

The Amherst County School Board met on Thursday, November 8, 2018, in the Public Meeting Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:01 p.m.

PRESENT: W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Priscilla M. Liggon, Vice Chairman
David S. Cassise
Francisco D. Mayo
Craig S. Terwilliger
Abby J. Thompson

Indeya Paige, Student Representative

ABSENT: None

VACANT: District 2 Seat

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 November 8, 2018, regular School Board meeting agenda.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the November 8, 2018, School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mr. Cassise and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the November 8, 2018, School Board meeting.

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 appoint the District 2 representative to the Amherst County School Board. Mr. Henderson expressed appreciation to Mrs. Wright and Mr. Harris for their interest in serving on the Amherst County School Board. Mr. Henderson asked if there was a nomination for the appointment of the District 2 representative.

Mrs. Liggon made a motion to appoint Mrs. Amanda Wright to serve as District 2 representative for the Amherst County School Board through December 2019. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the proposed budget calendar for the discussions of the 2019-2020 budget.

Mrs. Thompson asked if the January 23, 2019 date could be changed to January 24, 2019. In reviewing the date, it was noted that January 23, 2019 was an incorrect date and would be changed to January 24, 2019.

Mr. Henderson asked if the Board wished to approve the proposed budget calendar with the revision.

Upon motion by Mr. Terwilliger, seconded by Mr. Cassise and unanimously carried, the Board approved the revised proposed budget calendar for the 2019-2020 budget discussions.

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes of the October 16, 2018, School Board Retreat, the minutes of the October 25, 2018 regular School Board meeting, the minutes of the November 1, 2018, special School Board meeting, confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of October 26, 2018 through November 2, 2018, and a field trip request for Amherst County High School AP European History students to travel to Washington, D.C., to tour the National Mall on Friday, December 14, 2018.

Dr. Arnold stated the next item on the agenda was an update on administrative services of which Dr. Wells would be sharing information.

Dr. Wells introduced Ms. Erin Karajankovich, School Resource Officer for Monelison Middle School. Ms. Karajankovich stated she was excited about her new role as school resource officer.

Dr. Wells shared information with Board members on the active shooter training that was held at Amherst County High School on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, for all staff. Dr. Wells shared feedback from some employees who attended the training.

Dr. Wells stated the student suspension report for October 2018 was available to Board members on BoardDocs.

Dr. Arnold stated Mrs. Crouch would provide information from the finance department.

Mrs. Crouch informed the Board that the budget monitoring reports, revenue receipts, budget summary by object code, and enrollment information through October 2018 was available to Board members on Board Docs. Mrs. Crouch stated that the ADM is higher than budgeted and will be monitored monthly. Mrs. Crouch noted that fuel cost per tanker load was higher for the 2018-2019 school year than the prior year. Board members reviewed the information. No action was taken.

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

Dr. Norman stated information regarding ACT and SAT scores for Amherst County Public Schools was at each Board member's place.

Dr. Norman provided the following overview on accountability measures:

1. *At their October meeting, the State Board of Education made a surprise decision to set in place preventive measures for those schools under the new Standards of Accreditation. If they were used for this school year we would have had schools Accredited with Conditions and would be placed under Academic Review.*
2. *ACPS has three schools that would fall into this category. ACHS, Amherst Elementary and Elon*
 - a. *Area of concern is in mathematics with a subgroup of black students, economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities.*
3. *VDOE Office of School Quality contacted me last week to provide this news and to inform me we would be required to have Academic Reviews for all three of these schools. However, due to ACPS having three schools removed from the improvement process this year, they were allowing us to conduct an internal process for these Academic Reviews.*
4. *I, along with members of my staff, will attend training on December 13th to find out the requirements we will need to meet for these three schools.*
5. *As I mentioned at our last Board meeting when we reviewed data from last year, we had already begun our own improvement process this year. This process includes observations, lesson alignment professional development, and targeted assistance for teachers and students in the areas of both reading and math. We have conducted one round of classroom observations in the schools and are getting ready to start round two the end of November.*
6. *Dr. Arnold will be meeting with the faculty at each of the schools.*

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

Dr. Norman provided Board members a plan of action that will be used to support teachers and students in the area of mathematics, science, gifted, and elected programs due to the departure of the supervisor of these programs.

Board members reviewed the information. No action was taken.

Dr. Arnold stated that Mr. Gallagher would provide an update from the Human Resources Department.

Mr. Gallagher provided information to the Board on the proposed plan of action for recruiting. Mr. Gallagher stated the staff in the Human Resources Office is working on a recruiting video. Dr. Arnold stated that Mr. Gallagher will continue to provide updates to the Board on recruiting, hiring, retaining and mentoring programs.

Board members discussed the information provided and expressed appreciation to staff for providing the information. No action was taken.

Dr. Arnold stated the next item on the agenda was from the student representative, Miss Indeya Paige.

Miss Paige shared with the Board information concerning the challenges high school students face when deciding to which colleges they should apply. Miss Paige discussed

partnering with Lyn-Cag to assist students and parents with ACT/SAT, financing options, and take students on campus tours of different colleges. The program is designed to help at-risk students and first generation college students to provide support with the admissions process.

Dr. Arnold stated that Board members attending the VSBA Convention in Williamsburg, Va., would be leaving the School Administration Office at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

Dr. Arnold asked Board members for items of interest that they wished to share with area legislators at the November 8, 2018, Joint Meeting with members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and area legislators:

- Salaries
- Construction & Modernization of Facilities
- Mental Health & Trauma
- School Resource Officer – funding
- Security & Safety
- CTE Regional Program/Work Force Development
- Programs that target rural areas to boost taxes
- DOE- Test replaced with project based learning; however, legislators are passing laws with counter options that undercut the Department of Education

Dr. Arnold provided Board members an update on the Long-Range Strategic Plan. Dr. Arnold shared with Board members the meetings that have been held with stakeholders and the timeline to assist with the development of the Long-Range Strategic Plan.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda is citizen comment.

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board. Mrs. Carmen Crowder of 286 Ridge Street, Madison Heights addressed the board.

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

Mr. Cassise thanked both candidates for their willingness to serve as a School Board member. Mr. Cassise welcomed Deputy Karajankovich as the new School Resource Officer. Mr. Cassise expressed appreciation to staff for all of the safety measures that are being put in place.

Mr. Terwilliger stated he had a question about the information that was provided to Board members regarding ACT and SAT scores. Mr. Terwilliger asked if the information provided included the total number of students in Amherst County Public Schools who take the ACT test.

Dr. Norman stated the information provided did include all students who took the ACT test. Dr. Norman stated colleges in Virginia rely mostly on the SAT scores.

Mrs. Thompson welcomed Mrs. Wright as the new School Board member. Mrs. Thompson thanked Dr. Arnold for the update on the Long-Range Strategic Plan and the meetings that have been scheduled to obtain community input.

Mr. Mayo welcomed Mrs. Wright and Deputy Karajankovich to the Amherst County Public Schools' team. Mr. Mayo commended Dr. Arnold and his team for their vision and direction in addressing needs.

Mrs. Liggon also welcomed Mrs. Wright and Deputy Karajankovich to Amherst County. Mrs. Liggon appreciates the leadership of Dr. Arnold. Mrs. Liggon stated she was looking forward to the VSBA Conference.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the Governor's School meeting. Mr. Henderson stated that Dr. Smith shared with him that Amherst County had a strong group of students at the Governor's School this year.

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

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and (2), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for (A) (1) personnel matter – performance of an employee and (A) (2) student matter.

Upon motion by Mr. Terwilliger, seconded by Mr. Cassise and unanimously carried, the Board resumed its 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.

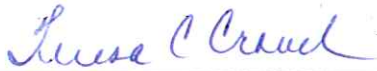
Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board certified they discussed only permissible topics.

AYES: Henderson, Liggon, Mayo, Thompson, Terwilliger Cassise

NAYS: None

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried, the Board upheld the decision of the discipline committee.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mr. Cassise 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