

The Amherst County School Board met on Thursday, December 13, 2018, in the Public Meeting Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:02 p.m.

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

Indeya Paige, Student Representative

ABSENT: None

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 stated that Item 3.01 Musical Presentation needed to be removed from the December 13, 2018, School Board agenda.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda for the December 13, 2018, School Board meeting.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Cassise and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the December 13, 2018, School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the first item on the agenda was the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2019-2020 School Operational Budget. Mr. Henderson asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Mrs. Sandy Jennings-Neblett addressed the Board regarding the following:

- Thanked Mrs. Thompson for her comments at the joint meeting with members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and area legislators
- Asked that compensation for all employees be a high priority
- Protect class-sizes
- Safety for employees by adding a layer of protection between classrooms and the hallway

Mr. Henderson asked if anyone else wished to address the Board regarding the 2019-2020 School Operational Budget. There being no one else, Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board closed the Public Hearing for the 2019-2020 School Operational Budget.

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 the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mr. Cassise, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes of the November 8, 2018, School Board meeting, confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of November 5, 2018 through December 7, 2018, a field trip request for Amherst County High School wrestling team to travel to Winchester, Virginia on Friday, December 21, 2018 through Saturday, December 22, 2018 to participate in the "skyline" wrestling tournament, a field trip request for Amherst County High School wrestling team (3 students) to travel to Delaware on Saturday, December 22, 2018 through Sunday, December 23, 2018, to participate in the "Beast of the East" wrestling competition, a field trip request for the Amherst County High School wrestling team to travel to Bristol, Virginia on Friday, January 11, 2019 through Saturday, January 12, 2019, to participate in a wrestling tournament, a field trip request for Amherst County High School track and field student to travel to Reno, Nevada on Thursday, January 17, 2019 through Sunday, January 20, 2019, to participate in the "Pole Vault Summit" competition, and a field trip request for Amherst County High School wrestling team to travel to Aldie, Virginia on Friday, January 25, 2019 through Saturday, January 26, 2019, to participate in a wrestling tournament.

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 shared with Board members the process the division uses when deciding whether or not to delay or close school due to weather.

Dr. Wells informed Board members the fencing at the Amelon Elementary School, Amherst Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Elon Elementary School, and Temperance Elementary School has been completed. Dr. Wells stated the fencing for Madison Heights Elementary School and the dug out at Amherst County High School should be completed in the near future.

Dr. Arnold shared a memo with Board members from a bus driver commending Mrs. Rhonda Campbell, Supervisor of Transportation, for the job she is doing at the transportation department.

Mr. Henderson asked about the PPEA projects.

Dr. Wells stated that a meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, with Southern Air to review the punch list on the project at Amherst County High School.

Dr. Wells informed Board members the report on student suspensions for the month of November 2018 was available 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 November 2018 was available to Board members on BoardDocs. Mrs. Crouch stated that the ADM is higher than budgeted which will result in additional revenue for the 2018-2019 school year. Board members reviewed the information. No action was taken.

Mrs. Crouch shared with Board members the 2017-2018 County Audit Report which included the audit for school budget. Mrs. Crouch highlighted the corrections that need to be made by the division. Mrs. Crouch shared with Board members the balances available from the operating budget and construction budget.

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

Dr. Norman informed Board members that the division will need to certify that Amherst County High School, Amherst Elementary School and Elon Elementary School have a comprehensive improvement plan in place for the 2018-2019 school year.

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

Mr. Gallagher shared information with the Board concerning the 2019-2020 school calendar. Mr. Gallagher provided copies of two calendars for the Board to review. Mr. Gallagher stated employees had the option to vote on the calendar for the 2019-2020 school year and Calendar B was the choice by the majority of the employees. Board members reviewed and discussed the information provided. The members of the Board will consider approval of a 2019-2020 calendar at the January 10, 2019, regular School Board meeting.

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

Miss Paige expressed concern with the Board regarding substitute pay for Amherst County compared to other area divisions.

Dr. Arnold expressed appreciation to the Board members who provided input on their budget priorities for the 2019-2020 School Operational Budget. Dr. Arnold shared the following budget priorities:

- Salaries
- Capital Improvement – placing capital improvement back in the budget
- Substitutes
- Lighting at bus garage
- Mental health
- Auditorium – paint and improvements

- Clocks

Dr. Arnold provided Board members an update on the Long-Range Strategic Plan. Dr. Arnold expressed appreciation to the Board for their attendance at the community forum meetings and the faith based meeting.

Dr. Arnold discussed information with the Board regarding a proposal that Dr. Wells and Ms. Jennings had presented during the School Board Retreat in February 2017 regarding adding a position to work with students at Amherst Education Center instead of being suspended up to five days. Dr. Arnold stated it was his understanding that at the time the members of the School Board did not wish to put the program in place.

Dr. Arnold stated because accreditation is tied to attendance, he asked Board members to consider a pilot program for the remainder of the school year who could assist with suspensions for students in grades 6-12. Dr. Arnold stated the students placed in the program would complete their assignment, provide small group settings and receive counseling services.

Board members discussed the information provided. No action was taken. Dr. Arnold stated he would bring the information back to the Board at the January 10, 2019, regular School Board meeting.

Dr. Arnold reminded Board members the reorganization meeting will be at the January 10, 2019, regular School Board meeting. Dr. Arnold stated this would coincide with the elections of School Board members.

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

Mrs. Wright thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mr. Cassise welcomed Mrs. Wright as the new School Board member. Mr. Cassise expressed appreciation to administrators, teachers, and Board members for all their efforts in moving Amherst County Public Schools forward.

Mr. Terwilliger wished everyone a Happy Holiday. Mr. Terwilliger thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mrs. Thompson thanked Dr. Arnold and staff for the community forums.

Mrs. Thompson congratulated everyone on the good academic review and commended everyone for going the extra mile.

Mr. Mayo thanked everyone for their hard work. Mr. Mayo thanked everyone for the great job on the forums that he attended. Mr. Mayo suggested the forums be held on a regular basis.

Mrs. Liggon welcomed Mrs. Wright. Mrs. Liggon stated she felt there was good harmony now and the forums had been good. Mrs. Liggon stated it was good to see the whole team at the forums. Mrs. Liggon stated she attended a Laurel Board meeting. Mrs. Liggon thanked Dr. Arnold for a good six months.

Mr. Henderson stated the Board members worked hard on the new mission and vision statement and asked if the Board members wished to make it official. The Board asked that the new mission and vision statement be placed on the January 10, 2019, agenda for approval.

Mr. Henderson asked if the criteria for an honorary diploma had been researched. Dr. Arnold stated information will be forthcoming regarding this matter.

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

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

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

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

NAYS: None

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board confirmed and upheld the decision of the Superintendent.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mr. Cassise and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:55 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools