

P.G. Super News

Renee P. Williams

Prince George County Public Schools

February 28, 2018

Important Dates:

March

Music in our Schools Month; National Nutrition Month; Youth Art Month; Irish American Heritage Month; American Red Cross Month; Social Work Month



March 2

Read Across America (Dr. Seuss's Birthday)

March 5-9

National School Breakfast Week; National Foreign Language Week

March 11

Johnny Appleseed Day

March 11

Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 12

School Board Meeting

March 17

St. Patrick's Day

March 18-24

National Agriculture Week

School Board News

The School Board held its regular meeting on February 12, 2018.

Special Recognitions

⇒ **Lana Pearce** presented **Lt. Paul Burroughs** and the Prince George Police Dept. with a plaque commending the department for paying off the negative meal balances at the schools, totaling \$547.45. **Lt. Burroughs** explained the "Paying Forward Program" and he thanked Destination Church for their love gift in support of this venture to give back to the kids. The School Resource Officers brought this problem to the attention of the department and this was a tremendous opportunity to pay forward to help the kids needing assistance. He thanked the schools for being a total asset to the community and this was a small part to say "thank you" from the Police Department.

⇒ February is School Board Appreciation Month. **Mrs. Williams** provided a summary of each board member stating how long each has been on the board and other personal interests. This year's theme, "Advancing Opportunities for All", reflects the top priority of school board members as they advocate for public education with local, state, and federal leaders. **Dr. Pennycuff** read a Resolution in appreciation of the division's school board members during School Board Appreciation Month. VSBA certificates were distributed to Board members.

⇒ VSBA Certificates of Appreciation were presented to **Becky Kirk/Clerk**, and **Stephanie Estep/Deputy Clerk**, in recognition of School Board Clerk Appreciation Week February 19-23, 2018. Board members thanked them for their continued support of the board and their dedication and hard work for public education.

Presentations

• **Jamie Westbay** provided a Hometown Heroes update. She was joined by **Rick Toney** and **Brad Owen**, members of the Hometown

Presentations (continued)

Heroes Committee. She announced the 3rd Annual 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run will be May 5, 2018 at Scott Park and new for this year's event will be the Guns and Hoses charity softball game. She explained the Mission of Hometown Heroes and shared the committee's achievements for the last two years. In conclusion, the committee thanked the school division, county government, police department, fire and EMS department, John Randolph Medical Center and the John Randolph Foundation for their continued support of Hometown Heroes.

- **Charlie Bruce** provided information on steps to consider if the district decides to outsource all or part of its existing transportation system. A feasibility study should be completed to evaluate the current transportation program to determine if privatization of some or all of our transportation system would be beneficial. Following the study, a RFP is prepared to focus on the division's specific needs and a vendor is selected.
- **Melissa Fleshman/PGEA** President presented the Salary Committee's salary proposal. The committee recommends the board to 1) establish a 5-year plan consistent with the Evergreen salary study; 2) establish a consistent, progressive step pay scale for all employees based on years of experience and education; 3) provide at least a 2% raise for all employees with a plan to meet the national average in the coming years; and 4) provide more options for affordable healthcare.
- **Chris Scruggs** stated David A. Harrison Elementary School celebrated its 50th anniversary and gained at least 2% increases in SOL scores in English and Math at the beginning of the school year. The gains are due to teachers embracing the tiered system of supports strategy for providing multiple opportunities for our



**WE APPRECIATE
OUR SCHOOL
BOARD!**

The Virginia School Board Association annually observes February as School Board Appreciation Month. Prince George County Public Schools wishes to acknowledge School Board members and their commitment to Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

This year's theme – "**Advancing Opportunities for All**" reflects the top priority of local school board members as they advocate for public education with local, state, and federal Leaders on behalf of all students. School Board Appreciation Month provides an opportunity to build a stronger understanding of the crucial role school boards assume in a representative democracy. School boards voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing multi-million dollar public school divisions, while preserving the core of our democratic values. The Prince George County School Board recognizes the contributions of the state's local school boards to the academic success of its public students and expresses its sincerest recognition to local board members for their focus on the well-being and achievement of children throughout the state. vision we want for our students.

School Board News (Continued)

students to learn the skills and the dedication and hard work of Harrison's staff. The 50th celebration carried over into the school's harvest festival as a night to "Celebrate Our Past and Inspire our Future". Teachers are focused on Performance Based Assessments, Project Based Learning and the Daily 5 and creating and sharing PBLs to make lesson plans new and exciting for students. They also participate in professional learning and structure small group reading and math instruction using Daily 5 and Daily 3 techniques. The SCA sponsors several spirit days throughout the year and supports the community through coat drives, food drives, and Pennies for Patients Campaign. The recent Father/Daughter dance Friday night was a success with over 300 tickets sold. The Mother/Son dance will be held in the spring. He asked the board to consider the vast array of responsibilities placed on the teachers, support staff, and needs of the students as they consider their budget. He is very honored and proud to work with the dedicated staff at Harrison Elementary school.

- **Ron Rhodes** reported that January was the coldest January in history and he is proud to say that there were no weather related issues at the bus garage during this time. He commended the drivers for cranking up the buses during the extreme cold weather and when schools were out. This prevented any mechanical problems to the fleet. He reported on HVAC problems at schools and is aware of temperature problems at each school and Johnson Controls has been called to assist with the solution. He reported on steps being made to update/replace the bell system at the high school and other work orders issued. There are issues everyday but the maintenance guys do a great job completing tasks.

- **Clarence Thweatt** reported one person completed the driver class and two others are ready to complete the class. There are still 11 vacancies being covered by substitutes and the Perfect Attendance bonus was down this month due to sickness.

Public Comments

- **Sharon Jadrnak** stated items she wanted to talk about had already been discussed during Mr. Rhodes' presentation (i.e. bell system at Prince George High School and uncomfortable temperatures in the secondary schools). She gave specific dates/times and temperatures (cold and hot) monitored and stated that the extreme temperatures make it difficult for staff and students and that the issue needs to be addressed with an experienced industrial HVAC representative.

School Action Items

- ♦ Approved Edwards Repairs for Food and Nutrition Services Maintenance/Repairs
- ♦ Approved Revised 2017-18 Budget based on Additional Carryover Funds from 2016-17
- ♦ Approved the Appropriation Request for Adult Education Grant Award
- ♦ Approved Appropriation Request for Title IV, Part A, Support and Academic Enrichment Grant.
- ♦ Approved to accept the elementary school site feasibility fee proposal

Discussion Items

- * Prince George High School Feasibility Study
- * Discipline Hearing Options
- * Regional CTE Initiative

Superintendent's Report/Info Items

- Current enrollment as of February 6, 2018
- Thank you card from student
- Thank you card from parent
- NSBA Conference San Antonio, TX—April 7-9, 2018
- VSBA Hot Topic—Chesterfield Career & Technical Center—April 17, 2018
- Southside Regional Spring Forum April 30, 2018 @ Nottaway High School

School Board News

(Continued)

School Board Member Comments



Mr. Eley has been contacted by the local newspapers inquiring about his short time on the board. He appreciates the three returning members to the board welcoming him and looks forward to working with them. He would like the board to look into paying staff two times per month.

Mr. Foster is very humbled to be recognized tonight. He thanks the community for all they do. He indicated that, "If you have not experienced Hometown Heros, it is a wonderful day." The John Randolph Foundation sponsors 5 local scholarships to benefit Prince George County students. If you are able to volunteer, he promises a remarkable day. He commended **Chris Scruggs** at Harrison for an excellent 50th Birthday Celebration. He reminded the community that **Mrs. Williams** will be presenting her Superintendent's budget tomorrow night. He stated that the superintendent's budget becomes the school board's budget after presentation. **Mr. Foster** also indicated that if more time was given to grade level planning that will ultimately benefit project based learning and assessments.

Mr. Stevenson stated if anyone had concerns, please take those concerns to your administrators and follow chain of command. He posed a question to **Mr. Fisher** regarding acceptance to Code RVA. A visit to Code RVA hasn't been scheduled yet. He indicated to the audience that he hasn't visited every school yet but made the commitment to visit every school before the end of the school year. He stated that he will call ahead to the school to advise of his visit. He stated that **Mr. Cox** shares comments of his visits at the schools with him.



L to R: Rob Eley, Kevin Foster, Robert Cox, Lewis Stevenson, Chris Johnson

Prince George School Board
"Advancing Opportunities for All"

Thanks for caring about our children's education. We applaud you for your vision and inspiration to help shape a better tomorrow!



Next School Board Meeting
March 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

School Board Member Comments (Continued)

Mr. Johnson commented that throughout the election process he had identified three top areas of concern: Transportation, Athletics and Compensation. He stated that what troubled him most was the pay of the teachers. He doesn't like being below the average. With the budget carryover funds, can we get the \$2.7 million back from the county? He stated that it was time to revise the MOU. He stated that teachers do not want bonuses. Being told "No" makes him work harder. We have a great staff here in Prince George. He also stated that "worth can't be measured by salary alone". He will fight for salary increases and feels that the carry over money should come back to staff.

Mr. Cox thanked the speakers during public comment. Room temperatures have been reported and we are working on the problem. He met with the Board of Supervisors last week to discuss the need of one or two new schools, health insurance and MOU. The Board of Supervisors have not committed to anything, for example, tax increases, etc. He appreciated Mr. Carmichael/Chairman and Mr. Hunter/Vice Chairman for meeting with him and Mr. Stevenson and sharing that they will work to help get two new schools.