

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 2017, in the Board Room of the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia at 6:00 p.m.

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

Haleigh Tomlin, Student Representative

ABSENT: Randy V. Summers

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order and asked that a moment of silence be observed.

Dr. Nichols introduced Mrs. Andrea Jett-Wilson, Kindergarten teacher at Amherst Elementary School. Mrs. Wilson stated the Kindergarten students from Amherst Elementary School would lead the Pledge of Allegiance for the December 14, 2017, School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson asked if there were any changes to the agenda for the December 14, 2017, regular School Board meeting. There being none, Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda.

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the December 14, 2017, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was the Public Hearing on the 2018-2019 School Operational Budget. Mr. Henderson stated if anyone wished to address the Board regarding the 2018-2019 School Operational Budget. The following person addressed the Board regarding the 2018-2019 School Operational Budget:

Mrs. Sandy Jennings Neblett Deerfield Drive Amherst, VA 24521

Mr. Henderson asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Board. There being none, 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 approved to close the Public Hearing on the 2018-2019 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 to consider approval of the 2018-2019 School Calendar. Mr. Henderson stated the proposed calendar had been presented to Board members at the November 9, 2017, regular School Board meeting and asked if the Board wished to make changes. Dr. Rogers provided an overview of the calendar. After discussion by the Board, Mr. Henderson asked if there was a motion to approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar as presented.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the 2018-2019 School Calendar as presented.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the consent agenda.

Upon motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the November 9, 2017, regular School Board minutes; minutes of the November 13, 2017, joint meeting between the members of the Amherst County School Board and the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors, confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period of November 6, 2017, through December 8, 2017, and two supplemental appropriations to the 2017-2018 School Operational Budget.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was to review and discuss adding a policy to the Amherst County Public Schools Policy Manual regarding videotaping of students.

Dr. Nichols provided an overview of the proposed policy regarding videotaping of students and asked the Board if there were any questions. Board members discussed the policy and requested that changes be made to the proposed policy. The Board asked that the proposed policy with changes be reviewed by the School Board Attorney. The Board will consider approval of the proposed policy at the January 2018, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was an update on the Six-Year Strategic Plan with School Board members.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman would provide the update.

Dr. Norman stated in 2014-2015 the School Board approved the Six-Year Strategic Plan for 2015-2021. Dr. Norman stated the first update to the Six-Year Strategic Plan was being provided to the members of the Amherst County School Board. Dr. Norman stated the updates were noted in red. Mr. Henderson asked if there were any questions. Mr. Henderson suggested that Board members review the information provided. Board members may discuss the information at a later date or during the February 2018, School Board Retreat.

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 the preparation for the VDOE required meeting with the Superintendent and staff concerning the three schools in improvement.

1. December 4, 2017

- a. The state contractor met with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, principals from Amelon, Central and Madison Heights along with the*

instructional staff to review items that will be discussed at the January 5, 2018 meeting with the Director of the Office of School Improvement, Bev Rabil and her staff.

b. The team reviewed the Corrective Action Plans for Central and Madison Heights, as well as the Reconstituted Plan for Amelon. Discussion centered on the evidence collected by each school to ensure the plans were being implemented as required.

i. Areas of review included

- 1. Alignment of curriculum, lesson development and instructional delivery*
- 2. Time in grade level text increased for all students*
- 3. Monitoring of student mastery*
- 4. Data review; both formative and summative*

c. A work-session was conducted with the three schools and their division liaison to complete the Virginia Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (VCSIP) requirements; school summary worksheets, executive summary and overarching school goals.

2. January 5, 2018

a. State required meeting with Ms. Rabil at the School Administrative Offices, Public Meeting Room starting at 8:00AM – 5:00 PM.

3. New Updates in Instruction

a. Board of Education Revised School Accreditation and Graduation Requirements: The Virginia Board of Education approved revisions to the standards schools must meet for state accreditation and the requirements students must meet to earn a high school diploma.

i. The revisions to the Board's Standards of Accreditation are designed to encourage continuous improvement for all schools while placing increased emphasis on closing achievement gaps between student groups and providing a more comprehensive view of school quality.

- 1. Under the revised standards, schools — beginning in 2018-2019 — would be rated as either “Accredited” or “Accredited with Conditions” based on performance on multiple school quality indicators.*
- 2. New indicators would include progress made by students toward proficiency in English and mathematics, achievement gaps in both subjects, absenteeism and dropout rates.*
- 3. Schools that fail to implement state-required improvement plans could be rated as “Accreditation Denied.”*

ii. The new diploma requirements would take effect with students entering the ninth grade next fall (class of 2022).

- 1. Course requirements for both the Advanced Studies Diploma and the Standard Diploma would remain the same but the number of required verified credits would be reduced to five (one each in English reading, English writing, mathematics, science and history/social science).*
- 2. Schools will also be required to provide opportunities for students to learn about career options aligned with their interests in their own communities and elsewhere.*

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

Dr. Norman informed members of a software problem with Power Assessment, which is the on-line system that the division uses to recreate a test simulation of the SOL test. Dr. Norman stated that representatives from Power Assessment has acknowledged the software problem and were working to correct the issues.

Mr. Henderson stated the next item on the agenda was changes to the 2018-2019 Program of Studies.

Dr. Nichols stated Dr. Norman would review the information regarding this matter.

Dr. Norman provided an overview of the additions and deletions to the 2018-2019 Program of Studies.

The Board discussed the changes presented. Dr. Nichols stated that the Board did not need to take action on the matter.

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 shared with the members of the Amherst County School Board information regarding two grant opportunities that were being pursued by the Amherst County Public Schools. Dr. Rogers stated the first grant opportunity was with Blue Ridge Medical Center and the second grant was a federal grant to assist with the National Clean Diesel for school buses.

Dr. Rogers informed Board members the Archery Tournament will be held at Sweet Briar College on January 6, 2018.

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 November 2017 was available to Board members on BoardDocs.

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 almost complete.

Mr. Cocke provided an overview of the PPEA projects.

Mr. Cocke provided Board members a list of 2017-2018 recommendations for Capital Improvement Funds. The consensus of the Board was to approve the list of Capital improvement Projects that was presented.

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

Dr. Nichols stated the student suspension report for November 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 VASS Legislative Issues.

Dr. Nichols informed the Board that he made a decision to retire June 30, 2018. Dr. Nichols shared the following statement:

I am taking the opportunity this evening to announce that I will retire from the position of Division Superintendent for the Amherst County Public Schools on the 30th of June 2018. By announcing my intentions at this point, it will allow the School Board sufficient time to identify my successor, and allow me time to work briefly with that individual to facilitate a smooth transition to a new administration. I will work diligently through the very last day of my tenure to provide for this school division, its employees, and its young people.

Almost forty-seven years ago, I entered the classroom for the very first time as a teacher. It was not an auspicious beginning. I had been serving as an instructional aide while completing degree requirements, when the teacher with whom I was working left due to pregnancy complications. I was told that if I took over the kindergarten class of thirty-five five year olds, I would get help as soon as they found someone...they never did. Looking back now on that wonderfully wild and chaotic scene, it was a life altering experience that taught me several things, but the most important was a deep, profound, and lasting respect and affection for young people of all ages. As I began my career, I never anticipated serving as a Superintendent, but by doing so I have been fortunate to promote and actively support so many opportunities for the children in my care. Upon leaving, I fear I will miss the interaction with young people most of all.

I hope that throughout my career, I have been able to convey to young people the great importance of an education. I want them to understand that no matter what challenges or difficulties they may encounter in life; the one thing that can never be lost or taken from them is their education. I feel young people must be encouraged to see learning, and especially reading, as lifetime activities.

I am so grateful that the last school experience in my career has been with Amherst County Public Schools. I am constantly impressed by the dedication and generosity of spirit found within my colleagues across the division. Some of the finest people I have ever known are associated with this school division, and I shall miss them deeply. I am sincerely honored that the remarkable people who make up the Amherst County Public Schools have allowed me to be a part of their professional life these last few years.

With my personal and professional best wishes,



Dr. Steven Nichols
Superintendent

14 December 2017

Mr. Henderson thanked Dr. Nichols for his service as Superintendent of Amherst County Public Schools.

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

Ms. Tomlin provided an update on what is happening at Amherst County High School.

Mr. Terwilliger asked Dr. Norman to email Board members a copy of the Six Year School Improvement Plan. Mr. Terwilliger stated he believed that it had been a good first semester.

Mrs. Thompson asked about scheduling a transportation meeting for the Transportation Committee to meet, greet and define goals. Mrs. Thompson suggested January 12, 2018, at 7:30 a.m. Dr. Rogers stated she would confirm the date and time of the meeting.

Mrs. Thompson stated Dr. Nichols will be missed and she has enjoyed working with him.

Mr. Mayo wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mr. Mayo thanked Dr. Nichols for his service.

Mrs. Cumby stated she was excited to know what the next chapter held for Dr. Nichols.

Mrs. Cumby stated she attended a Governor's School meeting.

Mrs. Cumby asked what a parent does if they believe their child is being bullied.

Dr. Nichols suggested having the parent talk to the teacher.

Mrs. Cumby stated the children's health insurance letters went out and funding could be running out. Mrs. Cumby asked if this might affect students who have behavior specialists. Dr. Nichols stated that he would talk with Mr. Gallagher to see if the students would be affected.

Mrs. Cumby stated she attended the VSBA Conference and it was a positive experience. Mrs. Cumby encouraged Board members to attend the conference.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended the VSBA Conference and attended sessions on discipline, testing, and technology.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended an OCR meeting at Amherst County High School and she believes there are positive changes being implemented at the school.

Mrs. Liggon informed the Board that she and Dr. Nichols attended a Laurel Board meeting.

Mrs. Liggon stated she had attended basketball games at Monelison Middle School, band concerts, and the Amherst Parade.

Mr. Henderson stated the VSBA Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, was great.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the regional meeting with area Board members.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the STEM Academy meeting in November 2017.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the CTE Advisory meeting at Amherst County High School.

Mr. Henderson stated he attended the musical at Amherst Middle School and it was excellent.

Mr. Henderson shared with senior staff a list of 2018-2019 budget priorities from Board members.

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 Mrs. Cumby, seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for personnel matters.

Dr. Nichols stated action could be taken.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mr. Henderson stated no decision was made regarding the closed meeting.

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

Upon motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Mayo and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch
Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



W. Michael Henderson
W. Michael Henderson, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Amherst County School Board held in the School Administration Building, Amherst, Virginia on December 14, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Randy V. Summers

WHEREAS, the Amherst County School Board had a balance remaining from the 2016-17 Capital Improvement Budget of \$306,842.53 for projects that had been approved by the Amherst County School Board and the Amherst County Board of Supervisors; however, the projects had not been completed in the 2016-17 school year,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the members of the Amherst County School Board request the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors to appropriate \$306,842.53 to the 2017-18 Capital Improvement Budget to complete the approved projects from 2016-17 school year,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors at their next regular scheduled meeting.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County School Board

A COPY
Teste

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Amherst County School Board held in the School Administration Building, Amherst, Virginia on December 14, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Randy V. Summers

WHEREAS, the Amherst County School Board has received additional funding for the **2017-18** school session,

State Funds	
Clinical Facility Grant	\$ 52,093.00
Virginia Tiered Systems of Support (VTSS)	\$ 25,000.00
Local Funds	
Fingerprinting	\$ 10,000.00
GED Test	\$ 13,000.00
Transportation Reimbursement	\$ 15,000.00
Insurance Reimbursement	\$ 2,000.00
GED Local Funds	\$ 20,500.00
Goodwill Industries (ABE)	\$ 20,000.00

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the members of the Amherst County School Board request the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors to consider a supplemental appropriation of **\$157,593.00** to the 2017-18 School Operational Budget revenue and expenditure budget,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors at their next regular scheduled meeting.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County School Board

A COPY
Teste