

The Amherst County School Board met on Thursday, September 13, 2018, in the Public Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:17 p.m.

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

 Indeya Paige, Student Representative

ABSENT: Craig Terwilliger

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.

Dr. Arnold introduced and welcomed Miss Indeya Paige, Student Representative to the Amherst County School Board for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mr. Henderson asked if there were any changes to the September 13, 2018, regular School Board meeting agenda.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the September 13, 2018, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Cassise seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the September 13, 2018, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was a presentation concerning Constitution Week.

Dr. Arnold introduced Ms. Mary Mays and Mrs. Anne Neff, representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Ms. Mays stated that Constitution Week would be celebrated across our Country during the week of September 17-23, 2018. Ms. Mays stated that posters had been provided to all schools in preparation for Constitution Week. Mr. Henderson read the proclamation honoring September 17-23, 2018 as Constitution Week. Mr. Henderson, Dr. Arnold and Miss Paige participated in signing the proclamation.

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

Mr. William Cox, President of the Amherst County Bus Association and bus driver, addressed the Board regarding concerns from bus drivers.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was action items from administration.

Dr. Arnold stated the Board reviewed proposed policy revisions at the August 9, 2018, regular School Board meeting. Dr. Arnold asked if the members of the School Board had additional questions. There were no questions.

Mr. Henderson asked the members of the Amherst County School Board if they were ready to approve the proposed policies.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mr. Cassise and unanimously carried, the Board approved the policy revisions that were presented at the August 9, 2018, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was approval of adding three (3) one-year paraprofessional positions to the 2018-2019 School Operational Budget.

Mr. Gallagher, Director of Human Resources, and Mr. Neighbors, Supervisor of Student Services, provided an overview of the need to add three one-year paraprofessional positions to the 2018-2019 School Operational Budget. Mr. Gallagher stated the positions would be funded by a refund from Laurel - non-center based program.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the additional three (3) one-year paraprofessional positions to the 2018-2019 School Operational Budget.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Cumby, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes of the August 8, 2018, regular School Board meeting, confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of August 6, 2018 through September 7, 2018, and a supplemental appropriation to the 2018-2019 School Operational Budget.

Dr. Arnold introduced Ms. Michelle Angle, Assistant Principal at Amelon Elementary School.

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

Dr. Wells provided Board members an update on Hurricane Florence and how the rain may impact Amherst County on Sunday, September 16, 2018 and Monday, September 17, 2018.

Dr. Wells informed Board members the safety training that was scheduled for Friday, August 13, 2018, was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances that happened in Amherst County on Sunday, August 12, 2018. The safety training has been rescheduled for November 6, 2018.

Dr. Wells provided Board members an update on the PPEA projects. Dr. Wells stated that the majority of the work had been completed.

Dr. Wells provided Board members an update on the Amherst County Fair. Dr. Wells expressed his appreciation to the Transportation Department. Dr. Wells stated buses were used to transport over 15,000 people to the Amherst County Fair.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was budget monitoring reports for June 2018.

Dr. Arnold stated Mrs. Crouch would share the financial information

Mrs. Crouch provided Board members the budget monitoring reports, revenue reports and revenue receipts for the month of June 2018. Mrs. Crouch distributed the budget summary by object code

information to Board members at the meeting. Mrs. Crouch shared information with Board members regarding the June 2018 accelerated sales tax. Mrs. Crouch stated this information was provided to school divisions in August 2018. Mrs. Crouch discussed the impact that the distribution of June sales tax had on the available year-end balance. Mrs. Crouch stated the remaining balance of the June sales tax should be received by December 2018.

Board members discussed the information provided and asked that a memo be provided to outline the information discussed. Dr. Arnold stated that the agenda for the School Board Retreat was Budget 101.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was preliminary student enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mrs. Crouch provided Board members an overview of the student enrollment and stated that the preliminary student enrollment for K-12 as of September 13, 2018 was 3936. Mrs. Crouch stated the 2018-2019 School Operational Budget was based on ADM of 3788. Mrs. Crouch stated these numbers are preliminary and the number may change prior to the October 1, 2018, report to the Virginia Department of Education.

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

Dr. Norman provided the following information update on accountability measures:

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Virginia Board of Education and the Amherst County Public School Board the following is an update regarding on-going accountability measures. This update is specific to the timeline for the public release of school assessment data from the Virginia Department of Education.

The timeline provided last month from the VDOE has been revised to reflect the delay of data on the performance levels for graduation rate, drop-out rate and other state and federal indicators. The following dates are still subject to change based on VDOE release of information;

- 1. September 27, 2018: VDOE releases state accreditation ratings that will include performance levels on school quality indicators. Concurrently, the Department will update the School Quality Profiles for schools, divisions and the commonwealth.*
- 2. October 1, 2018: VDOE releases cohort graduation and dropout rates for high schools.*
- 3. December 31, 2018: VDOE releases the complete federal determinations for all schools under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).*

School Quality Profiles:

- 1. Based on new legislation and the Profile of a Virginia Graduate there are three different rates that will be released on the VDOE School Profile Page. All of the rates issued by the state are used for different purposes and are*

calculated differently, showing either a raw pass rates (as has been done in the past) or a combined pass rate (includes the new student growth measure). They are explained as follows;

- a. **Annual Pass Rates** – Required reporting by USED under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Very similar to the same formula used on the School Quality Profiles (Assessment tab) last year except, no substitute tests are included.
- b. **Accreditation** – Required under the new Standards Of Accreditation regulations; a complete overhaul of Accreditation from prior years. On September 27, 2018 a new tab will be added to the School Quality Profiles with a dashboard and supporting data. Reported combined rates will use the new student growth measure. This will provide information on subgroup performance.
- c. **Federal Accountability (ESSA)** – Required under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act and currently named the Every Student Succeeds Act; a complete overhaul of federal accountability that was in effect during No Child Left Behind. The public release of ESSA determinations are throughout the fall including some information being released on Sept 27th. This data including a dashboard and supporting details will be released on the School Quality Profiles in a new tab called ESSA on Dec 31, 2018. This will provide information on subgroup performance.

A review of data will be presented to the Board on October 11, 2018 after the release of information.

Implementation of VDOE Suggestions:

1. *Members of the Instructional Team for ACPS are currently in the process of completing classroom observations at schools where we have noticed a drop in performance based on identified student subgroups. All initial observations will be completed before the end of the October.*
2. *See attached information regarding the 2018-2019 Phase-In Year for the “4-Year Look Back” Procedure of Achievement Gaps and Chronic Absenteeism. This information will be reviewed at the October 11, 2018 Board Meeting when Dr. Albon and myself present the Division Data.*

The following information was also shared with Board members:

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Virginia Department of Education
Richmond, VA 23218
804-225-2023
james.lane@doe.virginia.gov

The purpose of this communication is to 1) remind superintendents about the phase-in procedure for the "4-year look back" for the 2018-2019 accreditation ratings previously communicated on May 25, 2018, and 2) inform school divisions of changes to the rules for minimum student group size (also known as "small n").

Reminder about 2018-2019 as a Phase-In Year for the "4-Year Look Back" Procedure - Achievement Gaps and Chronic Absenteeism

On May 25, 2018, superintendents were informed by email of a one year phase-in for the designation of a Level Three performance rating for certain school quality indicators based on the indicator having a rating of Level Two or lower for four consecutive years. The specific indicators are chronic absenteeism and academic achievement gaps for reporting groups in English and mathematics.

Local division superintendents had expressed concern about the application of this rule for new indicators in the School Accreditation System, specifically achievement gaps for reporting groups and chronic absenteeism. To address this concern, for the 2018-2019 accreditation ratings, the four-year rule will not be applied to the indicators of chronic absenteeism and academic achievement gaps for reporting groups in English and mathematics. To phase in the four-year rule for these indicators, the designation will remain at Level Two if that performance range has been achieved by the school for the 2018-2019 accreditation ratings, regardless of the fact that the indicator has been at Level Two four consecutive years.

Revision to the Rules for Minimum Student Group Size

Changes to the rules for minimum student group size (also known as "small n") have been made to allow schools with small student populations or small student groups to benefit when either the current year rate or improvements from the previous year to the current year are more favorable than the three-year cumulative rate. These rules will be immediately applied to all indicators used to determine school accreditation ratings for the 2018-19 school year. Updated reports are available in the Accreditation application in SSWS.

The Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) revised rules for minimum student group size for all accreditation indicators are as follows:

For student groups where the current year rate includes 30 or more students, the performance level will be based on the current year or the three-year cumulative rate, whichever is more favorable. (This rule is unchanged from the July 2018 release.)

For groups where the current year rate includes less than 30 students and is rated Level One or Level Two, the group's performance level will be based on the current year rate, or the three-year cumulative rate, whichever is more favorable. (This rule represents a change from the July 2018 release. The rule now applies to all indicators including those that address the performance of "all students." Previously this rule was applied only to achievement gap indicators that focused on student groups. This rule also allows the more favorable rate between the current year and the three-year cumulative rate to be selected when the current year rate includes less than 30 students and is Level One or Level Two.)

If the current year rate includes less than 30 students and is rated Level Three, the performance level will be based on the three-year cumulative rate if it includes 30 or

more students. If the three-year cumulative rate also includes less than 30 students, the indicator is excluded from consideration. (This rule is unchanged from the July 2018 release.)

Below are two examples that highlight the benefit of the changes to the minimum student group size rules. Under the previous rules, the school in the table below received a Level Three rating for science because its current year rate, although above the benchmark of 70, was based on less than 30 students tested. With the new rules, the current year rate is selected and the school receives a final performance level rating of Level One for science.

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Data Source</i> | <i>Passing</i> | <i>Total Tests</i> | <i>Rate</i> | <i>Performance Level (Previous Rules)</i> | <i>Performance Level (Revised Rules)</i> |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|---|--|
| <i>Academic Achievement: Science All Students</i> | <i>Current Year</i> | 15 | 21 | 71.43 | TS | <i>Level One (rate selected—revised rules)</i> |
| | <i>Previous Year</i> | 19 | 32 | 59.38 | | |
| | <i>Cumulative 3 Year</i> | 52 | 83 | 62.65 | <i>Level Three (rate selected—previous rules)</i> | <i>Level Three</i> |

Under the previous rules, the school in the table below received a Level Two rating for math achievement among Black students even though its three-year cumulative rate is more favorable. With the new rules, if the current year rate includes less than 30 students and is Level One or Two, the more favorable of the current year or the three-year cumulative rate will be selected.

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Data Source</i> | <i>Passing</i> | <i>Total Tests</i> | <i>Rate</i> | <i>Performance Level (Previous Rules)</i> | <i>Performance Level (Revised Rules)</i> |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|---|--|
| <i>Achievement Gap: Math Black Students</i> | <i>Current Year</i> | 5 | 7 | 71.43 | <i>Level Two (rate selected—previous rules)</i> | <i>Level Two</i> |
| | <i>Previous Year</i> | 10 | 12 | 83.33 | | |
| | <i>Cumulative 3 Year</i> | 24 | 27 | 88.88 | TS | <i>Level One (rate selected—revised rules)</i> |

In addition, VDOE has adjusted how minimum group size is determined when recovery tests are present. Previously, minimum group size was based on the total number of tests, counting passing recovery tests twice. The minimum group will now be based on the total number of tests, counting passing recovery test once. This change only impacts the determination of minimum group size and does not change how recovery tests are counted in pass rates and combined rates.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Jennifer Piver-Renna, Senior Executive Director for Research, at 804-225-3698 or jennifer.piver-renna@doe.virginia.gov.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the Virginia Pre-School Initiative VPI monitoring.

Dr. Norman informed the Board that the Virginia Pre-School Initiative VIP program for Amherst County Public Schools is scheduled for a desk audit during the 2018-2019 school year. The Part I preliminary audit will occur at Amelon Elementary School, Central Elementary School and Madison Heights Elementary School. The Part II audit site visit will occur during the 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. Norman congratulated Mr. Gallagher and his team for outstanding results on the Annual Performance Report for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for 2016. Dr. Norman shared the report with Board members and stated the requirements were met under each of the indicators.

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

Dr. Arnold stated there was not a report from Mr. Gallagher, Director of Human Resources.

Dr. Arnold stated Miss Indeya Paige, Amherst County School Board student representative would share information with the Board.

Miss Paige stated it was an honor to serve as Student Representative. Miss Paige shared some fun facts about herself and what her aspirations and goals are for the future. Miss Paige presented the idea of how the school system can help the students prepare and get ready to go to college. A solution might be working with parents and students to make sure the deadlines are being met. Also, consider asking a past senior to mentor a current senior.

Mr. Henderson thanked Miss Paige for her suggestions.

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

Dr. Arnold distributed VSBA Academy Award Certification to certain School Board members for their participation in VSBA workshops. Dr. Arnold stated VSBA membership cards were also included in their packet.

Dr. Arnold provided an update on the Building Committee meeting held on August 24, 2018. Dr. Arnold stated the PPEA projects are coming to an end and there is a remaining fund balance on the money that was borrowed. Dr. Arnold stated Mr. Cocke will be working with Mr. Gillespie and representatives of Southern Air to develop a list of projects that will be provided to School Board members. Dr. Arnold stated the members of the Amherst County School Board will approve how the

remaining funds will be spent. The list will then be provided to members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors for final approval.

Dr. Arnold stated Mrs. Cumby, District 2 representative, resigned her position on the Board effective September 30, 2018. Dr. Arnold shared information with the Board regarding the procedures for filling vacancies on the Amherst County School Board. The consensus of the Board was to have a special meeting on Thursday, October 25, 2018, to interview candidates in open session for the District 2 position.

Dr. Arnold discussed information concerning the School Board Retreat scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at Sweet Briar College from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm. Dr. Arnold stated VSBA is scheduled to work with members of the School Board concerning School Board goals. Also, time will be allotted for Budget 101 discussions.

Dr. Arnold stated Mr. Josh Neighbors, Supervisor of Student Services, will be conducting non-violent crisis intervention training for administrators and the crisis intervention team from each school. Once the initial training has been completed the teachers will be trained.

Dr. Arnold stated currently the procedure that the members of the Amherst County School Board uses for student discipline hearings is with a three Board member committee that rotates on a semester basis. Dr. Arnold informed Board members of the second policy option which allows student discipline matters to be heard by a hearing officer. If the Board decided to use the second option, Dr. Wells, Assistant Superintendent, would hear all student discipline matters. Board members discussed the information; however, the consensus of the Board was to allow the current procedures to remain in place.

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

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

Mr. William Cox, President of the Amherst County Bus Association and bus driver, addressed the Board regarding consideration of purchasing all school buses with air conditioning.

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

Mr. Cassise stated he attended a STEM Academy meeting.

Mr. Cassise stated the Amherst County Public Schools' Education Raffle is scheduled for October 16, 2018, at the Madison Heights Community Center at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Cassise encouraged Board members and administrators to buy tickets and attend the event.

Mr. Cassise stated he enjoyed working with Mrs. Cumby the past nine months.

Mrs. Thompson thanked everyone who assisted with the Amherst County Fair.

Mrs. Thompson stated she had heard some of the same concerns Mr. Cox expressed from other school bus drivers.

Mrs. Thompson welcomed Miss Paige to the Board. Mrs. Thompson expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Cumby for her commitment to the Amherst County Public Schools.

Mr. Mayo stated he attended the back-to-school event at Amelon Elementary School.

Mr. Mayo stated he attended the Central Virginia Governor's School meeting.

Mr. Mayo welcomed Miss Paige to the Board and looks forward to working with her on the Board.

Mr. Mayo stated Mrs. Cumby will be missed and she has been a valuable part of the team.

Mrs. Cumby stated she believes that each Board member is a valuable part of the team.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended a Laurel School Board meeting. Mrs. Liggon stated additional information will be shared with Board members when the information has been received.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended back-to-school events at schools.

Mrs. Liggon asked Mrs. Thompson if she wished to provide the members of the Board an update of the Transportation Committee meetings at the next School Board meeting.

Mrs. Liggon welcomed Miss Paige to the Board and thanked her for her remarks.

Mrs. Liggon stated she enjoyed working with Mrs. Cumby and wished her the best.

Mr. Henderson welcomed Miss Paige to the Board.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the back-to-school event at Central Elementary School.

Mr. Henderson stated convocation was a good day.

Mr. Henderson thanked Mrs. Cumby for her service to the county and the schools.

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

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (2), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mr. Cassise, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for (A) (2) student matters.

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

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

NAYS: None

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board approved the religious exemptions for student eleven through nineteen.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Cassise, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools