

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, September 24, 2015, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:00 p.m.

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

Camryn Garrett, Student Representative

ABSENT: None

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 asked if there were any changes to the agenda of September 24, 2015, regular School Board meeting. There were none.

Mr. Wood asked if there were a motion to approve the agenda for the September 24, 2015 regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the September 24, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was presentations.

Dr. Nichols introduced Mrs. Kim Klein, Supervisor of the Child Nutrition Program, and Ms. Kristin Brittle, Manager of School Health and Wellness of the Dairy Council. Ms. Brittle presented checks to benefit Monelison Middle School and Central Elementary School resulting from "Your Fuel Up to Play 60 Grants."

Dr. Nichols introduced Ms. Mary Mays, Supervisor of Guidance and Assessment, who gave a presentation on anti-bullying. Ms. Mays stated that October is National Anti-Bullying Month in the schools. Ms. Mays informed the Board that the school counselors conduct programs in the schools.

Mr. Wood asked if anyone wished to address the Board. The following people addressed the Board concerning the proposed cell tower at Elon Elementary School:

Abby Thompson, 314 Camden Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia
Florence Nixon, 123 Younger Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia
Holcomb Nixon, 123 Younger Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia
Kenney Smith, 221 Camden Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia
Jim Thompson, 314 Camden Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia
Clay Campbell, 270 Camden Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Wood asked that the following items be removed from the consent agenda for clarification:

- 4.03 Consider approval of parent/advisory council/committee members for 2015-2016 school year
- 4.04 Consider approval of the Employer-Sponsored Hybrid 403(b) Plan

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda without the inclusion of Item 4.03 and Item 4.04 which needed clarification.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Summers and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda items: confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period September 7, 2015 through September 18, 2015; and request to home school a student under Code of Virginia religious exemption clause.

Mr. Wood asked why addresses were not included for the parent advisory council members.

Dr. Nichols stated that all members listed on the Parent Advisory Council/Committee had children attending the Amherst County Public Schools. Dr. Nichols stated the addresses of the Parent Advisory Council/Committee members could be provided. Discussion among members of the Amherst County School Board occurred and the consensus was that the addresses would be provided for all Parent Advisory Council/Committee members.

Mr. Wood asked if the Board wished to approve the Parent Advisory Council/Committee members as presented for the 2015-2016 school year.

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Parent Advisory Council/Committee members for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Wood clarified the recommendation of the senior staff was that the Board approve **not** to offer the eligible employees the option to direct hybrid voluntary contributions to an employer-sponsored hybrid 403 (b) retirement plan. Mr. Wood asked if the Board wished to approve the recommendation of senior staff.

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the senior staff recommendation not to offer the eligible employees the option to direct hybrid voluntary contributions to an employer-sponsored hybrid 403 (b) retirement plan.

Mr. Wood stated there was no update on accountability measures.

Mr. Wood stated there was no update from the Human Resources Department.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Mr. Cocke would provide information on Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Mr. Cocke, Director of Maintenance and Transportation, presented and discussed information regarding the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the bus fleet for the Board members to review.

The Board discussed how the items were prioritized and wished to review the information before the budget process in order to determine any changes to the priorities. Dr. Nichols said that the CIP would come back to the board at the next school board meeting with some format changes for discussion. Mr. Cocke stated the CIP is due to the county on November 2, 2015.

Mr. Cocke mentioned the need to replace two vans and use the one that has been serviced as a spare. Mr. Wood asked that funding be sought from the FY16 School Operational Budget. Board members asked that this item be placed on the agenda for the October 8, 2015, School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was information provided by Milestone Communications regarding answers to the questions regarding the proposed cell tower at Elon Elementary School.

Members of the Amherst County School Board discussed the information that Milestone Communications provided concerning the proposed cell phone tower at Elon Elementary School. Mr. Wood asked board members to submit additional questions to Dr. Nichols for clarification from Milestone Communications. Board members asked the following questions or made the following comments regarding the proposed cell tower:

- Mr. Summers asked, "If the cell tower is approved, can we earmark money for a specific program, such as Early College?" Dr. Nichols replied during the budget process the Board could determine how the funds are spent.
- Mr. Bumgarner stated in his opinion, based on the needs of the County, there is no guarantee that the funds would remain in the school budget from year-to-year.
- Mr. Henderson expressed concern regarding the loss of land use at Elon Elementary School.
- Mr. Henderson expressed concern about the safety/health risks, and visual sight that people will see if the monopine cell tower is placed at Elon Elementary School.
- Mrs. Lignon expressed concern that the perception of the citizens is that the members of the School Board do not care about the school or the students at Elon Elementary School.
- Mrs. Lignon briefly discussed the unknown potential health risk that could be associated with the proposed cell tower.
- Mrs. Cumby stated she did not believe there were any greater RF energy risks with the tower and she believes the tower would provide internet access for high school students.
- Mr. Wood asked to look at lightning strikes to the tower and how far it travels. Mr. Wood stated he has asked Mr. Proffitt to secure an electrical engineer (third party) to review Milestone's response.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was the proposed FY17 Budget Calendar.

Dr. Nichols reviewed the proposed FY17 Budget Calendar with Board members. Dr. Nichols stated the calendar also reflects the schedule for the county budget.

Mr. Wood asked if the Board wished to approve the proposed FY17 Budget Calendar.

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Henderson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the proposed FY17 Budget Calendar.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was information on security grant funds.

Dr. Nichols stated Mr. Guill would share information regarding the security grant funds.

Mr. Ernie Guill, Director of Support Services, informed the Board that Amherst County Public Schools received funds for a security grant from the state of \$74,000.00. Mr. Guill stated the grant was focused on elementary schools to upgrade cameras. Mr. Guill stated that Amelon Elementary School did not qualify for the grant, so additional funds are being sought to add the upgrades there.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was items from the Superintendent.

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

The following people addressed the Board regarding the proposed cell tower at Elon Elementary School:

Jim Thompson, 314 Camden Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia

Mr. Wood stated that he would only take two more speakers concerning the cell tower as the student disciplinary hearings scheduled after the Board meeting were already 30 minutes late.

Abby Thompson, 314 Camden Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia

Kenney Smith, 221 Camden Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia

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

Mrs. Liggon stated she was excited about the breakfast grants.

Mrs. Cumby asked that in the future if consideration can be given to scheduling school activities on nights other than School Board meeting nights.

Mr. Summers stated he would like to discuss the number of stipends during the budget process. Mr. Summers stated he had been approached by a citizen to support archery as a school sport.

Mr. Wood stated he would like to discuss Dr. Nichols' objectives in closed session at the October 22, 2015, School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated he would like to have a red line update to compare to the grading policy when the grading policy is brought back to the Board.

Mr. Wood stated he talked with area legislators at the Government Forum hosted by the Amherst County Chamber of Commerce on September 22, 2015, to see if they would be able to attend the regular

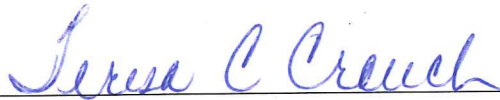
School Board meeting on December 10, 2015, at 5:00. Mr. Wood stated that the legislators informed him they could attend the meeting.

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


Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Henderson and unanimously carried, the Board approved to change the School Board meeting on December 10, 2015 to 5:00 p.m. in order to invite the legislators to attend.

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 the meeting at 7:55 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools