

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, December 10, 2015, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 5:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Alan J. Wood, Chairman
W. Michael Henderson, Vice Chairman
Alan H. Bumgarner
Jennifer E. Cumby
Priscilla M. Liggon
Patricia C. Massie

ABSENT: Randy V. Summers
Camryn Garrett, Student Representative

AMHERST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PRESENT: David Pugh, Chairman
Claudia Tucker, Vice Chairman
Donald Kidd
John Marks

ABSENT: Robert Curd

LEGISLATORS

PRESENT: Delegate Ben Cline
Delegate Scott Garrett
Senator Tom A. Garrett, Jr.

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 December 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting. There were none.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the December 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the December 10, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood welcomed members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and legislators to the meeting to discuss concerns prior to the upcoming General Assembly Session.

Mr. Wood asked Mr. Pugh if he wished to call the meeting of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors to order.

Mr. Pugh called the December 10, 2015, meeting of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors to order. Mr. Pugh stated the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors did not have any particular items for the agenda. Mr. Pugh expressed his appreciation to legislators for attending the meeting and expressed appreciation to Mr. Wood and members of the Amherst County School Board for inviting the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Wood introduced Dr. Julie Rogers, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Dana Norman, Director of Academics, and Mr. Wayne Cocke, Director of Transportation and Maintenance, who were sitting in the audience. Mr. Wood welcomed all other citizens who were in the audience.

Mr. Wood reviewed the process for the meeting and asked Mr. Pugh, Chairman of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors, to proceed.

Mr. Pugh and members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors discussed the following issues with the area legislators:

- Status of the Central Virginia Training Center
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Regulation – DCR Regulations for Dams
- Annexation Moratorium
- Freedom of Information Act Requests

Mr. Wood and members of the Amherst County School Board discussed the following issues with area legislators:

- Enrollment Loss for School Divisions
- Amherst CVCC site
- STEM Academy
- Pay Increases for Employees
- Smart Start Program
- One-time Facility Projects
- Homeschool Accountability

Dr. Nichols informed members of the Amherst County School Board, members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and legislators that students in the Smart Start Program from Madison Heights Elementary School were at the Board meeting to sing a song. Dr. Nichols introduced Dr. Marvin McGinnis, Principal at Madison Heights Elementary School. Dr. McGinnis introduced the Smart Start teachers who assisted the students with their song.

Mr. Wood asked the legislators if they wished to share anything with the members of the Amherst County School Board and members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors.

Delegate Cline asked members of both Boards to continue to keep in touch with the delegates and senators regarding their concerns.

Senator Garrett reviewed some of his past accomplishments and expressed appreciation to both Boards for having the meeting.

Delegate Garrett stated there was one word for the upcoming session and that was uncertainty. Delegate Garrett stated some of the issues facing the General Assembly are:

- Fully Fund VRS
- Accelerated Sales Tax
- Virtual Education
- Health Arena – not expanding Medicaid
- Targeted Reforms – specifically Mental Health
- Transportation
- Address Funding for K-12 Education

Mr. Wood expressed appreciation to everyone for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Tucker made a motion to adjourn the meeting for the Amherst County Board of Supervisors at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Wood stated the Amherst County School Board would take a brief recess.

Mr. Wood called the meeting back to order.

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

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 awarding a contract for Health/Benefit consultant firm for Amherst County Public Schools.

Dr. Rogers provided an overview from the Health/Benefit Committee and stated the recommendation of the committee was to award the contract to RCM&D for the Health/Benefit consultant firm.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve a Health/Benefit consultant firm for Amherst County Public Schools.

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board approved awarding the contract for Health/Benefit consultant firm for Amherst County Public Schools to RCM&D.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the proposed 2016-17 school calendar.

Dr. Rogers reviewed and discussed the information regarding the proposed 2016-17 school calendar. Dr. Rogers stated that Calendar 2 was the recommendation from the Calendar Committee.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a motion to approve a calendar for the 2016-17 school year.

Mrs. Massie made a motion to approve Calendar 2 as the proposed 2016-17 school calendar with the following changes: moving Spring Break schedule to the week before Easter, Winter Break would be two full weeks with three days added to the end of the year, and the day after New Year's Day would be a holiday. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cumby.

AYES: Liggon, Wood, Henderson, Massie, Cumby

NAYS: Bumgarner

ABSTAINED: None

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was the consent agenda. Mr. Wood asked if there were any questions. There being 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 November 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting; confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period November 9, 2015 through December 4, 2015; a supplemental appropriation to the 2015-2016 School Operational Budget and a request to home school a student under religious exemption.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman did not have an update on accountability measures.

Dr. Nichols stated Mr. Brendon Albon would provide an update on Math/Science content area.

Mr. Albon, Supervisor of Math, Science and Gifted, provided the Board with detailed information on testing, trends across the division, supports for schools in place for 2015-2016 and the Math Lead Teacher Program.

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

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was to discuss the Amherst County Public Schools' Technology Plan Addendum.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman would provide information to the Board regarding the Technology Plan Addendum.

Dr. Norman reviewed the Virginia Department of Education's required two-year addendum to the current Amherst County Public Schools' Technology Plan. Dr. Norman stated if the members of the Amherst County School Board approved the two-year addendum, the Technology Plan would be extended until 2018.

Board members reviewed and discussed the two-year addendum to the current Amherst County Public Schools' Technology Plan. The Board will consider approving the two-year addendum to the Technology Plan at the January 14, 2016, regular School Board meeting.

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

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Rogers did not have an update concerning Human Resources.

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 November 2015. Mrs. Crouch stated information regarding student enrollment was also at their place. In reviewing the information provided, Mrs. Crouch informed Board members that all of the schools with the exception of Amelon Elementary School had received funds in the Security Grant to assist with security cameras, hookups, etc. Mrs. Crouch stated that she talked with Mr. Wood about transferring \$15,200 from the anticipated available balance in the worker's compensation fund to the security fund to assist with security cameras for Amelon Elementary School.

Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided.

Mr. Wood stated Board members had heard the recommendation from staff and asked Board members if they wished to transfer funds from the worker's compensation to security for Amelon Elementary School.

Mrs. Massie made a motion to transfer \$15,200 from worker's compensation to security for Amelon Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and unanimously carried.

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 informed Board members that the carpet in the Library at Madison Heights Elementary School has been replaced with tile.

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

Dr. Nichols informed Board members the list of student suspensions for October 2015 through November 2015 was at their place.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was information items from Dr. Nichols.

Dr. Nichols shared the following information:

- Majority of the offices will be closed over winter break – 12-month employees will be using their annual leave
- Reviewed Revised FOIA Regulation Policy
- Informed Board members the Historical Society and Amherst County had provided coloring books to Amherst County Public Schools elementary students

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 he attended the VSBA Annual Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. Mr. Bumgarner expressed concern that Amherst County Public Schools is paying for the professional licenses of BoardDocs; however, it does not appear that BoardDocs is being used to its capacity.

Mrs. Massie stated she enjoyed the Amherst Education Center pictures that were posted to the website. Mrs. Massie stated she attended the choral program at Amherst County High School and it was wonderful.

Mr. Henderson asked if Amherst County Public Schools participated in the United Way Reading Program.

Dr. Nichols stated Amherst County Public Schools does participate in the United Way Reading Program.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended a L.A.U.R.E.L. Board meeting and the fund balance was discussed; however, no decision was made on the fund balance until the audit was completed.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended the Amherst County Christmas Parade. She stated that a lot of the schools participated in the parade.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended several of the Christmas Programs in the schools.

Mrs. Liggon stated she enjoyed the VSBA Annual Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Mrs. Cumby stated she appreciated the opportunity to go to the VSBA Annual Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Mr. Wood stated he attended a Governor's School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the Amherst County Building Committee met and advanced to the Amherst County Board of Supervisors to negotiate a contract with Southern Air for the PPEA. Mr. Wood stated the members of the Board of Supervisors are going to work with the members of the School Board during the process.

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.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and (7), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mr. Henderson, 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. Henderson 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 member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements 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. Massie, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board certified that they discussed only permissible topics.

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

NAYS: None

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:04 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools