

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, November 12, 2015, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:11 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

ABSENT: Camryn Garrett, Student Representative

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 November 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting. There were none.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the November 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the November 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was the Public Hearing concerning the Proposed FY17 School Operational Budget.

Mr. Wood stated Mrs. Sandy Jennings-Neblett had signed up to speak at the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Sandy Jennings-Neblett, teacher at Amherst Elementary School and parent of students at Amherst Elementary School, asked the Board to consider the following for the FY17 School Operational Budget:

- Continue the maintenance on the buildings
- Expressed concern that the consensus of the Board was to reduce staffing through attrition

Mr. Wood asked if anyone else wished to address the Board during the Public Hearing of the FY17 School Operational Budget. No one else addressed the Board.

Mr. Wood stated the Public Hearing on the Proposed FY17 School Operational Budget was closed.

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

Dr. Nichols recognized Ms. Wanda Burley, Amethyst Sponsor, and the 2014-2015 Amherst County High School yearbook staff for awards for the 2015 Amethyst yearbook received from various organizations.

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 approve the type of cell tower to be installed on the property of Elon Elementary School. Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion.

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mrs. Massie the Board approved to install a monopole cell tower at Elon Elementary School.

VOTE:

AYES: Cumby, Bumgarner, Summers, Massie, Wood

NAYES: None

ABSTAINED: Liggon, Henderson

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of a deed of gift and easement for section of property abutting Learning Lane in Madison Heights, Virginia.

Dr. Nichols informed Board members the request was made to consider approval of a deed of gift and easement for a section of property abutting Learning Lane in Madison Heights, Virginia to allow for repair of the roadway and takeover by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Wood stated he attended the Amherst County Board of Supervisors meeting where this item was discussed.

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board approved a deed of gift and easement for a section of property abutting Learning Lane in Madison Heights, Virginia.

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.

Mr. Bumgarner asked that the following item be removed from the consent agenda for clarification:

6.04 Consider approval of a Supplemental Appropriation to the FY16 School Operational Budget

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Item 6.04.

Upon motion by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda items: minutes of the September 16, 2015, School Board Retreat, minutes of the October 22, 2015, regular School Board meeting; confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period October 19, 2015 through November 6, 2015; a field trip request for

Amherst County High School cross country team to travel to McAlpine Port, Charlotte, North Carolina to participate in the Footlocker Cross Country Meet on Friday, November 27, 2015 through Saturday, November 28, 2015; Amherst County High School wrestling team to travel to William Byrd High School to participate in the Big Orange Wrestling Tournament, Friday, January 22, 2016 through Saturday, January 23, 2016; and the 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.

Mr. Bumgarner asked for clarification on the supplemental appropriation.

Mrs. Crouch provided an overview of each of the items listed on the supplemental appropriation.

After discussion by the Board, Mr. Bumgarner made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation to the FY16 School Operational Budget. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cumby and unanimously carried.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was accountability measures.

Dr. Nichols stated that Dr. Norman would share information with the Board regarding accountability measures.

Dr. Norman shared the following information regarding accountability measures:

1. Accreditation and Federal AMO Status Chart
2. State Accreditation Chart for Core Content
3. Federal AMO Chart for English, Math and Subgroups
4. Regional Comparison Chart of State Accreditation
5. AP School Summary Report
6. Dual Five-Year School Enrollment Information
7. New Accreditation Rating Information
8. Division Improvement Plan Component.

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

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

Dr. Norman informed Board members that the School Board attorney reviewed the contract from Shentel and he would not sign off on the Board approving a ten-year contract for technology services.

Dr. Norman stated that Mr. Goldman had received an additional proposal from Verizon with a three-year term and a five-year term in regards to updating the bandwidth services. Dr. Norman stated Mr. Goldman was awaiting a revised proposal from Shentel; however, its proposal would be for seven years. Information will be provided to Board members at the December 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood asked that the Board review the proposal from Verizon as well as the Shentel proposal for seven years.

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:

- Developing School Calendar for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years - Committee members included staff from all schools. In order to ensure staff and parents have input, the recommendations from the committee will be presented to the School Board at the December 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood suggested the committee review the following three items prior to the December 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting:

- Open House date is a regular School Board meeting
- Spring Break is the week after Easter; however, some of the area school divisions were scheduling Spring Break the week before Easter
- New Year Holiday – January 2, 2016 for some places was a holiday; however, according to the calendar Amherst County Schools would be open

Dr. Nichols stated the next item on the agenda was information regarding revisions to File GCBD/GCBD-R, Professional/Classified Staff Leaves and Absences Policy/Regulation.

Mr. Wood stated Board members had asked for information regarding the number of annual leave days for twelve-month employees and the information had been provided. Mr. Wood stated that Dr. Nichols had already revised the annual leave policy back to the way it was prior to February 2013 and the holiday schedule had been revised for twelve-month employees. Mr. Wood suggested Board members review the information and be prepared to discuss the information during the budget process. Mr. Wood stated the balances could be updated to reflect the leave days employees had used for holidays, inclement weather days, etc. Dr. Rogers mentioned the need to let employees know as soon as possible if they were required to “use or lose” annual days.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was the budget monitoring reports, revenue reports, revenue receipts and other financial reports.

Dr. Nichols stated Mrs. Crouch would discuss the information.

Mrs. Crouch stated that Board members had at their place the budget monitoring reports, revenue reports, receipts, and other financial reports for the month of October 2015. Mrs. Crouch stated information regarding student enrollment was also at their place.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Mr. Cocke did not have any information regarding facilities.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was policy updates.

Dr. Nichols informed Board members the following policy updates had been provided to Board members:

- Policy Manual Revisions, Administrative
- Policy Manual Revisions, Instruction
- Policy Manual Revisions, Support Services

Dr. Nichols stated there were minor revisions and asked the Board if they wished to waive the second reading and approve the policies.

Mr. Wood asked Board members if they wished to approve the proposed policy revisions. Mr. Wood stated there were several places in the policy where the blanks would need to be completed. Mr. Wood stated he assumed the options would remain as stated in the current policy.

Dr. Nichols stated that was correct.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Henderson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following proposed policy updates as presented:

Policy Manual Revisions, Administrative
Policy Manual Revisions, Instruction
Policy Manual Revisions, Support Services

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

Dr. Nichols stated Board members attending the VSBA Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, will depart from the School Administration Office on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Nichols informed Board members that he believed the second OCR complaint was in the process of being resolved. Dr. Nichols stated the Supervisor of Special Education, parent and attorneys were currently working on a procedure whereby the complaint can be addressed through a much more streamlined process.

Dr. Nichols stated the OCR training dates had been provided to Board members. Dr. Nichols stated Board members could attend the training dates at the schools.

Dr. Nichols informed Board members that the Child Nutrition Program had received an additional grant reimbursement for Madison Heights Elementary School to encourage students to eat breakfast.

Dr. Nichols reminded Board members that American Education Week was November 16, 2015 through November 20, 2015.

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 items from School Board members.

Mr. Bumgarner stated the County Code is not a searchable document and asked if the Amherst County School Board Policy could become a searchable document.

Dr. Nichols stated he thought the policy manual could be searched using keywords.

Mr. Bumgarner stated he would like to see BoardDocs utilized for more information. Mr. Bumgarner stated he would like information that was provided at School Board meetings included in BoardDocs.

Mrs. Massie stated she had several parents ask her about the possibility of having a school bus transport students to and from Caterpillar Club House to Pleasant View Elementary School to assist with daycare. Mrs. Massie stated she thought it was approximately three students.

Mr. Cocke stated he could provide a cost estimate to Board members.

Mrs. Massie stated she attended a STEM Academy meeting. Ms. Cash is still requesting that the student enrollment increase for each division. Mrs. Massie stated she and the other divisions stated they did not believe the demand was there to increase enrollment for the STEM Academy. Mrs. Massie stated that someone from Lynchburg believed the need was there to increase enrollment for the STEM Academy.

Mr. Henderson stated he and a couple of Board members had been visiting the schools over the past several weeks with Mr. Cocke reviewing the CIP projects.

Mrs. Liggon stated someone had expressed concern to her regarding L.A.U.R.E.L. students being transported on buses with students going to Rivermont. Mrs. Liggon stated she would like to make sure there was sufficient supervision on the school buses for the 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
- Restructuring Homeschool Procedures
- Funds for a Pay Increase for Employees

Board members briefly discussed whether the student discipline case could be reviewed at 4:00 p.m., prior to the 5:00 p.m., Joint Meeting with the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and area legislators.

The Board agreed that if there was only one student discipline case the committee would meet at 4:00 p.m. on December 10, 2015; however, if there were more cases to be heard, the discipline committee meeting would be rescheduled.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was a closed session. Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to go into closed session.

Mr. Wood stated the Board would take a five minute break before the closed meeting started.

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

Dr. Nichols stated no action would be taken.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner 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: Liggon, Wood, Henderson, Massie, Summers, Bumgarner, Cumby

NAYS: None

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

Upon motion by Mr. Summers, seconded by Mr. Henderson, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools