

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, October 13, 2016, in the Board Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: W. Michael Henderson, Chairman (arrived at 6:17)
Priscilla M. Liggon, Vice Chairman
Jennifer E. Cumby
Francisco D. Mayo
Randy V. Summers
Craig S. Terwilliger
Abby J. Thompson

Nathan Gowdy, Student Representative

ABSENT: None

Mrs. Liggon called the meeting to order, stated that Mr. Henderson would arrive to the meeting shortly, asked that a moment of silence be observed, and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Liggon asked if there were any changes to the October 13, 2016, regular School Board meeting agenda.

Mrs. Thompson asked that the following item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion:

Item 5.07 Consider approval of the Amherst County Public Schools' Student Athletes' Agreement

Mrs. Liggon asked if there were any other changes to the agenda. There being none, Mrs. Liggon asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Upon motion by Mr. Terwilliger, seconded by Mr. Summers and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the October 13, 2016, regular School Board meeting as amended.

Mrs. Liggon stated the next item on the agenda was the quarterly update concerning the Office of Civil Rights.

Dr. Nichols introduced Dr. Wells, Ms. Hollie Jennings, and Dr. Pamela McFaden.

Dr. Wells, Ms. Jennings, and Dr. McFaden presented the following updates to the Board regarding the Office of Civil Rights:

- o Provided an overview of what was completed in the last school year.
- o Provided an overview of what will be accomplished in the current year.
- o Provided the Second Intercultural Competence training dates.
- o Provided funding for eight employees to attend the Poverty Symposium at JMU.
- o Provided an overview of the new efforts to maintain a positive school climate.

- o Provided an update on the survey and compared the results of ACHS survey to the Virginia Secondary School Climate Survey.

Board members reviewed the information provided. No action was taken regarding this matter.

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

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

The following people addressed the Board:

Mrs. Carmen Sitton	124 Forbes Street	Madison Heights, Virginia
Mrs. Sandy Jennings-Neblett	551 Deerfield Drive	Amherst, Virginia
Mrs. Lindsey Terwilliger	3140 Buffalo Springs Turnpike	Monroe, Virginia
Mr. Samuel Mays	1171 Sugar Hill Tunnel Road	Monroe, Virginia

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of a resolution recognizing Amherst Cares.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board approved the resolution recognizing the effective work of Amherst Cares.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to approve the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the September 8, 2016, regular School Board meeting, the confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period September 5, 2016 through October 7, 2016, a field trip request for Amherst County High school wrestling team to travel to Sherando High School to participate in the Sherando Wrestling Tournament on Friday, December 19, 2016 through Saturday, December 20, 2016, a field trip request for Amherst County High School wrestling team to travel to the University of Delaware to participate in the Beast of the East Wrestling Tournament on Friday, December 16, 2016 through December 18, 2016, a field trip request for Monelison Middle School seventh grade students to travel to Washington, D.C., on Thursday, November 17, 2016, requests for the release of children from compulsory attendance in order to attend the GED Program, the Title I Parent Advisory Committee and the Parent/Community Council for the 2016-17 school year, and a resolution for supplemental appropriations to the 2016-17 School Operational Budget.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to discuss and consider approval of the Amherst County High Schools' Student Athletes' Agreement.

Dr. Nichols stated currently there is no Student Athletes' Agreement in place for Amherst County Public Schools.

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed agreement in detail. After much discussion by the Board, the administration was asked to provide additional information prior to approving the agreement.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Summers and unanimously carried, the Board approved to table the Amherst County High Schools' Student Athletes' Agreement until the next regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson asked the administrative staff to provide each Board member the definition of acceptable behavior and the ACHS student handbook prior to the November 10, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

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

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

Dr. Norman provided the following information:

On October 5, 2016 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 2015-16 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 2015 Data to 2016 Data:

- *Comparing the 2015 On-Time Graduation Rate of 89.2 to the 2016 On-Time Graduation Rate of 91.0 Amherst County High School (ACHS) showed 2% overall growth for those students who started in the ninth grade and received a diploma in four years.*
- *Comparing the 2015 OTG-Drop Out Rate of 4.58 to the 2016 OTG-Drop Out Rate of 2.70 ACHS experienced a higher result of keeping students in school and graduating on time than other divisions in the region. The 1.88% drop can be attributed to the diligent work of educators in Amherst County focusing on keeping at-risk students engaged in school.*
- *Comparing the 2015 Federal Graduation Indicator (FGI) of 84.4 to the 2016 FGI, ACHS showed a gain of 4.62% ending the year with a FGI of 89.02.*
- *Comparing the 2015 Graduation Completion Index Score (GCI) of 93 ACHS saw a gain of 1% ending the 2016 school year with a GCI of 94.*

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

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the travel authorization report.

Dr. Norman stated the travel authorization report for July 2016 through September 2016 was provided to each Board member. Board members reviewed the information provided. No action was taken.

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

Dr. Nichols stated that Dr. Rogers does not have an update from the Human Resources Department.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would provide information regarding the budget monitoring reports.

Mrs. Crouch stated the Board members had at their place the budget monitoring reports, revenue receipts, the budget summary by object code, and enrollment information for September 2016. Mrs. Crouch stated the average daily membership for September 2016 was 3964 and the budget was developed on 3955. Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. No action was taken.

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

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

Mr. Cocke provided the Board an update on the PPEA meeting. Mr. Cocke stated that both the members of the Amherst County School Board and members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors will be asked to approve a resolution in November for the additional funding for the PPEA projects.

Mr. Cocke provided an update to the Board regarding the current upgrades for lighting and the results of the roofing bids for Amherst County Public Schools.

Mr. Cocke provided the following list of projects for consideration utilizing the \$610,034 that the County has for School Capital Improvements:

- *Replace Stage Curtains @* *\$35,000.00 - \$40,000.00*
Amelon Elementary *Amherst Elementary*
Central Elementary *Elon Elementary*
Madison Heights Elementary *Temperance Elementary*
 - *Paint the Interior walls of Buildings @* *\$265,500.00 - \$354,000.00*
Amelon Elementary & Madison Heights Elementary
(these estimates are based on doing this work at night on a second or third shift)
 - *Epoxy Coating of Bathroom Floors & Walls @* *\$72,000.00 - \$82,000.00*
Amelon Elementary & Madison Heights Elementary
 - *Replace Exterior Doors* *\$168,000.00 - \$188,000.00*
Monelison Middle *Amherst Elementary*
- Total Estimated Costs* *\$540,500.00 - \$664,000.00*

If additional CIP funds become available I would recommend the following projects for consideration in the order listed:

- *Replacement of White Boards @ all schools* *\$60,000.00 - \$76,500.00*
 - *Replacement of Exterior Doors @* *\$32,000.00 - \$40,000.00*
Amherst Elementary
 - *Epoxy Coating of Bathroom Floors & Walls @* *\$116,650.00 - \$136,500.00*
ACHS & CES
 - *Repave Parking Lots* *\$153,000.00 - \$168,250.00*
ACHS Gym & Stadium
- Total Estimated Costs* *\$361,650.00- \$421,250.00*

The consensus of the Board was to approve the list of projects and provide the list to the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors for their approval.

Dr. Nichols reminded Board members of the VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, November 16-18, 2016.

Dr. Nichols shared with Board members a one-page Budget Summary for the 2016-17 school year.

Dr. Nichols stated the Governor has indicated there will not be state money in the 2016-17 school budget for raises. Dr. Nichols stated there are local dollars of approximately \$178,000 for salary increases and he will be providing options for those funds at a future School Board meeting.

Dr. Nichols recognized and awarded VSBA Certificates of Recognition to certain Board members for attending VSBA workshops and/or conferences during the 2015-16 school year.

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board. The following citizens addressed the Board.

- Mrs. Martha Lloyd 3135 Buffalo Springs Turnpike Amherst, Virginia
- Mrs. Lindsey Terwilliger 3140 Buffalo Springs Turnpike Monroe, Virginia

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

Mrs. Cumby stated she was pleased with the VSBA Superintendent and School Board member Training.

Mr. Mayo stated the VSBA Training Session helped him as a Board member.

Mrs. Thompson stated she believed the VSBA Training session developed good rapport.

Mr. Terwilliger stated he learned a lot at the VSBA Training session.

Mr. Terwilliger asked where he could find information regarding facilities use. Mrs. Crouch stated she would provide information to the Board regarding the policy on facilities use.

Mr. Terwilliger stated he would like to have a discussion at a future meeting regarding Pleasant View Elementary School.

Mr. Henderson suggested adding a round table discussion to the agenda of the School Board Retreat to discuss Pleasant View Elementary School. Board members concurred.

Mr. Gowdy shared his view and support of the Amherst County High Schools' Student Athletes' Agreement.

Mrs. Liggon stated the VSBA training for Superintendent and School Board members was good. Mrs. Liggon stated she was looking forward to the School Board Retreat.

Mr. Henderson stated the VSBA training was good. Mr. Henderson stated he was looking forward to the School Board Retreat.

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

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for personnel matter.

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

AYES: Liggon, Henderson, Summers, Cumby, Mayo, Thompson, Terwilliger

NAYS: None

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

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger 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