

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session for the School Board Retreat on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, in the Board Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 9:03 p.m.

PRESENT: W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
 Priscilla M. Liggon, Vice Chairman
 Jennifer E. Cumby
 Francisco D. Mayo
 Randy V. Summers
 Craig S. Terwilliger

ABSENT: Abby J. Thompson

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 18, 2017, School Board Retreat.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the October 18, 2017, School Board Retreat.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Summers and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the October 18, 2017, School Board Retreat.

Mr. Henderson asked Dr. Nichols to proceed with the agenda.

Dr. Nichols introduced Dr. William Wells, Ms. Hollie Jennings, Dr. Pam McFaden, and Mrs. Wanda Johnson and stated they would be presenting information to the Board regarding the Office of Civil Rights plan (OCR).

Ms. Jennings reviewed the following information with the Board:

- OCR Data Summary for Amherst County Public Schools
- OCR Practices for the Division and Amherst County Public Schools
- Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports in Amherst County Public Schools (VTSS Grant)
 - Ms. Jennings provided an overview of how the VTSS Grant could be used
 - Required Training
 - Stipends
 - Acknowledgement systems (incentives for all schools who support positive behavior and attendance in the schools)
 - PBIS National Conference
- Student attendance and tardiness
- Parental Involvement in the schools

The Board reviewed and discussed the information provided. No action was taken by the Board regarding this information.

Dr. Wells, assisted by Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Crews, reviewed the following information with the Board:

- School Climate Initiatives
 - How to make the school more inviting
 - Suite 360 for parents and students
 - Shared features of Suite 360
 - Mentor Initiatives for Students
 - Students participating in programs that give back to the community

- Behavior Supports
 - VTSS at Amherst County High School (ACHS)
 - Tier 1 – Mrs. Wanda Johnson, VTSS Coach and Behavior Support Team Coordinator explained the following expectations were developed by the team and implemented by the Leadership Team at Amherst County High School:
 - Be Respectful
 - Be Responsible
 - Be Mindful
 - Be Ambitious
 - Tier 2 – OCR Practices
 - Implement 2 x 10 – teachers talk with students who have attendance and/or truancy issues (3-5 unexcused absences) for 2 minutes a day for 10 days about something not related to school. Teachers realize what is happening with students at home and in the students' personal lives.
 - Implement counseling services for students
 - Tier 3 – Behavior Support Team
 - Behavior Support Team Referral Form
 - Positive Behavior Intervention Supports
 - Documentation for Behavior Intervention Meeting
 - Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP)
 - Self-Check Behavior Checklist
 - Student Engagement Intervention/Reflection Checklist

- Professional Development/Program Support
 - Parental Involvement
 - PBIS - Universal Features

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

Mr. Henderson stated the Board would take a brief break.

Mr. Henderson called the meeting back to order.

Dr. McFaden provided hands-on professional development training with the Board on OCR and VTSS. The interactive activity training session was on privilege, classism and equity.

The Board expressed appreciation for all of the information that was provided.

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

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

Dr. Norman provided information regarding the following information:

- New Accreditation and ESSA Requirements
 - New Attendance Accreditation Standards
- Supports for the three schools not fully accredited
 - Division supports chart showing differences from 2016-17
 - Reading supports
 - Mathematics supports
- Math Specialist position
 - Justification for new position

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was a presentation from Mr. Fitz Rogers, representative of RCM&D regarding medical insurance.

Dr. Rogers introduced Mr. Fitz Rogers and Mr. Craig Rupert, representatives of RCM&D.

Mr. Rogers and Mr. Rupert provided information to the Board on the following:

- Review information regarding current plan
- Local Choice and Commonwealth of Virginia options
- Self-insurance options (pros and cons)
- Recommendations for 2018

The Board reviewed and discussed the information provided. No action was taken regarding this matter.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was Pupil/Teacher ratios.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Rogers would share information with the Board regarding Pupil/Teacher ratios.

Dr. Rogers provided information to the Board regarding the Pupil/Teacher ratios for Amherst County Public Schools. Dr. Rogers asked that Board members let her know if there were any questions.

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

Dr. Nichols stated because of time, he asked that the Capital Improvement Plan be placed on the agenda for the next regular School Board meeting. Dr. Nichols stated that Board members had been provided a copy of the Capital Improvement Plan for its review.

Mr. Terwilliger suggested that school accreditation be discussed at the joint meeting between the Amherst County School Board and the Amherst County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Mayo stated there are county issues that affect school success.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools