

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, October 22, 2015, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:03 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 22, 2015, regular School Board meeting. There were none.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the October 22, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the October 22, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was a recognition.

Dr. Nichols stated the recognition was a teacher at Amherst County High School and Dr. Norman would do the introduction.

Dr. Norman recognized Mr. Steven Wilder, Career and Technical Education Teacher at Amherst County High School, for receiving first place at the state level for his Economic and Personal Finance Lesson Plan.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was a presentation.

Dr. Nichols introduced Dr. William Wells, Dr. Pamela McFaden, and Ms. Hollie Jennings, members of the OCR Working Group for Amherst County High School. Dr. Wells, Dr. McFaden and Ms. Jennings provided an update to the Board on Office of Civil Rights matters with regards to the Amherst County Public Schools. Information was provided and discussed with Board members regarding the required timelines and tasks that need to be completed per the OCR Complaint.

Mr. Bumgarner arrived for the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. Board members were very appreciative to the staff for all their hard work.

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 consent agenda. Mr. Wood asked if there were any changes. There were none.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda items: minutes of the October 8, 2015, regular School Board meeting; confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period October 5, 2015 through October 16, 2015; a field trip request for Amherst County High School wrestling team to travel to Hampton, Virginia to participate in the Virginia Duals Wrestling Tournament on Friday, January 8, 2016 through Saturday, January 9, 2016; a trip request for Amherst County High School wrestling team to travel to Nansemond River High School to participate in the Seventh Annual Mike Suman Toys for Tots Invitational Wrestling Tournament, Friday, December 18, 2015 through Saturday, December 19, 2015; a field trip request for Amherst County High School wrestling team to travel to Sherando High School to participate in the Sherando Warrior Classic Wrestling Tournament on Friday, December 11, 2015 through Saturday, December 12, 2015; and a trip request for Amherst County High School wrestling team to travel to Christiansburg High School to participate in the Big Blue Wrestling Tournament on Friday, January 15, 2016 through Saturday, January 16, 2016.

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

Dr. Nichols stated the division had been notified the State was releasing the SOL test scores; however, the staff had been unable to access the website to obtain the data. Dr. Nichols stated information would be forthcoming regarding the SOL test scores.

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

Dr. Nichols stated the Dr. Norman would provide information regarding a Smart Beginnings Grant.

Dr. Norman provided information to the Board regarding a Smart Beginnings Grant that will provide materials and staff development opportunities to the teachers and teacher assistants who teach the students in the Smart Start Program. Dr. Norman stated the grant was \$83,300. Amherst County Public Schools would not be the fiscal agent for the funds; however, it would receive the benefits from the funds.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was bandwidth services.

Dr. Norman introduced Mr. Joe Goldman, Supervisor of Technology. Mr. Goldman provided information to the Board regarding a recommendation for Bandwidth Services. Mr. Goldman provided an overview of the committee members and the proposals received.

Board members reviewed and discussed the proposals regarding bandwidth services for Amherst County Public Schools. Board members will consider approval of the recommendation for bandwidth services at the November 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was the Travel Authorization Report.

Dr. Norman stated the Board had at its place a copy of the Travel Authorization Report for the time period July 2015 through September 2015.

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

Dr. Rogers provided an update on the following:

- Health / Benefits Consultant – three vendors have submitted proposals and will be interviewed. Two references from each company have been verified. Information will be provided to the Board at the November 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting.
- Developing School Calendar for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years - Committee members included staff from all schools. Recommendations from the committee will be presented to the School Board at the November 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting.
- Wellness Update - Partnership with Walmart to provide students and staff with flu shots, mammogram van is scheduled to come to the division, Amherst Elementary School staff have challenged all schools in a nine-week walking program.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Mr. Cocke would discuss information regarding facilities.

Mr. Cocke provided an overview to the Board on the projects that have been completed, HVAC units at Pleasant View Elementary School and Amherst Elementary School. Mr. Cocke informed the Board that two maintenance vans have been purchased.

Mr. Cocke shared with the Board information regarding a problem with the computer that controls heating, lighting and boilers in certain parts of Amherst County High School. Mr. Cocke stated for now Mr. Goldman and his staff had found a computer that could assist with controlling the heating, lighting and boilers at Amherst County High School.

Mr. Cocke stated an update on the Amherst County Public Schools' Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) had been provided to Board members at the October 8, 2015, regular School Board meeting. Mr. Cocke asked if Board members had any questions. There were no questions regarding the revised CIP.

Mr. Cocke stated the CIP was due to Mr. Dean Rogers, County Administrator, by November 2, 2015. Mr. Cocke asked Board members if he could provide Mr. Rogers the document he provided Board members at the October 8, 2015, meeting. The consensus of the Board was to provide Mr. Rogers with the Capital Improvement Plan for Amherst County Public Schools.

Mr. Wood provided Board members with an update on the PPEA process. Mr. Wood stated the committee would review the proposals in December with plans to make a decision in January 2016.

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

Dr. Nichols provided certain Board members with a Certificate of Recognition for workshops they had been attended through the Virginia School Boards Association.

Dr. Nichols stated at the October 8, 2015, regular School Board meeting, Board members discussed changing the date of the February 2016 School Board Retreat. Dr. Nichols stated March 15, 2016 or March 16, 2016, were the suggested dates.

Board members discussed the dates.

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mr. Henderson and unanimously carried, the Board changed the February 2016 School Board Retreat to March 16, 2016.

Dr. Nichols informed the Board that Amherst County High School had a drug search and nothing was found.

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

Mr. James Funkhouser, representative of Shentel, expressed appreciation to the Board for the opportunity to provide a proposal regarding bandwidth service.

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

Mrs. Cumby stated she enjoyed chaperoning a field trip to Liberty University on Friday, October 16, 2015.

Mrs. Massie expressed appreciation to everyone for all of their hard work on the OCR information.

Mr. Henderson stated he had reviewed the on-time graduation information and it appeared there were improvements in two cohorts, female students and black students.

Mr. Wood reminded Board members that the December 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting would begin at 5:00 p.m. with the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and area legislators. Mr. Wood suggested that the Board members have a short discussion regarding the following:

- Funding the STEM Academy
- Funding continues for the Amherst CVCC site
- Funding for Smart Start Program
- Funding for one-time facility projects
- Composite Index
- Decline in Enrollment

Mr. Wood stated Milestone Communications asked that the members of the Amherst County School Board provide them the type of cell phone tower pole it wishes to install at Elon Elementary School. Mr. Wood stated the two choices were monopole or monopine.

Mr. Wood stated the Board needs to make a choice on what type of pole is installed at Elon Elementary School because the type of pole affects the permit.

After discussion by Board members, they agreed to delay approving the type of pole to be installed at Elon Elementary School until the November 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting to allow additional time for citizen input.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to go into closed session.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (2) and (7), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Summers and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for personnel matter – Superintendent’s Evaluation, student matters and legal matters.

Dr. Nichols stated action might be taken.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Summers 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 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. Bumgarner, seconded by Mr. Henderson and unanimously carried, the Board certified that they discussed only permissible topics.

AYES: Liggon, Wood, Henderson, Massie, Summers, Bumgarner, Cumby

NAYS: None

Mr. Wood stated if there was a motion to approve the recommended OCR Agreement compliance staff changes.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Summers and unanimously carried, the Board approved the OCR staff changes recommended by the Superintendent.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion regarding the student matter.

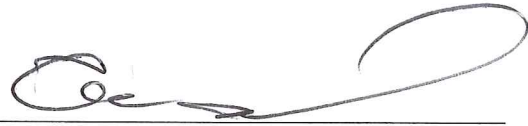
Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Henderson and unanimously carried, the Board approved to release Student A from compulsory attendance.

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Summers, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools