

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, October 24, 2013, in the Gym at Pleasant View Elementary School, Monroe, Virginia at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Elizabeth S. Gamble, Vice Chairman
Priscilla Liggon
Patricia Massie
Margaret Morton
Randy Summers
Alan Wood

ABSENT: Jones Stanley, Chairman

Mrs. Gamble thanked the parents, students, teachers and administrative staff for hosting the October 24, 2013, regular School Board meeting at Pleasant View Elementary School.

Mrs. Gamble called the meeting to order, asked that a moment of silence be observed, and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda of the October 24, 2013, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated he has read in the news that VRS percentages for the upcoming year may be as high as 24%.

Mr. Wood stated he has also read many of the concerns that were listed in the resolution concerning high stakes standardized testing in Virginia Schools will be addressed with the upcoming General Assembly session.

Mr. Wood asked if the employees of Amherst County Public Schools are aware of the Policy GBG regarding *Staff Participation in Political Activities*, especially as Election Day is approaching. Dr. Rogers stated a reminder will be sent out to all employees regarding this matter.

Mrs. Massie welcomed everyone to Pleasant View Elementary School.

Mrs. Gamble stated there is a computer program that works on math skills PK-12 called Khan Academy that would be good for students, parents and teachers.

Mrs. Gamble asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one addressed the Board.

Mr. O'Brien introduced Ms. Lauren Leeds, Music Teacher for Pleasant View Elementary School. Ms. Leeds and the third, fourth and fifth grade students at Pleasant View Elementary School performed for the Amherst County School Board.

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Wood and unanimously carried, the Board approved adding the following two courses to the Amherst County High School Program of Studies for the 2014-2015 school year:

- Biology II/Anatomy and Physiology
- AP European History

Mrs. Norman stated there would not be additional cost to the budget to add the new courses.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Wood and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the October 8, 2013, regular School Board meeting, the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period October 4, 2013, through October 18, 2013, and a request to home educate a child under the religious exemption status, Section 22.1-254 of the Code of Virginia.

Mrs. Norman provided the following information to Board members regarding the Amherst County Public Schools Division School Improvement Plan Overview.

ACPS Division Improvement Plan Overview

Objective: To develop a course of action that demonstrates parallel tracks among indicators for student performance, intentional interventions with explicit progress monitoring, and professional development for administrators/teachers.

Indicators for Student Performance: There are five indicators selected by the Division Leadership Support Team (DLST) that are aligned with the indicators selected by each school. These aligned indicators will allow the division team to support each school's leadership team, develop division-wide improvement strategies, address the identification of struggling or at-risk students, and ensure the written curriculum is the taught curriculum.

The division is required to designate a "priority level" for each indicator selected. Priority 1 is the lowest level of support and focus, Priority 2 is medium level, and Priority 3 is a high level of support and focus from the division to the schools in improvement.

IA13-The division works with the school to provide early and intensive intervention for students not making progress. Priority-3

IA15 – The division allows school leaders reasonable autonomy to do things differently in order to succeed. Priority-3

IB02 – The division examines existing school improvement strategies being implemented across the district and determines their value, expanding, modifying, and culling as evidence suggests. Priority-3

IC05 – The district provides a cohesive district curriculum guide aligned with state standards or otherwise places curricular expectations on the school. Priority-3

ID10 – The division and schools' Leadership Team regularly looks at school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data and uses that data to make decisions about school improvement and professional development needs. Priority-3

Intentional interventions with explicit progress monitoring: There are three indicators that are required by VDOE. In order to align with the state the division will support the required TA01, TA02, and TA03 indicators for each school.

TA01 – The division/school will use an identification process for all students at risk for failing or in need of targeted interventions.

TA02 – The division/school will use a tiered, differentiated intervention process to assign research-based interventions aligned with the individual needs of identified students in tiers 2 and 3.

TA03 – The division/school will use a monitoring process for targeted intervention students to ensure fidelity and effectiveness.

Professional Development for Administrators and Teachers:

Thinking Maps: A Language of Learning

- Since we can anticipate another dip in scores for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year in both math (three year average complete with all three years of the new test) and reading (three year average having two years complete with the new test) it is important to have intentional division-wide training in research based instructional supports for student learning.
- Thinking Maps is a research based model of K-12 thinking process that assist in planning, organizing and learning to support content.
- The research-based model will begin with training for administrators and division level instructional support staff during principals meetings this year, 2013-2014.
- Teachers at selected schools (Schools Accredited with Warning) will begin training at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year for full implementation to begin the first nine weeks of school.
- By the end of the 2015-16 school year all schools will have been provided the training.
- Follow-up training will be provided two to four times each year for administrators and teachers.

Overall Division Focus

- Curriculum alignment
- Instructional Strategies that support all content areas and grade levels
- Support
for students with disabilities that center on research based practices adopted by the division.

Board members asked if the professional development for administrators and teachers could be sooner than outlined in the proposal. Mrs. Norman stated that academic reviews will not be completed until November 2013, and the proposal cannot be implemented until February 2014.

Board members were excited about the concept that everyone will be using the same techniques.

Mrs. Norman stated that Board members will be trained on November 6, 2013, at the School Board Retreat.

Mrs. Crouch stated the budget monitoring forms, revenue receipts, object code report and enrollment information were at their place.

Mr. Cocke informed Board members the roof assessment has been completed. Mr. Cocke informed Board members that phenolic insulation was found on the roofs at Central Elementary School, Amelon Elementary School and Amherst County High School. Mr. Cocke stated that preliminary

estimates were between \$1,000,000 and \$1,287,000 for the repairs to roofs. The estimated cost only included replacing the roofs and did not include a price for replacement of the metal decking if necessary. An update on the construction balance was provided to Board members.

Dr. Nichols provided the following Draft for Restructuring School Board meetings beginning January 2013.

Meeting One (2nd Thursday of the Month) – The School Board meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

NOTE: There would be the possibility of scheduling a pre-meeting discipline hearing (5 p.m.) only if the time out of school would extend beyond the 10 day limit, SPED, or special situation. In any case, there would be NO post-meeting hearings at the first monthly meeting. In many cases, there would be no hearings at this meeting.

Meeting Two (4th Thursday of the Month) – The School Board meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. (abbreviated schedule) with the discipline hearings at 5:45 p.m.

NOTE: Should the need exist (more than four (4) cases), there would be two (2) panels hearing cases. Panel 1 would meet in the Board Meeting Room, while Panel 2 would meet in the small Superintendent's Conference room. The Superintendent would cover one, the Assistant Superintendent the other. Hearings would still follow the following schedule:

5:45	-	6:15	a	b
6:15	-	6:45	c	d
6:45	-	7:15	e	f
7:15	-	7:45	g	h

Hearings would be configured such that an administrator from the school would be available for the hearing. Additionally should the hearing appear likely to be difficult or a situation of special circumstances, the Superintendent would be certain to attend that hearing.

If there are not more than four (4) cases, only one panel would convene.

Mr. Wood stated he was not comfortable that this restructuring needs to be done and suggested waiting a little longer to see if there was a need to change the Board meeting schedules.

Mrs. Gamble stated the ten (10) day concern has been addressed in the proposal.

Mrs. Liggon stated that getting to the Board meetings by 5:00 p.m. may be pushing her a little.

Mrs. Massie was concerned that 5:00 p.m. may be too early for concerned citizens to attend Board meetings.

Mr. Summers agreed with Mrs. Liggon that 5:00 p.m. may be hard for him as well sometimes.

Mrs. Gamble suggested the Board table the proposal from Dr. Nichols regarding restructuring Board meeting dates until all members are present. Mrs. Gamble also suggested to Board members to share any alternative suggestions at the November 14, 2013, regular School Board meeting.

Dr. Nichols provided an update on the Guidance Department at Amherst County High School. Dr. Nichols stated he believes the changes will address services to students and parents.

Mrs. Gamble shared information with the Board regarding the agenda for the School Board Retreat.

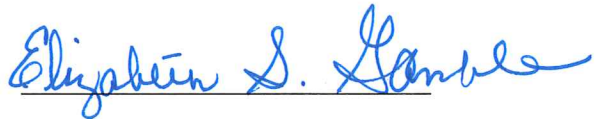
Mrs. Gamble asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Mr. Sammy Mays expressed appreciation to the Board members for coming to Pleasant View Elementary School for the School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mrs. Morton and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



Elizabeth Gamble, Vice Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools