

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, September, 10, 2015, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia, at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Alan J. Wood, Chairman  
W. Michael Henderson, Vice Chairman  
Alan H. Bumgarner  
Priscilla M. Liggon  
Patricia C. Massie  
Randy V. Summers

ABSENT: Jennifer E. Cumby  
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 expressed appreciation to the citizens present for attending the School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood asked if there were any changes to the agenda of September 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the September 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the August 27, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was citizen comments.

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

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to consider adding a full-time health assistant position to the FY16 School Operational Budget.

Dr. Nichols shared information with the Board regarding the need to hire a one-year health assistant position to be split between Pleasant View Elementary School and Temperance Elementary School for the remainder of the FY16 school year. Dr. Nichols stated the position would be funded with carry-over funds from the FY15 School Operational Budget.

Mrs. Stephanie Meehan, Student Accountability Coordinator, provided additional information and answered questions regarding the request for an additional health assistant position for the remainder of the 2015-16 school year.

The members of the Amherst County School Board discussed the need for the additional health assistant position to be shared between Pleasant View Elementary School and Temperance Elementary School.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the position for the remainder of the 2015-16 School Year.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved adding a full-time health assistant position (part-time at Pleasant View Elementary School and part-time at Temperance Elementary School) to the FY16 School Operational Budget.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Wood asked if there were any questions. There being none, Mr. Wood asked if the Board wished to approve the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the August 13, 2015, regular School Board meeting, minutes of the August 27, 2015, regular School Board meeting, confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period August 24, 2015, through September 4, 2015, a request to home school a student under the Code of Virginia religious exemption clause, and a field trip request for Elon Elementary School third grade students to travel to the North Carolina Zoo, on Friday, October 16, 2015.

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

Dr. Norman shared an email with the members of the Amherst County School Board from the Virginia Department of Education regarding the revised accountability timeline for the release of the 2015-2016 state accreditation ratings and federal accountability reports. Dr. Norman stated the action was due based on anticipated action by the State Board of Education to align the Standards of Accreditation (SOA) with legislation approved by the 2015 General Assembly.

The members of the Amherst County School Board discussed the changes to the revised accountability measures and expressed disappointment that the accountability reports would not be released until October 2015.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was discussion of the proposed revisions to the grading policy.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman would present information to the members of the Amherst County School Board regarding proposed revisions to the grading policy.

Dr. Norman introduced Dr. William Wells, Principal at Amherst County High School, Mr. Chris Young, Assistant Principal at Amherst County High School, Mr. Wayne Lyle, Supervisor of Humanities, and Ms. Mary Mays, Supervisor of Guidance and Testing. Dr. Norman stated that Dr. Wells, Mr. Young, Mr. Lyle and Ms. Mays were available for questions.

Board members discussed and asked questions regarding the revisions to the grading policy. Board members directed Dr. Norman and committee members to provide additional information regarding the revisions to the grading policy. Board members stated they want to make sure that parents and students were aware of the proposed revisions to the grading policy.

After much discussion, Board members agreed that they would not consider approving the revisions to the grading policy at the September 24, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

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

Dr. Nichols stated there was no update from the Human Resources Department.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was the budget monitoring reports, revenue receipts and other financial reports for June 2015.

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would provide information regarding this matter.

Mrs. Crouch informed Board members information had been provided regarding the end-of-year reports for FY15. Reports were provided for the Child Nutrition Program separate from the regular School Operational Budget.

Mrs. Crouch stated during the budget process, Amherst County Public Schools anticipated approximately \$800,000 to be carried over in the regular FY15 Operational Budget. Based on expenditures and revenue received the carry-over was \$1,236,238 in local funds. Funds will be verified during the 2014-2015 County Audit. Mrs. Crouch provided an overview of what made up the difference in the anticipated carry-over.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was information regarding the school activity audit for the 2014-2015 school year.

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would discuss the audit report.

Mrs. Crouch stated the 2014-2015 audit report for the school activity funds had been provided to Board members. Mrs. Crouch expressed appreciation to the Principals and secretaries/bookkeepers for a job well done. Mrs. Crouch stated the principals and secretaries continue to work to improve the process.

Mr. Wood stated he reviewed the audit report and highlighted the following comment made by the auditors in the report: *Management acknowledges the limitations related to the segregation of duties, but will incorporate other suggestions as deemed cost beneficial.* Mr. Wood asked that the schools continue to work on the items that can be improved. Mr. Wood stated it was important to alleviate any temptations.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Mr. Cocke would discuss the update on facilities.

Mr. Cocke shared the following immediate concerns with the members of the Amherst County School Board regarding facilities:

- Elon Elementary School – outdoor heat pump one classroom
- Amherst Elementary School – main office PTAC unit
- Pleasant View Elementary School – day treatment classroom PTAC unit
- Madison Heights Elementary School – replace carpet in the library with VCT tile
- Maintenance van replacement (3)

The members of the Amherst County School Board discussed the immediate facility concerns. Mrs. Crouch reminded Board members that there was approximately \$70,000 in the FY16 School Operational Budget for facilities.

After discussion by the Board, Mr. Henderson made a motion to proceed with the following immediate facility projects using the FY16 budgeted funds:

- Elon Elementary School

Amherst Elementary School  
Pleasant View Elementary School – day treatment classroom PTAC unit  
Madison Heights Elementary School – replace carpet in the library with VCT tile  
Mr. Summers seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Wood asked if Dr. Nichols wished to share anything with Board members.

Dr. Nichols reminded Board members the Amherst County School Board Retreat was scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. Information regarding the Retreat would be posted on BoardDocs on Friday, September 11, 2015.

Dr. Nichols reminded Board members the presentation by Milestone Communication regarding the proposed cell tower at Elon Elementary School was scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at Elon Elementary School. Dr. Nichols stated members of the Amherst County School Board would be allowed to ask questions regarding the proposed cell tower.

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

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

Mr. Henderson expressed appreciation to Dr. Nichols for providing Board members updates on the Amherst County Lancer football team when the team traveled to and from Florida.

Mrs. Lignon stated she attended a football game.

Mrs. Lignon thanked Dr. Nichols and Mr. Cocke for investigating a bus route for several students who were riding the bus for a long period of time. Mrs. Lignon expressed appreciation that a change could be made to the route.

Mrs. Lignon stated she wanted to review information on field trips for the elementary schools.

Mrs. Massie thanked Dr. Nichols for allowing Pleasant View Elementary School to be the command center for public safety when two girls were lost in the Pleasant View Elementary School area.

Mr. Wood requested student enrollment numbers be provided to Board members at the next School Board meeting.

Dr. Nichols stated the numbers were being refined.

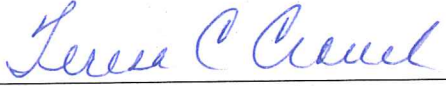
Mr. Wood stated the Governor's School Board has changed the date for student recognitions to May 15, 2016.

Mr. Wood stated he asked Mrs. Crouch to provide him copies of the FY15 Budget monitoring end-of-year reports.


Mrs. Crouch asked if other Board members wished to have a copy of the end-of-year reports, please let her know.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk  
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman  
Amherst County Public Schools