

P.G. Super News

Renee P. Williams

Prince George County Public Schools

October 16, 2017

Important Dates:

October 24
United Nations Day

November
American Indian
Heritage Month

November 5
Standard Time Ends
(turn clocks back)



November 7
Election Day
(No school for students)

November 8
Community Breakfast

November 10
Veterans Day Observed
(Schools & SBO Closed)

November 13
School Board Meeting

November 13-17
American Education
Week



School Board News

The School Board held its regular meeting on October 9, 2017.

Special Recognitions

⇒ **Dudley and Josephine Matthews** were recognized for their years of service with the school division (28 and 21 years respectively). **Susan Braswell** and **Jim Wicks** spoke on behalf of **Dudley** while **Ron Rhodes** and **Clarence Thweatt** shared stories about **Josephine**. The couple will be missed at South Elementary School and the Transportation Department respectively.

⇒ **Wanda Gilbert** was presented with a \$1,000 check from Wal-Mart at the grand re-opening of the Petersburg Store. **Ms. Gilbert** will initiate a bike program for the special needs students to promote fitness, cardio exercise, proper hand signals, etc. She will purchase bikes, safety equipment, signs, and more to benefit the special needs students. Wal-Mart was recognized as a Corporate Sponsor for the \$1,000 donation. A plaque will be presented to **Angel Allen** to be displayed at Wal-Mart as a community partner.

⇒ **Christy Church** presented the School Board with a plaque from the American Heart Association recognizing the school district for outstanding achievement in community services, contributions and support. She gave special recognition to the PE instructors at North, South and Beazley Elementary Schools for their fitness programs.

⇒ VSBA Academy Awards were presented to **Reeve Ashcraft**, **Kevin Foster**, and **Becky Kirk** (Award of Recognition), and **Renee Williams** (Award of Distinction).

Public Comment

* **Jade Hall** commented about the dress code and students being allowed to wear the shoulder-cut sleeve shirts last year and not this year. She also indicated athletes are not allowed to wear their uniform to school. Both of these topics were brought up at the Hot Topics session within the school but they have not been addressed by staff to date.

Public Comment (continued)

* **Tonya Brown-Fletcher** spoke on behalf of the Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, reaffirming its commitment to educational development. She is a strong supporter of Prince George Schools as her three children graduated from PGHS. She attributes their successful careers to the strong foundation from the school division. She presented Board Members with a packet of information that Delta Sigma Theta offers (Delta Adventure in Reading Enrichment, GEMS, free PSAT/SAT workshops, and \$10,000 scholarships for area school districts.). Their commitment is to 1) Prepare students for educational success; 2) Push out discipline; 3) Promote/educate on voting rights at high school level. She introduced other members from the sorority in the audience and asked the Board how they could support Prince George education.

Action Items

- ^ Policies EEA and EEA-R—Student Transportation Services
- ^ Policies LBD and LBD-R—Home Instruction
- ^ VRS403(b) Plan Election for Hybrid Members
- ^ Purchasing Policy Changes—DJ-Small Purchasing; DJ-R-Small Purchasing Regulations; DJA-Purchasing Authority; and new policies DJA-E1, DJA-E2, DJA-E3; DJF-R and Flow Chart Matrix

Discussion Items

- + Comprehensive Plan Updates (Technology, School Security, Facilities, Human Resources, College and Career Readiness, Title 1, Gifted Programs, and IB-MYP)

Due to the length of the meeting, the other discussions items were reviewed by Board members independently:

- + Fiscal Year 2016-17 School Activity Fund Audit Reports
- + Fiscal Year 2016-17 PTO & Booster Club Audit Reports

School Board News

(Continued)

School Board Comments



Mr. Foster stated **Mr. Franklin** is under the weather and not at the meeting tonight and asked for prayers for a speedy recovery.

Mr. Stevenson responded to Ms. Brown-Fletcher's comments, stating that he, Mrs. Williams, and Mr. Foster met with Roslyn Dance in Richmond earlier in the year and she had been very open and helpful and he appreciated the time she took answering questions and concerns. He also asked Ms. Brown-Fletcher to explain the term "push out discipline" (which means in-school suspension instead of out-of-school suspension).

Mr. Ashcraft also replied to Ms. Brown-Fletcher that he appreciated all their group does to promote education with students. He expressed that all students need the same opportunities and have the same access to technology to be successful. If all are not provided the same information then some may fall behind so it is important that all students are given the same benefit for success. He applauded Walton Elementary School staff for the reading programs they have implemented. It is a great way to teach kids to read a book and learn to love reading. He indicated that a lot of children in this generation are being over prescribed with medications and "reading is a great outlet instead of medication".

Continued →

- + 2017-18 Monthly Budget Update
- + MOU Between Local Education Agencies and Region 1 Regional Tuition Reimbursement Program
- + School Staffing Agreements
- + Request for Proposals—Investigative Residency Services
- + 2017 Student Discipline Bills (Defeated)

Superintendent's Report

- Active Enrollment Summary October 4, 2017; 2017-18 Reports for Bus and School Suspensions and Reinstatements; Building Use Requests and School Messenger Reports
- Thank you note from Sharon Jones
- Progress Index Article on Area Schools' Graduation Rates
- Letter to William Goodwin, Grow Capital Jobs Foundation re: Broadband, September 13, 2017
- National School Lunch Week - October 9-13, 2017
- National School Bus Safety Week - October 16-20, 2017
- VSBA Newsletter
- VSBA Policy Page

Upcoming Events

- VSBA Webinar - Bring the Media on Board with Proactive Communication Tactics - October 4, 2017
- CodeRVA Angel Sponsor Kick-Off Event - October 18, 2017
- David A. Harrison Elementary 50th Anniversary Celebration - October 19, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
- PAAS Vocal Music Festival - October 20, 2017 - PGHS
- Read Aloud to a Child Week - October 22-28, 2017
- VSBA Webinar - Milestone Communications: A Community-Friendly Approach to Wireless Infrastructure - October 24, 2017
- November - "VSBA Take Your Legislator to School" Month
- Community Breakfast - November 8, 2017 at PGHS at 8:30 a.m.
- VSBA Education Foundation Workshop - November 14, 2017 - Williamsburg
- VSBA Annual Convention - November 15-17, 2017 - Williamsburg

School Board Comments continued:

Mr. Cox replied, "What Walton is doing is not just reading....books allow you to go places you won't necessarily go. Reading is a great way to expose kids to a great thing." He thanked employees for the smooth start of the year as we roll along into the year and through the semester.

Mr. Foster welcomed School Resource Officer **Alvin Jones** from Clements Junior High School. The SROs rotate at the meetings and the Board appreciates the job they do at the schools and at meetings. **Mr. Foster** commented about **Dudley** and **Josephine Matthews** stating "They are two of the most dedicated employees" and he wished them luck as they are having to change their lifestyles and may have some tough times ahead. "Let's keep them in our prayers and offer them assistance."

The next School Board Meeting is Monday, November 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

See next page for Presentations



PRESENTATIONS

Cenergistic Update – Jon Hampton and David Buroker

Mr. Buroker and Mr. Hampton provided a slide presentation of the energy program and stated the division continues to implement some parts of the energy program and a 5.9% energy savings has been achieved to date. Mr. Buroker presented several graphs comparing the energy profile, energy use per square foot, electricity consumption trend, electric unit cost impact, natural gas consumption trend, water and sewer consumption trends, current vs. prior to the energy program implementation. They also identified critical issues and provided recommendations for immediate attention: 1) set all occupied set points to the District's approved energy guidelines; 2) ensure the "dead band" between heating and cooling is set at a minimum of 5 degrees; 3) ensure the time-of-day HVAC schedules are set to match building occupancy patterns; 4) ensure Rhonda Munford has full view access to the district's system(s); and 5) ensure Rhonda Munford's requested EMS changes are made within 24 hours of notification. Recommendations for other issues include: 1) utilize loggers to determine each building's summer "coast" and reset unoccupied cooling time to ensure custodian comfort; 2) consolidate summer programs to enable complete building shutdowns; 3) develop comprehensive summer shutdown plan by working with administrators, food service, custodial and maintenance personnel; and 4) re-establish summer custodial "team cleaning" process.

Pierce Benefits – Donna Nixon and Cathy Maxfield

Ms. Dixon and Ms. Maxfield provided the board members with a handout comparing the 2015-16 vs. 2016-17 demographic data, total claim costs, emergency room visits data, top health conditions by paid amount, and total claim costs. There was an 85% increase in actual payments to plan from 2015-16 to 2016-17. Membership increased over the year as well as emergency room visits, and total claim costs. There was a 45% increase in pharmacy costs and a decrease in outpatient vs. inpatient costs. They also indicated consumers should use urgent care centers to treat injuries or illnesses requiring immediate attention, but not serious enough to require an ER visit. They also have LiveHealth Online as a quick and easy access to a doctor 24/7 that can assess your condition, provide treatment options and even send a prescription, if needed, for a more convenient method for medical care for flu, cold, sinus infection, pink eye, rashes, fever and more. Pierce will be sending the RFP to market in October with responses due December 15, 2017. Their timeline indicates Open Enrollment shall begin April 23-May 18, 2018. There was discussion on self-insured vs. fully insured. If we split completely from the county, we would have to look at a fully insured policy.

Transportation Update – Clarence Thweatt

Mr. Thweatt reported on the transportation department and provided data from the department. There are 46 bus drivers, 5 SPED drivers, 1 Maggie Walker driver, and 7 car drivers. There are 93 buses that cover 99 routes (46 elementary buses and 53 secondary buses). Mr. Thweatt's report also included a breakdown of Fort Lee and county buses by elementary/secondary and special routes. There are 9 runs that are not covered which equates to 5 routes. The Transportation Department continues to train new hires.

Report from William A. Walton – Sharon Kushma

William A. Walton Elementary School started the school year with 610 students and this number has increased to 650 today. The school's orientation and back to school open house were a great success. Other October school events include a book fair, family reading night, and donuts with dads. Administration is very excited about the start of the year, including the Dynamic Reading Trio consisting of Sheila Champion (Library Media Specialist), Carrie Woodlief (Reading Interventionist), and Megan Holder (Reading Specialist – Title 1), championed by Sharon Kushma. Mrs. Woodlief and Ms. Holder explained the rolls each of them play in the reading trio to give students the opportunity to embrace the love and devotion for reading. Reading is vital to a student's success. There are two reading programs: Accelerated Reading and Reading Olympics, which tie in together. The AR program gets kids excited about reading on an independent level, builds self-confidence and students are rewarded for their efforts. AR books count towards the Reading Olympics book goals and rewards are also given out. The Dynamic Trio also work in small reading groups throughout the day with all classes and students can join Book Buddies and discuss novels they have read for the Reading Olympics approved book list. Their vision is to 1) develop students' comprehension skills; 2) strengthen students' literacy skills; and 3) instill in students a lifelong love of reading. Mrs. Kushma thanked the School Board for adding a Reading Interventionist at the school and for their continued support of the school, staff, and its programs.

Back-To-School Fair Report – Shel Douglas

The 6th Annual Back to School Fair was another great success with 782 school (435 elementary / 347 secondary) bags given away to students. Other accomplishments included 62 community resource fair participants, 2500+ visitors in the park, 25 free flu shots, 132 free books distributed, 20 free haircuts, 1360 hot dogs, and 200 animal balloons. An additional 49 backpacks and gift bags were distributed as door prizes from the individual schools. Two new events were added to this year's event: haircuts and bubble soccer. She thanked Lin Turner and Becky Kirk for their assistance with the event from the School Board side. She also thanked all the community partners, volunteers, and planning committee for their support and help in organizing the event and announced the 7th Annual Back to School Fair will be held on August 23, 2018 at Scott Park.

Maintenance / Construction Update – by Ron Rhodes

Mr. Rhodes reported on the burst pipes and draining issues at Walton Elementary school. These items have been repaired. He also commented on the new water pumps that had to be repaired and installed at North Elementary school and the hot water unit replacement at the high school. He indicated additional cameras have been installed throughout the division and maintenance is working with a door company to assess our electronic door system throughout the division. He publicly thanked John Brockwell for working together with his department to get the camera and door issues updated. The maintenance department completed 188 work orders over the last month.