended.

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

Dr. Arnold stated that he proposed to the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and Mr. Rodgers, County Administrator, requesting that a Joint Board be developed between the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and members of the Amherst County School Board. Mr. Rodgers stated the Joint Board would include two members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors, two members of the Amherst County School Board, the County Administrator and Superintendent. Dr. Arnold stated the County Administrator and members of the Board of Supervisors were willing to develop the Joint Board and hold quarterly meetings. Dr. Arnold asked if there were any members of the School Board who wished to serve on the Joint Board.

Upon motion by Mr. Terwilliger, seconded by Mr. Mayo, and unanimously carried the Board appointed Mr. Henderson and Mrs. Liggon to serve on the Joint Board as representatives for the Amherst County School Board for the remainder of the 2018 calendar year.

Dr. Arnold stated currently Mr. Henderson serves on the Building Committee as representatives for the School Board. Dr. Arnold informed Board members that Mr. Wood, former Board member, was the other School Board member who served on the Building Committee; therefore, the members of the School Board needed to appoint another representative from the School Board to serve on the Building Committee to provide closure to the PPEA projects. The meeting was scheduled for Friday, August 24, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Mr. Terwilliger to serve as the second School Board member on the Joint Building Committee.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Liggon, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes of the July 12, 2018, regular School Board meeting, confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of July 9, 2018 through August 3, 2018, and approval to place paraprofessional support personnel at Monelison Middle School.

Dr. Arnold recognized Mrs. Stephanie Moehlenkamp, Coordinator of Counseling and Assessment, and Mr. Joey Crawford, Assistant Principal at Amherst County High School.

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

Dr. Wells informed Board members that administrators, representatives from the Sheriff's Department, representatives from the Town Police, and State Troopers would be providing a Joint Safety Training Event to staff at Amherst County High School on Monday, August 13, 2018. Dr. Wells stated the training would provide staff training on how to respond in the event of a crisis.

Dr. Wells stated he was working with the Amherst County Sheriff's Department and the County Administrator to complete a security grant by August 24, 2018, to help fund school resource officers.

Dr. Wells stated the Division Crisis Plan and School Crisis Plans were available for Board members to review on BoardDocs and he would be glad to answer questions. Dr. Wells stated the Division Crisis Plan and School Crisis Plans will be updated and revised in the fall.

Dr. Wells stated the proposed policy revisions were at each Board member's place. Dr. Wells highlighted the proposed policy changes to Policy JGD/JGE and Policy KKA.

Dr. Norman highlighted the revisions to Policy IL and Policy CMA.

Mr. Gallagher highlighted the revisions to Policy GCCB and Policy GCDA.

Dr. Arnold highlighted the revisions to the Policy Manual regarding the date for the reorganization of the School Board. Dr. Arnold stated there were two other policies with minor revisions.

Dr. Arnold stated the Board will consider approval of the proposed policy revisions at the September 13, 2018, regular School Board meeting.

Dr. Wells informed the Board that Amherst County Public Schools has been approved for a Security Equipment Grant. Dr. Wells stated, to date, the total dollar amount to be received had not been received.

Mr. Cocke provided Board members an update on the Amherst County Public Schools' PPEA projects. Mr. Cocke stated Elon Elementary School and Monelison Middle School had been substantially complete. Mr. Cocke informed Board members on Friday, August 10, 2018, a walk through would be completed at Amherst County High School. The HVAC unit for the ACHS auditorium has been delayed; however, it should be operational by Thursday, August 16, 2018, for open house. Mr. Cocke stated Amherst Middle School cafeteria would be completed by the week of August 13, 2018. Mr. Cocke updated the Board on the bathroom renovations at Amherst County High School and white board installation in all the schools.

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

Dr. Dana Norman provided the following update:

This update is specific to the accomplishments made towards the Corrective Action Plan for Madison Heights Elementary, as well as the Reconstitution Agreement with Amelon and Central Elementary for the 2017-2018 school year.

Based on preliminary information all Amherst County Public Schools and the Division will be fully accredited for the 2018-2019 school year. This will be the first time since the 2011-2012 school year that all Amherst schools will be accredited. VDOE has yet to officially publish the accreditation results, but once the data is released a briefing will be provided to the School Board.

In closing, the Amherst Triannual VDOE Meeting that was set for August 15, 2018 has been canceled by Beverly Rabil, Director of the Office of School Improvement. ACPS has been directed to complete one school-wide division level observation at each of the three schools as baseline data for the 2018-2019 school year that will be shared with the Office of School Improvement to ensure continued growth in student performance.

If you have any questions or concerns I will be more than happy to answer them for you regarding any school data or requirements from VDOE.

Dr. Norman expressed appreciation to the students, staff, teachers, administrators and Board members for all of their hard work and support.

Dr. Norman provided Board members an update on the changes to the standards that will take effect with testing in the 2018-2019 school year.

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

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

Mr. Jim Gallagher, Director of Human Resources, provided Board members an update on the three vacant positions for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Gallagher stated there is a plan in place to support and meet student needs.

Mr. Gallagher informed Board members that Amherst County Public Schools has thirty-seven new teachers, of which six teachers are on zero step, twenty-two teachers with more than five years of experience and nine teachers with more than fifteen years of experience.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was Superintendent Matters.

Dr. Arnold provided Board members with three dates in October for a School Board Retreat. Board members shared whether or not the dates could work for Board members. Dr. Arnold stated part of the Board Retreat will be a strategic process with discussion on School Board Goals and the other item on the agenda will be budget discussions. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was to have the School Board Retreat on Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

Dr. Arnold stated the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors approved the supplemental appropriation.

Dr. Arnold stated the 2018 VSBA Annual Convention is scheduled for November 14-16, 2018, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Dr. Arnold asked Board members to let him know who plans to attend the annual convention.

Dr. Arnold stated Mrs. Shrader was working with the principals to get a Calendar of Events from each school and she will be sharing the information in the near future.

Dr. Arnold stated student registration would be Thursday, August 15, 2018.

Dr. Arnold stated the convocation would be Friday, August 16, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., with lunch to follow. Dr. Arnold stated everyone would be dismissed after lunch.

Dr. Arnold reminded Board members of the County Fair on Thursday, August 15, 2018, through Sunday, August 18, 2018. Dr. Arnold stated Amherst County Public Schools would have a dunking booth at the Amherst Fair on Friday, August 16, 2018 and Saturday, August 17, 2018.

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 items from individual Board members.

Mr. Terwilliger stated he would be unable to attend the September 2018, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Terwilliger wished everyone a good start to the new school year.

Mrs. Thompson welcomed everyone to the new school year.

Mr. Mayo congratulated the new hires and stated it had been a busy summer.

Mrs. Cumby stated the August 1, 2018, Governor's School Board meeting had been cancelled.

Mrs. Liggon stated the preliminary notification for accreditation was great news. Mrs. Liggon stated she enjoyed the New Teachers' Luncheon.

Mrs. Liggon asked if the Y Program was in place at Temperance Elementary School. Dr. Norman stated the Y Program was in place for the upcoming school year at Temperance Elementary School.

Mrs. Liggon stated she enjoyed the VTSS Equity Conference.

Mrs. Liggon thanked staff for the football tickets.

Mr. Henderson stated the New Teachers' Luncheon was a great event.

Mr. Henderson asked Board members to let him know if there were particular topics for the School Board Retreat.

Mr. Henderson stated the new student representative will be present at the September regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was a closed session.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and (2), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for (A) (1) personnel matters – performance of an employee and (A) (2) student matters.

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

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

NAYS: None

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the requests for religious exemptions for students one through ten.

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools