

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, August 22, 2013, in the Board Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Jones Stanley, Chairman  
Elizabeth S. Gamble, Vice Chairman  
Priscilla Liggon  
Patricia Massie  
Randy Summers  
Alan Wood

ABSENT: Margaret Morton

Mr. Stanley, Chairman, called the meeting to order, asked that a moment of silence be observed, and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon motion by Mrs. Gamble seconded by Mr. Wood and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda of the August 22, 2013, regular School Board meeting.

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

Mr. Summers shared information with the Board regarding how the average national median salary has decreased from \$54,000 to \$52,090 and the average salary for households in Amherst County has decreased about 1.9% since 2007.

Mr. Wood asked if the ten day enrollment information could be provided to Board members as soon as possible. Dr. Nichols stated preliminary student numbers are 4117; however, additional information will be provided to Board members on Monday, August 26, 2013.

Mr. Wood stated for the 2014-2015 school year the proposed tuition amount per student for Governor's School will go from \$4,200 to \$4,700.

Mr. Wood stated he would like to have the personnel report and requests for additional positions removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Massie stated she received a telephone call from a concerned teacher regarding the credentials that Amherst County Public Schools use for hiring instructional assistants. Dr. Rogers and Dr. Nichols discussed the process that is in place for hiring instructional assistants and the need to ensure the process is followed.

Mrs. Massie asked what happens to items that have been stored in the basement of schools. Mr. Cocke explained that items that are broken will be discarded, items that are no longer used are sent to auction, and other items may be utilized somewhere else in the school division.

Mrs. Massie stated she had a call from a concerned parent regarding the number of students in kindergarten classes at Amelon Elementary School. Dr. Nichols stated once all the

information has been received, the administrative staff will be reviewing student/teacher ratios at each school.

Mrs. Massie stated she was glad to see that there will no longer be one-hour delays for bad weather.

Mrs. Massie stated she attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Central Virginia Community College.

Mrs. Gamble stated she visited some of the schools and was very impressed with the students.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended the Laurel School Board meeting last week and everything is going well.

Mrs. Liggon expressed appreciation to the Amherst County Public Schools family for their support to the family who lost their daughter the weekend before school started.

Mrs. Liggon stated she was glad to see the one-hour delay for bad weather has been eliminated.

Upon motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board removed Item 4.02: Personnel Report and Item 4.05: Consider adding three one-year special education paraprofessional positions to the FY14 School Operational Budget from the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board agreed to discuss Item 4.02: Personnel Report and Item 4.05: Consider adding three one-year special education paraprofessional positions to the FY14 School Operational Budget immediately following the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Wood and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the August 8, 2013, regular School Board meeting, requests to home educate children under religious exemption; and a request for a non-resident student to attend Amherst County Public Schools for the 2013-2014 school year.

Mr. Stanley stated the Board would discuss Item 4.02: Personnel Report and Item 4.05: Consider adding three one-year special education paraprofessional positions to the FY14 School Operational Budget.

Mr. Wood stated on the Personnel Report is a list of stipends and asked if there will be additional stipends added later. Dr. Rogers stated the remaining stipends will be presented at the September 12, 2013, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood asked if the Board could have a copy of the breakdown of stipends. Dr. Rogers stated a list of the stipends with percentages will be provided to Board members prior to the September 12, 2013, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the personnel report.

Mr. Wood asked if the requested one-year positions for special education would be paid for from Special Education Federal Funds and will these positions meet the needs of the division. Dr. Rogers stated the positions will be paid from special education funds and as of right now these positions will meet the needs of the students.

Mr. Wood asked if information can be provided on special education numbers. Dr. Rogers stated information regarding special education needs will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved adding three one-year special education paraprofessional positions to the FY14 School Operational Budget.

Mrs. Norman shared the following information concerning accountability measures for Amherst County Public Schools:

1. There are two types of accountability measures that all Virginia Public Schools fall under:
  - a. State Accreditation
    - i. Requires schools to maintain an overall pass rate of 75% in the area of reading and 70% in the area of math, science, and history in order to be designated as fully accredited.
    - ii. When student performance drops below those requirements, the school is designated as a school accredited with warning in the content area that dropped below the mandated pass rate.
    - iii. A school can be accredited with warning in multiple areas.
    - iv. This applies to all schools whether or not they are a Title I school (receiving federal Title I funds).
  - b. Federal AMO (Annual Measurable Objective)
    - i. Requires schools to meet the increasing student performance objective each year only in the areas of reading and math.
    - ii. The measures of performance increase by 3% to 7% each year depending on the content area and the subgroup.
    - iii. There are six (6) subgroups that are identified by the ESEA Waiver that school divisions and schools are required to track for student performance. Several of the six are combined to form what are known as Gap Groups which target specific student demographics to ensure that all students meet the state standards.
    - iv. There are four designations that can be given to schools not meeting the standards: Priority, Focus, Improvement, and MHE (Not Meeting High Expectations).
2. Division and school requirements continue to grow under the state and federal accountability system, however little to no funding is given to assist in the implementation of the requirements.

3. ACPS Preliminary Data
  - a. Two schools are Fully Accredited, meeting all state and federal measures
  - b. Five schools are Accredited with Warning (five in math and one in reading)
  - c. Six schools are in Improvement
  - d. One school is a Focus School
  - e. Overall eight schools are in some level of Improvement
  - f. Math Data:
    - i. Nine state tests were given ranging from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to Algebra II
    - ii. Six of the nine tests results showed gains with four of the six tests reflecting over a 10% increase (comparably - no state tests results showed a 10% increase)
    - iii. Three remaining tests decreased (two of the three only by one or two points)
  - g. Reading Data:
    - i. Ten tests were given; all mirrored the state decline ranging from 5 to 29% as expected.
4. Initial Plan contains: (1) Meetings with principals to discuss data, target groups, instructional focus, leadership teams, and areas of concern [with master schedule, remediation blocks, testing schedule and trainings] (2) School Walk-Throughs, and (3) Division Level Support Team Meetings.

Dr. Nichols stated that Mrs. Norman will be providing updates on accountability measures at each Board meeting.

Board members expressed appreciation to Mrs. Norman and Dr. Nichols for the information that was provided.

Mrs. Crouch informed the Board the budget monitoring forms, revenue receipts, and object code information for July 2013 were at their place. Mrs. Crouch stated that encumbrances will be provided on the object code report beginning with the September 2013 report. Mrs. Crouch stated currently 4117 students have shown up to school. Mrs. Crouch stated the budget was built on 4110. Mr. Wood said he thought the number was 4116. Mrs. Crouch stated she will verify.

Mrs. Crouch shared information with the Board from Mr. David Proffitt, Deputy County Administrator, on upgrading the existing sound system in the School Administration Office Board Room. After discussion by the Board, they agreed this was a lot of money to spend at this time. Board members asked if a Request for Proposals will be completed and if other vendors will be contacted to submit their proposals. The questions and concerns expressed by the Board will be shared with Mr. David Proffitt.

Dr. Nichols stated that once Board members signed the VSBA Code of Conduct for School Board Members it will be framed and placed in the schools and at the School Administration Office.

Dr. Nichols suggested November 6, 2013, as the date for the School Board Retreat. The consensus of the Board was to have the School Board Retreat on November 6, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Nichols and Mr. Cocke provided the Board with an update on construction projects in Amherst County Public Schools. Mr. Cocke stated the roof repairs to Amherst County High School should be completed by the week ending August 30, 2013, and repairs for the roof at Monelison Middle School will begin once Amherst County High School is complete. Mr. Cocke informed the Board that core samples on the Amherst County High School roof have been completed and the structure is sound. Additional core samples will be done at the other schools and information will be shared with Board members at a future meeting.

Dr. Nichols stated this has been the best opening of school of his career. Dr. Nichols stated the first day of school the teachers were teaching and students were learning.

Dr. Rogers stated that all administrators and teachers were in place for the opening of school. There were several instructional paraprofessional positions that needed to be hired.

Dr. Rogers expressed appreciation to Ms. Mary Mays and the other guidance counselors and school psychologists for their assistance with the Crisis Plan to assist students and teachers with the loss of the middle school student.

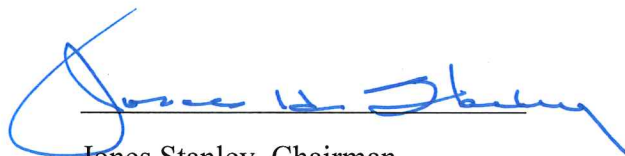
Mrs. Norman stated that Central Office administrators were at all locations for the opening of school. Amherst County High School was running smoothly and the middle school students seemed to have an easy transition.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Wood and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk  
Amherst County Public Schools



Jones Stanley, Chairman  
Amherst County Public Schools