

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA
June 1, 2017

A special meeting of the Prince George School Board was called to order on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at the School Board Office at 5:03 P.M.

Members present:

Mr. Reeve E. Ashcraft, Board Member
Mr. Robert E. Cox, Jr. Board Member
Mr. Kevin S. Foster, Chairman
Mr. Roger E. Franklin, Jr., Board Member [arrived at approximately 5:55 p.m.]
Mr. Lewis E. Stevenson, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Renee P. Williams, Superintendent
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Bingham, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Rebecca B. Kirk, Clerk of the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Foster, Chairman, called the Special Meeting to order at 5:03 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following School Board Members present:

Present: Ashcraft, Cox, Foster, Stevenson
Absent: Franklin

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Foster asked that a discussion item be added to the agenda as Item VI to discuss student request for military recognition. He also indicated that the Board would need to return to closed session at the end of the evening to discuss a legal matter.

Mr. Cox made a motion to amend the agenda as proposed and approve. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Ashcraft, Cox, Foster, Stevenson
Absent: Franklin

IV. CLOSED MEETING – pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia

- A. Student Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.2
 - 1. Student Expulsion Matter 42/16-17 (approximately 5:05 p.m.)

Mr. Cox made a motion to go into a closed meeting to discuss specific student matters pursuant to the student exemptions of the VA Code §2.2-3711.A.2. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Ashcraft, Cox, Foster, Stevenson
Absent: Franklin

V. CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING AND ACTIONS

Mr. Cox made a motion to go back into an open meeting and certified that nothing had been discussed in the closed session other than what was stated in the original motion. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Ashcraft, Cox, Foster, Stevenson
Abstain: Franklin

Mr. Stevenson made a motion that in Student Expulsion Matter 42/16-17 the student shall return to school and time served will remain due to the discipline action, and student shall perform and complete 20 hours of community service per month from June through August, 2017 (totaling 60 completed hours by September 1, 2017). Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Ashcraft, Cox, Foster, Stevenson
Abstain: Franklin

[For the record, Mr. Franklin was not present for the Student Matter in Closed Session].

VI. DISCUSSION ITEM [added to the agenda]

- 1. Student Request for Military Recognition

Mr. Foster indicated that the Board had received an email request concerning the rule that only Prince George High School-issued honors sashes are authorized to be worn during graduation activities. Mr. Cox acknowledged the strong military presence in our schools and community. The school division offers the JROTC program and we educate students from Fort Lee Army base. Mr. Foster spoke about having guidelines on what students wear for graduation but where do we stop on student achievement? He invited the Turcotte family to the meeting to speak about their request for their son to wear his military-issued sash from the U.S. Coast Guard for graduation activities.

Karolyn Turcotte opened by thanking the Board for allowing her to speak on this issue and showed the Board the military sash from the U.S. Coast Guard. She did not want to restate the conversations she had had with Mr. Nelson or content of her email to the Board. However, she wanted the Board to know there is a huge difference in someone entering into college vs. committing to a U.S. branch of the military. Military culture is completely different than college life. She spoke of her family members who have been in the military for many generations and her son following in their footsteps. She spoke of the honor, commitment and sacrifices one must make to enlist in the military. People who enlist in one of the U.S. military branches are putting their lives on the line of duty and they know this when they commit themselves to the military. The family respectfully requests an amendment be made to allow military-issued sashes be worn around the neck of the graduation gown as it represents the core values of our country and would allow for a demonstration of the strong bond and link with our military community. She asked the Board to take control of this situation and allow this change.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Military Recognition During Graduation Activities [added to the agenda]

Mr. Cox made a motion to approve students wearing military-issued sashes for military branches only during graduation activities. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion.

VOTE: Aye: Unanimous

B. Budget Work Session

The Board of Supervisors approved the 2017-18 budget and fully funded the MOU with \$350,000 for CSA funds, but it did not include the \$350,000 the School Board requested in the General Fund. Therefore, the General Fund is less this amount and the board needs to re-appropriate funds to reduce the General Fund by \$350,000. Ms. Hicks presented the Board with proposed expenditure changes for personnel and non-personnel categories by reducing the part-time guidance counselors to \$6,000 (12 hours per week for 20 weeks = \$49,556 savings), reduction in the RHCC for non-professional staff (\$15,953 savings); retirement savings (\$164,491 savings); and instructional reserve (\$100,000). Staff has worked hard to make the \$350,000 reduction. The instructional reserve is a contingency fund used for unexpected expenses throughout the year.

The \$6,387,731.00 budget includes the addition of a psychologist, social worker, special education personnel, and one reading interventionist. There was discussion on the number of reading interventionists at the elementary schools and that two more reading interventionists needed to be added to Walton and Beazley respectively. Dr. Pennycuff stated there was a greater need for a reading interventionist at N.B. Clements Junior High School based on data and means of student achievement.

The Board discussed other scenarios on how to increase the budget to include the two reading interventionists. They discussed cutting non-personnel items which are already at bare minimum, take money from the instructional reserve or ask the county for carryover money. Mr. Cox stated we have to put teachers in front of the students. "The county is growing, we educate and that is our business. We have to do what is best for the students and teachers."

To help him understand the need for a reading interventionist at Clements, Mr. Stevenson wants staff to provide him with data on Clements' students on how many have been enrolled in the division since kindergarten, if they are community or transient students, when did transient students come here, etc.

It was recommended to take money from the instructional reserve fund to add two reading interventionist at Walton and Beazley Elementary Schools and have staff analyze the needs for a reading interventionist for placement at Clements Junior High School.

Mr. Cox made a motion to take \$128,000 from the instructional reserve fund and add two reading interventionists to Beazley and Walton and have staff analyze and allocate an additional \$75,000 for a reading interventionist at Clements Junior High School and request carryover funds to replenish the instructional reserve fund. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Cox, Franklin, Stevenson
 Nays: Ashcraft, Foster

By a 3:2 vote the motion was approved.

C. Personnel Report

Mr. Cox made a motion to approve the personnel report as presented. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion.

Appointments (starting on August 21 unless otherwise stated)

Mary Heimbuch – Teacher, North Elementary

Stephanie Kern – Administrative Associate III, SBO (July 1, 2017)

Reappointments

Samantha Sunderman – Teacher, North

Resignations

Karen P. Dubé – SPED Teacher, North

Diana Keller – Paraprofessional, North

Stephanie Kern – Accounting Associate, SBO

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

Mr. Foster announced to the audience that the Board would take a quick recess and would return to a closed session and no action would be taken when the Board returned out of Closed Session.

VIII. CLOSED MEETING – pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia [added to the agenda]

- A. Legal Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.7
 - 1. L12/16-17

Mr. Stevenson made a motion to go into a closed meeting to discuss a specific legal matter pursuant to the legal exemptions of the VA Code §2.2-3711.A.7. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

IX. CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING AND ACTIONS [added to the agenda]

Mr. Stevenson made a motion to go back into an open meeting and certified that nothing had been discussed in the closed session other than what was stated in the original motion. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

No action was taken on Legal Matter L12/16-17.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stevenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we set our signatures this 12th day of June, 2017.

Approved:

/s/ Kevin S. Foster – Chairman

Attest:

/s/ Rebecca B. Kirk - Clerk of the Board

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Prince George County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this school board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince George 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 this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

/s/ Rebecca B. Kirk - Clerk of the Board
June 1, 2017
Meeting Date