

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, October 12, 2017, 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

Haleigh Tomlin, 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 asked if there were any changes to the agenda for the October 12, 2017, regular School Board meeting.

Mrs. Thompson asked that Item 5.01 Consider approval of the minutes of the September 12, 2017, regular School Board meeting be removed from the consent agenda.

Mr. Mayo asked that Item 5.02 Consider confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of September 11, 2017 through October 6, 2017, be removed from the consent agenda.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the October 12, 2017, regular School Board meeting as amended.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as amended for the October 12, 2017, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was recognitions.

Dr. Nichols introduced Mr. Michael O'Brien, Principal of Temperance Elementary School. Mr. Henderson assisted by Dr. Nichols presented Mr. O'Brien, as representative of Pleasant View Elementary School, a Certificate from the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) Board of Education Distinguished Award Program.

Dr. Nichols introduced Dr. Wells, Principal at Amherst County High School. Dr. Wells shared information with the Board regarding the Amherst County High School's Hurricane Relief Effort from students as well as teachers.

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

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

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: a trip request for the Amherst County High School wrestling students to travel to Sherando High School to participate in the Sherando Duals on Friday, December 8, 2017 through Saturday, December 9, 2017; a trip request for Amherst County High School wrestling students to travel to Hampton Coliseum to participate in the Virginia Duals on Friday, January 12, 2018 through Saturday, January 13, 2018; a trip request for Amherst County High School wrestling students to travel to Walsh Jesuit High School in Ohio to participate in the Walsh Iron Man on Friday, December 8, 2017 through Saturday December 9, 2017; a trip request for Amherst County high School wrestling students to travel to Cave Springs High School to participate in the Knights of the Round Table on Friday, December 15, 2017 through Saturday, December 16, 2017; a trip request for Amherst County High School to travel to the University of Delaware to participate in the Beast of the East on Saturday, December 16, 2017 through Sunday, December 17, 2017; a trip request for Amherst County High School students to travel to Salem to participate in the VHSL State Tournament on Thursday, February 15, 2018 Saturday, February 17, 2018; and renew the contract with RCM&D as the Health/Benefit consultant for Amherst County Public Schools for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the minutes of the September 12, 2017, regular School Board meeting. Mr. Henderson asked Mrs. Thompson what she wished to address in the minutes. Mrs. Thompson stated she would like to have additional information included in the minutes regarding the Y Program at Temperance Elementary School (i.e. Number of Students attending the program and potential cost to the division). Mrs. Crouch stated she would provide additional information in the minutes. The Board did not take action on the minutes. The minutes will be placed on the agenda of the next regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of September 11, 2017, through October 6, 2017. Mr. Henderson asked Mr. Mayo what he wished to address on the personnel report. Mr. Mayo asked about the position under Section B, Item 1 of the personnel report. Dr. Rogers stated the position was not a new position; however, she would get additional information regarding that position.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Superintendent's personnel actions with the exception of Section B, Item 1.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to discuss the proposed agenda for the joint meeting between the Amherst County School Board and the Amherst County Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Nichols stated the joint meeting will be held Monday, November 13, 2017. Dr. Nichols stated dinner will be from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., with the meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Dr. Nichols suggested the topic of discussion be funding and budget related items.

Mrs. Cumby stated the elections would be completed and asked if the newly elected members will be invited to the joint meeting. Dr. Nichols stated they would be invited.

Mr. Henderson suggested the Mr. Cocke provide an update on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mrs. Thompson suggested the Board have prior discussion of the Capital Improvement Plan before the joint meeting. Information regarding the Capital Improvement Plan will be discussed at the School Board Retreat on Wednesday, October 18, 2017.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman would provide an update on accountability measures.

Dr. Norman provided the following information 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 information regarding the status of the denied schools appeals process and the support provided to the schools not fully accredited from the state contractor assigned to the division.

1. Status of Appeals

- a. The State Board of Education voted on the Amelon Elementary Appeal made on behalf of the ACPS Board at their September 28, 2017 meeting. The State Board voted to designate Amelon as a Partially Accredited Reconstituted School – Year 2. This enables Amelon to continue to work on the improvement of student performance in the area of reading. Amelon will continue to be monitored by the state and provided with a VDOE Contractor assigned to be in the school for no less than 60 hours from September, 2017 through February, 2018.*
- b. The State Board of Education will review the Central Elementary Appeal made on behalf of the ACPS Board at their October 26, 2017 meeting. The Board of Education will decide whether to accept the State Superintendent of Instruction’s recommendation to designate Central as Partially Accredited Reconstituted – Year 1. Central will continue to be monitored by the state and provided with a VDOE Contractor assigned to be in the school for no less than 90 hours from September, 2017 through February, 2018.*

2. State Contractor Site Visits To Schools Not Fully Accredited

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Half Day</i>	<i>Full Day</i>
<i>9/12</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Amelon Elementary</i>	<i>5 hours</i>		<i>X</i>
<i>9/14</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Madison Heights Elementary</i>	<i>5 hours</i>		<i>X</i>
<i>9/20</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Central Elementary</i>	<i>5 hours</i>		<i>X</i>
<i>9/21</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Madison Heights Elementary</i>	<i>5 hours</i>		<i>X</i>
<i>9/25</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Madison Heights Elementary</i>	<i>5 hours</i>		<i>X</i>
<i>9/28</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Central Elementary</i>	<i>2.5 hours</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>9/28</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Amelon Elementary</i>	<i>2.5 hours</i>	<i>X</i>	

10/2	Monday	Central Elementary	5 hours		X
10/3	Tuesday	Amelon Elementary	5 hours		X
10/5	Thursday	Madison Heights Elementary	5 hours		X
10/10	Tuesday	Amelon Elementary	2.5 hours	X	
10/10	Tuesday	Central Elementary	2.5 hours	X	
10/11	Wednesday	Madison Heights Elementary	2.5 hours	X	
10/23	Monday	Central Elementary	5 hours		X
10/24	Tuesday	Amelon Elementary	5 hours		X
10/25	Wednesday	Madison Heights Elementary	5 hours		X

3. During the VDOE Site visits the State Contractor, along with school and division level staff, completes classroom observations, attends grade level professional learning community (PLC) and leadership team meetings, participates in data analysis and lesson alignment review meetings, along with providing next steps for both the school and division teams.

Upcoming VDOE Meetings:

1. Members of the Accountability Team for ACPS will once again meet with Ms. Bev Rabil, Director of the Office of School Improvement on January 5, 2018 from 8-4pm. Ms. Rabil and members of her School Improvement Team will come to Amherst on that day to meet with the division team, and individually with the administrators from Amelon, Central and Madison Heights Elementary Schools.

Dr. Norman shared the following information regarding the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rates across the State:

On September 27, 2017 the VDOE released information regarding Virginia On-Time Graduation Rates across the state. This report provided valuable information specifically showing the gains made by Amherst County Public Schools. Due to a variety of graduation calculations I have provided the Board with a concise description of the three types used by the state. Attached to this memo is also a comparison of data from the 2014-15 schools year to the 2016-17 school year.

The three different graduation calculations and types are as follows:

1. Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate (OGR): State Compares Division Averages; The Goal is 100%
 - a. This is Virginia's official graduation rate and is based on four years of longitudinal student-level data that each school division provides VDOE yearly and is housed in the Educational Information Management System. On-time graduates are those who earn diplomas within the four years of the first time they entered the 9th grade. Special Education students and those identified as Limited

English that have plans allowing for additional time are assigned to different cohorts.

2. *Federal Graduation Indicator (FGI): Federal Requirement 80%*
 - a. *This is the Federal Accountability for showing Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) and meeting the federal benchmark set at 80%. FGI graduates are only students who earn Advance Studies, Standard or IB Diplomas and have earned them within the four years of the first time they entered 9th grade. Unlike OGR, Special Education and Limited English students who have plans that allow them more time are not re-assigned to a different cohort and are counted into their original cohort.*
3. *Graduation Completion Index (GCI): State Accreditation Requirement 85%*
 - a. *The Virginia Graduation and Completion Index is a formula that calculates a weighted percent of the students within a given cohort who graduate, complete, or stay in school each year. It also incorporates outcomes for students who remain in school beyond their "on-time" graduation year. GCI graduates are students who earn Advanced Studies, Standard, Modified Standard, Special and General Achievement Diplomas for a maximum of six years within a cohort.*

Overall Comparisons of 2016 Data to 2017 Data:

- *Comparing the 2016 On-Time Graduation Rate of 91.04 to the 2017 On-Time Graduation Rate of 95.68 Amherst County High School (ACHS) showed more than 4 point overall growth for those students who started in the ninth grade and received a diploma in four years.*
- *Comparing the 2016 OTG-Drop Out Rate of 2.39 to the 2017 OTG-Drop Out Rate of 2.02 ACHS experienced a higher result of keeping students in school and graduating on time than other divisions in the region. This drop can be attributed to the diligent work of educators in Amherst County focusing on keeping at-risk students engaged in school.*
- *Comparing the 2016 Federal Graduation Indicator (FGI) of 89.02 to the 2017 FGI, ACHS showed a gain over 2 points ending the year with a FGI of 91.28.*
- *Comparing the 2016 Graduation Completion Index Score (GCI) of 94.40 ACHS saw a gain of over 1 point ending the 2017 school year with a GCI of 95.73.*

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. No action was taken on the information provided. Board members will discuss additional testing data at the School Board Retreat on October 18, 2017

Dr. Norman provided Board members a copy of the Travel Authorization Report for July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Rogers would provide the update.

Dr. Rogers informed Board members she attended the VSBA Legislative Conference. Dr. Rogers stated she attended sessions on teacher shortages in Virginia and student discipline. Dr. Rogers stated there are less than four percent graduating in Virginia with a degree in teaching.

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

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

Mrs. Crouch stated the budget monitoring reports and revenue receipts for the months of July, August and September, 2017 was available on BoardDocs. Mrs. Crouch stated the average daily membership (ADM) for September 30, 2017 was 3885 and the budget was developed with an ADM of 3895.95.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the 2016-17 School Activity Audit.

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

Mrs. Crouch expressed appreciation to the principals and school secretaries/bookkeepers for their hard work and dedication. The Board reviewed and discussed the information provided. Several questions were asked about Amherst County High School and Monelison Middle School. Mrs. Crouch stated she would contact the schools and provide the Board with additional information. Board members asked that follow-up discussion be held with principals and secretaries to help alleviate some of the comments that are made in the audit report.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the proposed budget calendar for the FY19 Budget discussions.

Dr. Nichols stated that Mrs. Crouch would review the proposed calendar for the FY19 Budget discussions.

Mrs. Crouch reviewed the proposed calendar for the FY19 Budget discussion. After reviewing the calendar, Dr. Nichols asked the Board if they wished to approve the proposed calendar.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Proposed Calendar for the FY19 Budget discussions as presented.

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

Dr. Nichols stated that Mr. Cocke would provide an update on facilities.

Mr. Cocke informed Board members that repairs on Learning Lane (the road to Madison Heights Elementary School) had started. The repairs should be completed by mid-November.

Mr. Henderson asked Mr. Cocke about the sign at the entrance of Amherst Middle School.

Mr. Cocke informed the Board that the sign had been removed. Mr. Cocke stated the PTO for Amherst Middle School had purchased the sign and was waiting to have the sign installed.

Mr. Summers asked if the pot holes at Monelison Middle School had been repaired.

Mr. Cocke stated the pot holes had been repaired at Monelison Middle School.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was student suspensions.

Dr. Nichols stated the student suspension report for August 2017 through September 2017 was at their place.

Mrs. Cumby asked is there a procedure in place for students who continue to get in trouble.

Mrs. Cumby asked if additional information could be placed in the description for student suspensions.

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

Dr. Nichols informed Board members that Elon Elementary School was going to be a pilot program for drive-up internet service. Dr. Nichols stated that citizens could drive up close to the school and access the internet. The service will be available seven days a week from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mrs. Thompson asked if there would be enough parking and does the church next to Elon Elementary School need to be notified. Dr. Nichols stated he did not believe parking will be a problem because the citizens will need to be close to the school to access internet service.

Dr. Nichols awarded Certificates of Recognition to certain School Board members that attended VSBA workshops.

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

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

Ms. Tomlin shared information with the Board of what has been happening at Amherst County High School.

Mr. Terwilliger stated he attended the CTE Advisory Board meeting at Amherst County High School.

Mrs. Thompson congratulated Pleasant View Elementary School for receiving the Distinguished School Award.

Mr. Mayo stated he attended the Lancer showcase talent show. Mr. Mayo stated he went to the Amherst County Library to observe the poetry reading by local citizens and students from Amherst County.

Mrs. Cumby stated the graduation rates were great. Mrs. Cumby asked for additional information regarding all of the Y programs in Amherst County (i.e. total number of students by school / total numbers of students by school attending the Y program, along with percentages).

Mrs. Cumby stated a concerned parent had contacted her regarding the length of time for one bus route that transports students from Temperance Elementary School to home. Mrs. Cumby stated that bus routes had been consolidated which created the change in the length of the bus route. Mrs. Cumby stated parents were not informed of the changed until the night before; creating some problems for working parents.

Mr. Summers congratulated Dr. Wells, the staff and students from Amherst County High School on the relief effort fund raising activities. Mr. Summers asked if the Board could somehow recognize the high school for its efforts. Dr. Nichols, Dr. Rogers and Dr. Norman stated that some of the other schools had also raised money for the hurricane relief.

Mrs. Liggon echoed Mr. Summers remarks' thanking the schools for its efforts in fundraising to assist other people in need.

Mrs. Liggon stated attendance is very important and should be a priority.

Mrs. Liggon asked if parents can be surveyed to find out how or what the school division can do to help with parent and/or student needs.

Mrs. Liggon stated she has attended football games, volleyball games, the open house at Amherst County High School and back to school night at Amelon Elementary School.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the open house and CTE meeting at Amherst County High School.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the VSBA Legislative Conference. Mr. Henderson stated Amherst County Public Schools was already doing a lot of the items suggested at the conference. Mr. Henderson stated the State has developed a new standardized exit interview form. Dr. Rogers stated Amherst County Public Schools currently does an exit interview with employees.

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 7:45 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools