

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, November 9, 2017, in the Board Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
 Priscilla M. Liggon, Vice Chairman
 Jennifer E. Cumby
 Randy V. Summers
 Craig S. Terwilliger
 Abby J. Thompson

Haleigh Tomlin, Student Representative

ABSENT: Francisco D. Mayo

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 November 9, 2017, regular School Board meeting.

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

Item 4.03 Consider approval to hire a math coach

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the November 9, 2017, regular School Board meeting as amended.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the November 9, 2017, regular School Board meeting as amended.

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

Dr. Nichols introduced Mrs. Jennifer Crews, Assistant Principal of Amherst County High School. Mrs. Crews introduced four students who have been trained to be mentors to ninth grade students and new students at Amherst County High School. The student mentors shared with Board members their experiences in assisting ninth grade students as they transition into the high school.

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

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 consider approval of the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the September 14, 2017, regular School Board meeting; minutes of the October 12, 2017, regular School Board meeting; minutes of the October 18, 2017, School Board Retreat, minutes of the October 26, 2017, special School Board meeting/work

session, confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of October 9, 2017, through November 3, 2017, a trip request for the Amherst County High School cross country students to travel to Charlotte, North Carolina on Friday, November 24, 2017 through Saturday, November 25, 2017 to attend the Footlocker Cross Country National Championship, and a trip request for Amherst County High School band/choir students to travel to Orlando, Florida on Thursday, March 22, 2018 through Monday, March 26, 2017, to attend the Universal Orlando Festival.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to discuss Item 4.03 Consider approval to hire a math coach.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Rogers would share information regarding this matter.

Dr. Rogers stated information regarding the math coach had been shared with Board members at the School Board Retreat as well as at the October 26, 2017, School Board meeting/work session. Dr. Rogers stated for the remainder of the school year, the plan would be to hire a retired part-time math teacher. The position will be requested in 2018-19 School Operational Budget. The position would be funded fifty percent with Title I funds and fifty percent with local funds.

Board members discussed the information provided. After discussion by the Board, Mrs. Thompson made a motion to approve the position for the remainder of the FY18 school year. Mr. Terwilliger asked if the motion could be amended to provide data to the Board on how the position was helping students. Dr. Norman stated the information on student data will be a part of the Accountability Report to the State and can be provided to the members of the School Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cumby.

AYES: Henderson, Liggon, Cumby, Thompson, Terwilliger

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: Summers

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

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman would share information regarding accountability.

Dr. Norman provided the following update:

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Virginia Board of Education and the Amherst County Public School Board the following is an update regarding on-going accountability measures. This update is specific to information regarding the status of the denied schools appeals process and the support provided to the schools not fully accredited from the state contractor assigned to the division.

1. Status of Appeals

- a. The State Board of Education voted on the Central Elementary Appeal made on behalf of the ACPS Board at their October 26, 2017 meeting. The State Board voted to designate Central as a Partially Accredited Reconstituted School – Year 1. This enables Central to implement a plan on the*

improvement of student performance in the area of science. Central will continue to be monitored by the state and provided with a VDOE Contractor assigned to be in the school for no less than 60 hours from September, 2017 through February, 2018.

2. Additional State Contractor Site Visits To Schools Not Fully Accredited:

<i>October 31</i>	<i>MHES</i>	<i>10-3</i>
<i>Nov 9</i>	<i>Amelon</i>	<i>9-12</i>
<i>Nov 9</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>12:30-3:30</i>
<i>Nov 13</i>	<i>MHES</i>	<i>9-2</i>
<i>Nov 27</i>	<i>Amelon</i>	<i>9-2</i>
<i>Nov 30</i>	<i>MHES</i>	<i>9-2</i>
<i>Dec 1</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>9-2</i>
<i>Dec 4</i>	<i>Division Level Support Team Meeting at SAO 8:30- until</i>	
<i>Dec 7</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>9-12</i>
<i>Dec 7</i>	<i>Amelon</i>	<i>12:30-3:30</i>
<i>Dec 8</i>	<i>MHES</i>	<i>9-2</i>
<i>Dec 11</i>	<i>MHES</i>	<i>9-2</i>
<i>Dec 12</i>	<i>Amelon</i>	<i>9-12</i>
<i>Dec 12</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>12:30 -3:30</i>

- Members of the Accountability Team for ACPS will once again meet with Ms. Bev Rabil, Director of the Office of School Improvement on January 5, 2018 from 8-4pm. Ms. Rabil and members of her School Improvement Team will come to Amherst on that day to meet with the division team, and individually with the administrators from Amelon, Central and Madison Heights Elementary Schools.*

3. Data Review:

- a. The instructional team has met with each school administrators to review the First Nine Weeks Benchmark Data with the State Contractor. Areas that are being addressed are as follows:*
 - i. For teachers who are not on pace with the division curriculum pacing guide a plan has been developed to align them with the division expectations. Both Administrators and Supervisors are monitoring the implementation.*
 - ii. Assessments have been adjusted to ensure that students are only tested on what they have been taught.*
 - iii. Master scheduling has been addressed to guarantee time is being protected to allow for the full block of instruction to be used.*
 - iv. Modeling of guided practice has been completed for struggling teachers.*
 - v. Professional development for teachers in the "math diet" has been completed in order to confirm all components are addressed in each lesson.*
 - vi. Meetings have occurred with specific grade levels and administrators to gain a better understanding of student performance and obstacles to learning.*

vii. A meeting was conducted with the Title 1 Reading Specialist to address on-grade level reading and the required amount of minute's students should be spending in authentic text.

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

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

Dr. Nichols stated that Dr. Rogers would provide an update from Human Resources.

Dr. Rogers informed Board members that National Education Week will be the week of November 13 – 17, 2017.

Dr. Rogers shared information with the Board regarding the Child Care Programs that are provided in certain Amherst County Public Schools. Board members discussed and reviewed the information provided. As part of the 2018-19 Budget discussions, the Board will continue reviewing the Y Programs in the Amherst County Public Schools.

Dr. Rogers shared information with the Board concerning the 2018-19 School Calendar. The Board reviewed and discussed the information provided. Board members discussed the option of including a fall break in the calendar. After discussion by the Board, the Board members agreed that could be included in the survey for future calendars. The Board will consider approval of the 2018-19 School Calendar at the December 2017, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the financial reports.

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would share information with the Board regarding the financial reports.

Mrs. Crouch stated the budget monitoring reports, revenue reports, revenue receipts, budget summary by object and enrollment information for the month of October 2017 was available to Board members on BoardDocs.

Mrs. Crouch informed Board members that the County is reviewing options to upgrade the financial software. Mrs. Crouch provided an overview of the county's and school division's financial software. The members of the Amherst County School Board asked that Mrs. Crouch provide additional information regarding this matter.

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

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

Mr. Cocke informed Board members that the construction on Learning Lane, the road going into Madison Heights Elementary School, was underway.

Mr. Cocke provided an overview of the PPEA projects.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was student suspensions.

Dr. Nichols stated the student suspension report for October 2017 was at their place.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was Superintendent Matters.

Dr. Nichols shared information with the Board on school field trips.

Dr. Nichols asked Board members to provide Mr. Henderson with their individual top two budget priorities for the 2018-19 budget development by December 1, 2017.

Dr. Nichols provided Board members with a copy of the new branding logo for Amherst County Public Schools.

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

Ms. Tomlin shared information with the Board regarding what was happening at Amherst County High School.

Mr. Terwilliger asked if the Board was going to talk about appointing the Transportation Committee. The consensus of the Board was to develop the Transportation Committee and Mr. Terwilliger and Mrs. Thompson will be representing the School Board. There were no changes to the outline for the committee that Mr. Henderson provided Board members at the October 26, 2017, meeting.

Mrs. Thompson stated she appreciated listening to the students explain the mentor program for new and upcoming ninth grade students. Mrs. Thompson stated the staff at Amherst County High School continues to look outside of the box.

Mrs. Cumby congratulated Mrs. Thompson on being elected to the School Board.

Mrs. Cumby stated she was encouraged about the mentor program.

Mr. Summers congratulated Mrs. Cumby and Mrs. Thompson on being elected to the School Board.

Mr. Summers thanked the Board and senior staff for their help and assistance while he served as a member of the Amherst County School Board.

Mrs. Liggon stated she had been attending football games and volleyball games.

Mrs. Liggon stated she was looking forward to the VSBA Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. Mrs. Liggon asked Board members to let her know if they had questions for her to share during the delegates meeting.

Mrs. Liggon asked when the attendance factors into accreditation. Dr. Nichols and Dr. Norman stated the attendance factors into accreditation this school year.

Mrs. Liggon stated she has an L.A.U.R.E.L. Board meeting in December 2017.

Mr. Henderson asked how information on the School Report Card was shared and when does the information become available.

Dr. Norman stated it was on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) website. Dr. Norman stated there will be one correction to the attendance for Amherst County High School. Dr. Norman stated the School Report Card was posted on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) website; there was also a link on the division website as well as the individual school websites. Dr. Norman informed Board members of the status of the three schools that are not accredited; the principal sends information home to parents on the School Report Card.

Mr. Henderson stated he will start attending the STEM Academy Board meetings.

Mr. Henderson stated he appreciates the weekly calendar reminders.

Mr. Henderson reminded Board members the Joint meeting between the Amherst County School Board and Amherst County Board of Supervisors is Monday, November 13, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Henderson thanked Mr. Summers for his service as a member of the Amherst County School Board.

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 a closed session for personnel matters.

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

Dr. Nichols stated action would not be taken.

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

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

NAYS: None

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools