

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, September 8, 2016, 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
Jennifer E. Cumby
Francisco D. Mayo
Randy V. Summers
Craig S. Terwilliger
Abby J. Thompson

Nathan Gowdy, 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 stated he would like to switch the order of the agenda and move Item 3 Constitution Week Proclamations before Item 2 Public Comment. Mr. Henderson asked if there were any other changes to the agenda for the September 8, 2016, regular School Board meeting. There were no other changes.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the September 8, 2016, regular School Board meeting, as amended.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Summers and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda of the September 8, 2016, regular School Board meeting, as amended.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the Constitution Week Proclamation.

Dr. Nichols recognized representatives from the Amherst Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Dr. Nichols stated this group has been responsible over the years for maintaining a high awareness and appreciation for patriotism and the American experience. Representatives of DAR as well as Mr. Henderson and Dr. Nichols, signed a Proclamation in honor of Constitution Week, which was September 17-23, 2016.

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

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

The following people addressed the Board:

Mrs. Carmen Sitton	124 Forbes Street	Madison Heights, VA 24521
Mrs. Claudia Tucker	713 Indian Creek	Amherst, VA 24521
Mrs. Lisa Lloyd	1363 Buffalo Springs Turnpike	Amherst, VA 24521
Samuel Mays	1171 Sugar Hill Tunnel Road	Monroe, VA 24574

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the proposed policy revisions. Mr. Henderson stated the proposed policy revisions were provided to Board members at the August 25, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

Dr. Nichols reviewed the proposed revisions to the policies and stated that staff was ready to answer questions.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the proposed revisions to the Amherst County Public Schools Policy Manual.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of adjustments to the Amherst County School Board 2016-17 meeting schedule.

Dr. Nichols stated information regarding this matter was discussed at the August 25, 2016, regular School Board meeting. Dr. Nichols reviewed the revisions to the Amherst County School Board 2016-17 meeting schedule. Dr. Nichols discussed how student discipline matters will fit into the revised meeting schedule.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the revisions to the Amherst County School Board 2016-17 meeting schedule.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board approved a pilot program to revise the Amherst County School Board 2016-17 meeting schedule through January 2017, at which time the Board will review and make recommendations for changes if necessary.

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would review the next item on the agenda which was to discuss and consider approval of the options to finance school construction projects.

Mrs. Crouch reviewed the two options available for financing the school construction projects. Mrs. Crouch informed the members of the Amherst County School Board that on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors approved to finance the next phase of the school construction projects through the Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA), with an option of obtaining financing through individual banks. Mrs. Crouch stated the recommendation from senior staff was that the members of the Amherst County School Board approve financing for the school construction projects through VPSA. Mrs. Crouch informed the Board that the Amherst County Board of Supervisors would no longer be obtaining financing through Virginia Saves.

Board members reviewed and discussed the options presented as well as whether or not the projects for Pleasant View Elementary School would be covered under the financing.

Mrs. Crouch and Mr. Cocke informed the Board that the roof for Pleasant View Elementary School was included with the financing package.

Mr. Summers made a motion to approve the financing for school construction projects through the Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

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

NAYS: Terwilliger

Dr. Nichols stated the next item on the agenda was to approve a resolution for VPSA funding.

Mrs. Crouch stated based on the previous action by the members of the Amherst County School Board for financing through VPSA for school construction projects, and the timeline for filing an application through VPSA, the Board would need to approve a resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Virginia Public School Authority. Mrs. Crouch stated by approving the resolution it does not obligate the Board for financing the school construction projects through VPSA.

Board members discussed the information provided. Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the resolution as presented.

Mrs. Thompson made a motion to approve a resolution for financing through VPSA for school construction projects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Summers.

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

NAYS: Terwilliger

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

Mrs. Thompson stated she would like to make a change to the minutes.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board removed the minutes from the consent agenda. The minutes would be discussed following the approval of the consent agenda.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the minutes.

Upon motion by Mrs. Cumby, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda as amended: confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period August 22, 2016 through September 2, 2016, a request to home school a student under the Code of Virginia religious exemption clause, and a field trip request for Amherst County High School Theatre Students to travel to Norfolk to attend the Virginia Theatre Association's statewide theatre competition/workshop/conference on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 through Sunday, October 30, 2016.

Mr. Henderson asked Mrs. Thompson what change she would like to make to the minutes.

Mrs. Thompson asked that a word be changed in the comments she made regarding testing data. She stated that the minutes reflected she stated she was excited about the gains that are shown in the test data. Mrs. Thompson asked that the word "*trend*" be used instead of "*gains*".

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes of the August 25, 2016, regular School Board meeting as amended.

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

Dr. Nichols stated that Dr. Norman does not have an update on accountability measures.

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

Dr. Nichols stated that Dr. Rogers would provide an update.

Dr. Rogers reviewed and discussed the following information with Board members: a chart with elementary enrollment and pupil/teacher ratios, a list of elementary building capacities based on the 2014 Prismatic study, and a copy of the August 19, 2016 PVES Transition Committee minutes which included potential PVES transfer enrollment by grade level. Dr. Rogers informed Board members that based on the August 19, 2016, minutes of the PVES Transition Committee, the transfer projections for Elon Elementary School and Temperance Elementary School enrollment for the two schools will remain below full capacity for the 2017-18 school year. Dr. Rogers stated additional information regarding student enrollment will be discussed at the School Board Retreat.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. Board members discussed information regarding the boundary lines on which students from Pleasant View Elementary School will attend Temperance Elementary School and which students will attend Elon Elementary School for the 2017-18 school year.

Mr. Cocke and Dr. Rogers stated the dividing lines for students from Pleasant View Elementary School will be based on the current middle school lines.

Mr. Terwilliger asked if this was considered redistricting.

Mr. Henderson stated this information will be researched and information will be provided to Board members at an upcoming meeting.

No action was taken by the Board regarding this matter.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Mr. Cocke does not have an update on facilities.

Mr. Henderson asked Dr. Nichols if he had anything to share.

Dr. Nichols asked Board members if they would sign up for the Student Accountability Committee meetings. Information will be discussed further at the October 13, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

Dr. Nichols reminded Board members that the VSBA training for Superintendent and Board members will be held in Charlottesville on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

- Mrs. Carmen Sitton 124 Forbes Street Madison Heights, VA

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

Mr. Summers stated he did not have anything to share.

Mrs. Cumby stated she attended the Pleasant View Elementary School Transition Committee meeting. Mrs. Cumby asked Board members to let her know if there were any questions regarding the minutes that Dr. Rogers shared. Mrs. Cumby stated she attended a Governor's School meeting and informed the Board that on November 12, 2016, from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., there will be an open house at the Governor's School. Mrs. Cumby stated on October 8, 2016, Heritage High School will have tours for the public.

Mr. Mayo stated he did not have anything to share.

Mrs. Thompson stated she attended the VSBA Superintendent's Evaluation Training and it was very enlightening. She stated since there are three new School Board members she believes it would be a good idea for all Board members to look at the state model and the local model for comparison at a future Board meeting.

Mrs. Thompson thanked the citizens for their input and support of their Pleasant View community. She expressed appreciation to the administrative staff and other Board members for the hard work that had been completed on gathering information regarding Pleasant View Elementary School. Mrs. Thompson stated she would like to go on record to support having conversation about the fate of Pleasant View Elementary School. Mrs. Thompson stated she wants to move cautiously to ensure that she was not held accountable for being the one who made sure the school closed and then all of a sudden ten or twelve years down the road a new school needed to be built.

Mr. Henderson stated that some of Mrs. Thompson's questions may be answered during the new Board member orientation with senior staff at the end of the month. Dr. Nichols stated during the new Board meeting orientation Mr. Cocke would review the maps regarding Pleasant View Elementary School.

Mr. Terwilliger stated based on the number of emails Board members were receiving and also on the comments made by Mrs. Thompson, he would like to have an agenda item placed on the future meeting regarding Pleasant View Elementary School. Mr. Terwilliger stated he believes that is the logical step.

Board members and staff began a detailed discussion regarding the past decision the members of the Amherst County School Board made regarding closing Pleasant View Elementary School. Certain board members would like to revisit the fate of Pleasant View Elementary School at a future meeting. All of the discussion occurred under Information from Board Members.

Mr. Terwilliger stated he wanted to have a discussion regarding Pleasant View Elementary School at a future meeting. Mr. Terwilliger stated he would like to have a committee formed to make sure all options have been explored.

Mr. Gowdy asked if Pleasant View Elementary School closes, what will happen to the teachers. Dr. Nichols stated the teachers will be reassigned throughout the division.

Mrs. Liggon stated based on the information provided by staff the former School Board made a decision and a vote was taken to close Pleasant View Elementary School at the end of the 2016-17 school year. A PVES Transition Committee was formed and now there is discussion about forming a committee to review information to keep the school open. Mrs. Liggon stated in her opinion that should not be done. Mrs. Liggon stated there may be a need at a future meeting with the current Board to discuss Pleasant View Elementary School to ensure that all members have the same information. Mrs. Liggon stated as far as test results, students at one school should not be compared with another school in the county. Mrs. Liggon stated in her opinion the PVES Transition Committee should not be looking at options to keep the school open. Mrs. Liggon stated that Mr. Henderson as Chairman should decide whether or not additional discussion regarding Pleasant View Elementary School should be placed on a future School Board meeting agenda.

Mr. Henderson recommended the new Board members review the information regarding Pleasant View Elementary School during the new Board member orientation. Mr. Henderson stated if new information is uncovered, then the Board may want to revisit the decision of the previous Board. Mr. Henderson stated he cannot see forming another committee to review the information.

Mr. Terwilliger asked if the Board should vote on forming a committee to review the information regarding closing Pleasant View Elementary School.

Mr. Henderson stated the Board could take a vote right now.

Mrs. Crouch stated the Board should not take action under Items from Individual Board members.

Board members continued a detailed discussion regarding options for Pleasant View Elementary School.

Mrs. Crouch informed Board members that Items from Individual Board members was not the place on the agenda to have this type of detailed discussion. Mrs. Crouch stated if the Board wishes to discuss this type of information then it should be part of the agenda.

There was no further discussion by the Board regarding Pleasant View Elementary School.

Mrs. Liggon stated she believes the environment that students are tutored in effects the results of the tutoring session. Mrs. Liggon suggested a possible round table area may be better for students.

Mrs. Liggon stated the PELL Grant is going to be good for the students attending Central Virginia Community College.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the PVES Transition Committee meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the School Board Retreat will be held on October 19, 2016. Mr. Henderson asked if there was another location to have the retreat. Dr. Nichols stated he would look around for another location.

Mr. Henderson informed Board members that the Amherst County Board of Supervisors will be looking at its goals and objectives at one of its upcoming meetings. Mr. Henderson stated he would like to offer assistance from the School Board.

Mr. Henderson asked that all Board members send request for information through the Chairman.

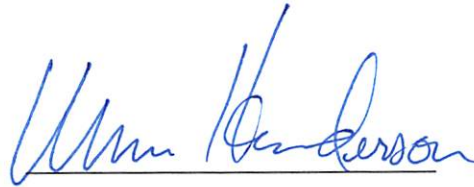
Dr. Nichols stated he would be out of the division on Friday, September 9, 2016.

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 8:58 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools