

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, October 8, 2015, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:04 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 October 8, 2015, regular School Board meeting. There were none.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the October 8, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the October 8, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was recognition of the Amherst County High School football team leadership and coaches.

Dr. Nichols introduced Dr. William Wells, Principal at Amherst County High School. Dr. Wells introduced Coach Phillips, Head Coach of the Amherst County Lancer football team. Coach Phillips introduced four members of the Lancer football team leadership.

Coach Phillips and the members of the Lancer football team leadership expressed appreciation to the members of the Amherst County School Board for providing the opportunity for the team to travel to Florida to play a football game at the ESPN complex.

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 approval of the installation of a proposed cell tower on the property of Elon Elementary School. Mr. Wood asked Dr. Nichols if he wished to say anything regarding the proposed cell tower at Elon Elementary School.

Dr. Nichols thanked the members of the School Board for following through with the plan that was laid out late last winter when the Board approved the marketing plan which allowed Milestone

Communication to complete the necessary investigation of the site, to have the public meetings, and have numerous questions answered by experts.

Mr. Wood stated prior to taking action he would like to open the floor to Board members for comments or questions.

Each Board member shared their views and thoughts regarding the proposed cell tower at Elon Elementary School. Board members expressed appreciation for all the information that was provided and thanked the citizens for their participation in the meetings.

Mr. Wood asked Board members if they were ready to make a decision regarding the installation of the proposed cell tower at Elon Elementary School.

Mr. Summers made a motion that the Board approve accepting the Milestone Communications' Proposal contingent on successfully completing the contract, passing the review by legal counsel and finalizing issues such as the type of tower. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner.

Mr. Wood asked for a roll call vote beginning with Mrs. Cumby.

AYES: Cumby, Bumgarner, Summers, Massie, Wood

NAYS: Henderson, Liggon

Mr. Wood asked that the staff work with representatives of Milestone Communications to complete the contract and share the information with the Board.

Dr. Nichols stated the proposed contract would be reviewed by the School Board attorney.

Mr. Wood stated the Amherst County Board of Supervisors had asked the School Board to advise whether the ordinance should change regarding placing cell towers on school property. Mr. Wood stated based on the outcome of the vote, he did not believe the ordinance should change. Mr. Wood asked if the Board wished to take a vote on the matter or if there was consensus of the Board. The consensus of the Board was the ordinance should not change regarding placement of cell towers on school property.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of proposed revisions to the grading regulation.

Dr. Nichols stated that Dr. Norman would discuss the proposed revisions to the grading regulation.

Dr. Norman stated Board members had at their place information regarding the proposed changes to the grading regulation. Dr. Norman stated that Dr. Wells, Mr. Young, Mr. Lyle, and Ms. Mays were available for questions.

Board members discussed in detail the proposed revisions to the grading regulation. After discussion by the Board, Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the grading regulation.

Upon motion by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and unanimously carried, the Board approved Option B - File IKC-R, of the Policy Manual. Option B provides for a ten-point grading scale and includes pluses and minuses.

Dr. Norman expressed appreciation to the members of the committee for their hard work on the grading regulation.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Wood stated that Mrs. Crouch had emailed a correction to the minutes of the September 21, 2015, cell tower public input meeting. Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda items: minutes of the September 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting, minutes of the September 14, 2015, cell tower work session, minutes of the September 21, 2015, cell tower public input meeting, minutes of the September 24, 2015, regular School Board meeting, and confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period September 21, 2015 through October 2, 2015.

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

Dr. Norman stated there was a correction. Dr. Norman shared information with the Board regarding graduation rates for Amherst County High School for the 2014-2015 school year. Dr. Norman provided an overview of the calculations for the on-time graduation rate. Dr. Norman stated information would be discussed in depth at a future School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was revisions to the proposed 2016-2017 Program of Studies.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman and Ms. Mays would provide information regarding the matter.

Dr. Norman discussed the proposed revisions to the proposed 2016-2017 Program of Studies.

After discussion by the Board, Mr. Wood asked Board members if they wished to approve the proposed 2016-2017 Program of Studies.

Upon motion by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the 2016-2017 Program of Studies as presented.

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

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was budget monitoring and other financial reports.

Dr. Nichols stated that Mrs. Crouch would share information regarding the financial reports.

Mrs. Crouch shared information with the Board regarding the budget monitoring reports through September 30, 2015; revenue receipts for July 2015, August 2015, September 2015; enrollment information; and object code summary reports. Mrs. Crouch highlighted information on projected available balances for the following object codes: health insurance, bus fuel, electrical, and heating oil.

Mrs. Crouch shared a memo regarding transferring funds from anticipated available balances in bus fuel (6008) to replacement of vehicles (8105) in the amount of \$46,000.

Mr. Wood stated he believed the members of the Amherst County School Board should work with the Amherst County Board of Supervisors on improvements to facilities. Mr. Wood suggested that the funds from the health insurance savings be transferred to facilities as well as additional funds be transferred from bus fuel to facilities. Mr. Wood stated by allocating funds to facilities it shows that the Amherst County School Board is doing its part to assist in improving facilities.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and unanimously carried, the Board approved transferring \$46,000 from bus fuel to replacement of vehicles to purchase two maintenance vans.

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved transferring \$300,000 from the health insurance savings to facilities for projects not covered under the PPEA.

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mr. Summers and unanimously carried, the Board approved transferring \$130,000 from bus fuel to facilities for projects not covered under the PPEA.

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 reviewed the revised Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Board members to review. Mr. Wood asked Board members to review and prioritize the information provided regarding the CIP.

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

Dr. Nichols stated he did not have anything to share.

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

The following people addressed the Board regarding the decision it made in approving the contract for the cell tower at Elon Elementary School:

Jim Thompson, 314 Camden Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia
Abby Thompson, 314 Camden Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia
Lesley McPhatter, 242 Lewis Keith Road, Madison Heights, Virginia
Holcomb Nixon, 123 Younger Drive, Madison Heights, Virginia

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

Mrs. Liggon asked when the members of the Amherst County School Board were going to get an update on the information requested by the Office of Civil Rights.

Dr. Nichols stated information regarding this matter will be shared with the Board at the October 22, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Ms. Garrett stated the football team was doing really well this year.

Mrs. Cumby stated she answered the survey regarding the grading policy. Mrs. Cumby stated anytime surveys can be utilized is a good idea.

Mr. Bumgarner asked if the information Dr. Norman shared with Board members could be added to BoardDocs. Mr. Bumgarner stated this would allow the information to be searched at a later date.

Dr. Nichols stated the information could be added to BoardDocs.

Mr. Summers stated he was glad the members of the School Board were moving forward with making some decision on school facilities.

Mr. Summers expressed appreciation to all Board members for their hard work, commitment, and dedication.

Mr. Wood stated he planned to attend the VSBA Conference in Williamsburg on Wednesday and Thursday; however, he would only be staying one night.

Mr. Wood stated he attended the meeting for the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and they would like to attend the meeting with area legislators on December 10, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Wood asked that the meeting on December 10, 2015, be changed to a joint meeting with the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and Amherst County School Board.

Mr. Wood stated that Mr. Summers will not be able to attend the School Board Retreat scheduled for February 17, 2016. Mr. Wood asked Board members to review their calendars and consider rescheduling the School Board Retreat date to March 15 or March 16, 2016. Board members will consider the date change for the School Board Retreat on October 22, 2015.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools