

P.G. Super News

Renee P. Williams

Prince George County Public Schools

January 23, 2017



Important Dates:

**DUE TO RECENT
SNOW DAYS,
MID-TERM EXAMS
JANUARY 24-27
ARE CANCELED!**

**January 30
Teacher Workday/
No School for Students**

**February
School Board
Appreciation Month;
African-American His-
tory Month;
National Career
& Technical
Education Month®**

**February 1
National Freedom Day**

**February 2
Groundhog Day**

**February 6-10
National School
Counseling Week**

**February 7
Superintendent
Presents Proposed
2017-18 Budget**

**February 13
School Board Meeting**

**February 14
St. Valentine's Day**

School Board News

The School Board held its regular meeting on January 17, 2017.

Special Recognitions

⇒ **Chris Romig** recognized Perdue Farms, Inc. for donating 108 whole, fresh chickens to the entire staff at N.B. Clements Junior High School prior to the holidays. All employees at the school were appreciative of Perdue's kindness.

⇒ J.E.J. Moore Middle School hosted a Breakfast Open House in partnership with the "No Kid Hungry Virginia" program. State officials visited the school to see alternative breakfast models in action. The "Grab and Go" breakfast allows students to grab a breakfast from the cafeteria or kiosk and take their meal to class. **Lana Pearce** thanked **Stephanie Bishop** and staff for promoting and supporting the program. Over 10,000 more breakfasts have been served at Moore in one year. **Mrs. Pearce** recognized **Monica Giusto/Cafeteria Manager** and **Ruth Branson** from her cafeteria staff.

⇒ **Kevin Foster** read a Certificate of Recognition signed by Gov. Terrence McAuliffe, proclaiming January 22-28, 2017 as Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This week recognizes the hard work of Virginia school principals and the role they play in working with staff, community, parents, and guiding and mentoring children, ensuring that every child has access to a safe and effective learning environment for a quality education.

Presentations

≈ **Mrs. Sharon Kushma** illustrated two new programs implemented at Walton. **Chrissy Carr** presented a video highlighting **Coach Travis Carr**, PGHS boys varsity basketball team, and Walton students. Carr's Kids was introduced as a mentoring program for the basketball players and students. Sixteen elementary students were selected for the program. Each Friday afternoon the basketball team meets with the younger students. They discuss the week's events and

have a meal together and play basketball. The mentoring program benefits both groups of students and staff has seen positive results with students meeting their AR goals, better grades, and impact on discipline and attitude. **Kyla Nase** spoke on her IB Program project preparing tie blankets for the Helping Hands Project. With the assistance of Girl Scout Troop 5266, LDS Church Youth Group, PGHS's National Society, Teachers for Tomorrow, PGHS varsity cheerleaders and Walton students, she prepared and presented 65 tie blankets to the ASK Foundation at VCU Medical Center.

≈ **Elizabeth Rothera** presented the Salary Committee's recommendation for 2017-18: 1) Prepare a 5-year plan to establish a consistent, progressive step pay scale for all employees based upon years of experience and education; 2) Initiate a 2% pay raise for all employees; 3) Continue contributions in the employee's HSA accounts. Other areas discussed included communicating the results of the salary study and the direction the division will take, re-evaluate employee responsibilities as more work is added to individuals without compensation and finding more affordable healthcare coverage.

≈ **Ron Rhodes** reported division decals have been placed on all but 6 vehicles. Staff met early to assess snow weather pattern, made contingency plans, got equipment ready, marked curbs and parking bumpers with flags, etc. Teams were out early Saturday morning plowing, scrapping and treating facilities. He thanked his staff for working diligently to get the areas cleared and ready for operation. Over 200 work orders were completed, including both basketball scoreboards at PGHS and replacement of LED lights outside the gym area.

Public Comments

‡ **Leila Holmes**, 4620 Cedar Creek Lane, asked to meet with Board members to discuss issues within the school system to keep employees from leaving this division. She referenced employees are afraid to speak out about issues for fear of retaliation.



School Board Comments

Mr. Cox hoped all had a pleasant holiday and extended snow break. He recognized the principals as being the "Captain of the Ship" and the assistant principals as their "First Mate". He reiterated that these people are the "top of the line" and they work hard daily making the schools safe and the learning environment enjoyable. He thanked administrators for the pride they have for each of their buildings. He commented on **Mrs. Kushma's** presentation and seeing the smiles on the kids' faces.

Mr. Ashcraft echoed **Mr. Cox's** comments. He thanked **Mrs. Kushma** for an amazing presentation and he thanked **Coach Carr** for putting the Carr's Kids Program in place. "We have an awesome school system". He stated if a person has an issue, do not fear or hesitate to come forward as this division is transparent and "We want to hear what you have to say." He indicated he is blessed to serve as an intern in the state delegation, and "it is important to communicate your concerns to elected officials from the top down. It does make a difference" (to voice your concerns).

Mr. Stevenson commented on the excellent presentation given by Walton staff. He complimented the triplets and twins from the PK class presenting the gifts to the board. He attended a musical at Moore Middle School recently and praised and complimented the music department and teacher for an outstanding concert. He gave a shout-out to **Ms. Bishop** and her staff for a well-organized event.

Mr. Franklin stated the board has a tremendous responsibility to the 6,300 students in this division. He has seen other school systems across the nation and each division has similarities and differences, but "Prince George makes a difference in all areas and this school system is the best!" He appreciates the opportunity working with this board and being a part of this school system.

School Board News

(Continued)

Discussion Items

- ^ Financial Statement for December 2016
- ^ 2017-18 Budget Update
- ^ Bus Garage In-Ground Lift
- ^ Social Security Reporting

Action Items (Approved)

- + Prince George Hometown Hero 5K Run and Little Hero Feet Meet
- + CodeRVA Regional High School—3 student enrollment
- + Policy GCBD-R and GCBD-R Hybrid
- + Policy GAA
- + 2017 School Board Meeting Schedule
- + 2017 Discipline Committee Schedule

Superintendent's Report/

Informational Items

- December 2016 Bus and School Suspensions
- 2016-17 Expulsions and Reinstatements
- Current enrollment as of January 3, 2017
- 2016-17 Year-to-Date Building Use Requests
- Student/Employee Emergency Monthly Report via School Messenger
- Hopewell News article, "The Story of Strider Bolvin" with Matt Hall
- Email regarding Transportation/Bus Stop Issue
- Donation of 1957 J.E.J. Moore Yearbook from the Estate of Lydia D. Calviness
- Free EpiPen® Auto Injector

Upcoming Events 2017

- Statement of Economic Interest—Due January 17
- VSBA Capital Conference, Richmond Marriott—January 23-24
- VSBA School Board Appreciation Month—February "Lead to Inspire"
- VSBA School Board Clerk Appreciation Week—February 20-24
- VSBA Superintendent Evaluation Workshop—February 22
- VSBA/WVSBA Hot Topic Conference, Wytheville— March 15
- NSBA Annual Conference, Denver— March 25-27

School Board Comments (Continued)

Mr. Foster commented on the revised revenue projection of \$548,000 less in state supported funds. He questioned how would the division make up this shortfall (programs, positions, people, etc.)? The board has a significant task to balance the budget and make this gap less, and he asked for prayer to guide the board. He and other staff members will be attending a legislative initiative next week meeting with delegates and senators and this conference is important to all districts. A town hall meeting was held last week and Mrs. Williams and Mr. Robertson did an excellent job presenting the school divisions and the county's successes and challenges to state legislators. In the past this board was not always involved or made aware of day-to-day operations. "We have come out of that environment and staff is now communicating information to us." The board will investigate and meet with personnel if warranted. It is a pleasure to serve with this board and staff. He thanked **Mr. Stevenson** for "leading us through the dark days."

ANNOUNCEMENT

During the School Board's Reorganization Meeting on January 5, 2017, the following appointments were made:

Kevin Foster—Chairman
Lewis Stevenson—Vice Chairman

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