

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA
February 7, 2017

A special meeting of the Prince George School Board was called to order on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at the School Board Office at 5:00 P.M.

Members present:

Mr. Reeve Ashcraft, Board Member
Mr. Robert E. Cox, Jr., Board Member [absent]
Mr. Kevin S. Foster, Chairman
Mr. Roger E. Franklin, Jr., Board Member [arrived at approximately 5:50 p.m.]
Mr. Lewis E. Stevenson, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Renee P. Williams, Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Bingham, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Rebecca B. Kirk, Clerk of the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Foster, Chairman, called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Board Members present:

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Ashcraft, Foster, Stevenson
Absent: Cox, 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 No. 24/16-17 approximately 5:05 P.M.

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

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

V. CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

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. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

[For the record, Mr. Franklin arrived at approximately 5:50 p.m.]

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

Mr. Ashcraft made a motion that in Student Expulsion Matter No. 24/16-17 student shall return to school and time served will remain due to discipline action. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion.

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

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED FY2017-18 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Foster welcomed the public for attending the superintendent's proposed budget presentation. More budget meetings will be held in the future and a revised meeting schedule will be presented at the school board meeting on Monday, February 13, 2017. This is the first time the board will hear the presentation. He turned the meeting over to Mrs. Williams.

Mrs. Williams also welcomed the audience to hear her proposed budget, "Moving Prince George County Public Schools from Good to Great Even in Difficult Economic Times". After tonight the Superintendent's Budget will become the School Board's Budget and they will take charge of it, making changes to adopt the 2017-18 budget. She thanked her senior staff, Dr. Lisa Pennycuff and Dr. Patrick Bingham, along with the Directors, Principals and their staffs for working together to maintain a quality education for student success. She also thanked Jimmy Williams for his support during this long planning process.

Mrs. Williams read the district's mission, "Prince George County Public Schools, in partnership with parents and the community, will provide a meaningful and challenging educational program in a safe environment that prepares all students for post-secondary education, the workforce and to be responsible, productive citizens in a global society." Our division's goal is to provide students with the knowledge and skills to exceed state, national, and international standards." She explained Per Pupil Expenditures (PPE) and identified education is a good value in Prince George County placing 121st out of 132 districts. This ranking is based on 2014-15 data which is the state's latest published data. The PPE for Prince George is \$9,345 and that is the lowest PPE around the Tri-City area, and all of our schools are fully accredited. "No one can say we waste money." She gave an historical overview on enrollment growth/decline since the 2013-14 school year, including enrollment statistics on military membership, diversity, ESL students, and students receiving free and reduced meals. The military population is stabilizing, changes occurred in reporting race categories, and services for ESL students and students with disabilities have increased. The 2017-18 budget will be based on 6,295 students.

Mrs. Williams shared that the division's top priorities include: 1) continue to provide a quality educational program for all students; 2) remain accredited and meet federal benchmarks; 3) provide a safe learning environment; and 4) have a quality workforce. She spoke on the challenges during this difficult economic time: 1) maintaining quality educational programs; 2) preparing for future growth and technology advances; 3) maintaining excellence while educating a population that is becoming more ethnically and economically diverse; 4) remaining competitive with recruitment and retention of highly qualified employees. The salary study indicated that Prince George is 13% behind market value in every category. This has to be addressed to recoup and maintain highly qualified employees.

The superintendent's budget is based on the House proposed version and budget assumptions include: 1) increase in state lottery proceeds; 2) increase in state VRS payment; 3) increase in local funding; 4) ADM calculation of 6,295 students; 5) step increase for full-time staff; 6) increase in VRS and RHCC rates; 7) addition of RHCC benefit for non-professional employees; and 8) probable change to health insurance rates and change in HSA payments.

The superintendent's budget equates to \$66,263,197, which is a \$1.5 million (or 2.39%) increase in budget compared to 2016-17. Mrs. Williams explained increase in expenditures were due to increases to VRS, health insurance, step increase for full-time employees, addition of RHCC benefits for non-professional employees, new staff positions (4), CodeRVA tuition for 3 students, rise in tuition costs for students attending Appomattox Regional Governor's School and Maggie Walker Governor's School, increase in non-personnel changes, and continued debt service payments.

The district will continue to search for ways to operate more efficiently with the cooperation of staff, parents, citizens, and students and we welcome any suggestions for more cost effective practices. Our financial challenges will continue well past this

fiscal year and the district will evaluate every position that is vacated through resignation or retirement and assess the need to fill or eliminate it from the budget.

The General Assembly is scheduled to adopt the state's budget on March 10, 2017. The School Board will hold several budget work sessions to finalize a school budget. A work session is scheduled for February 16, 2017 and a Public Hearing/work session is scheduled for February 28, 2017. Both will be at the School Board Office Training Room.

Mr. Foster thanked Mrs. Williams for the presentation and asked other board members for comments.

Mr. Ashcraft thanked Mrs. Williams for her presentation and stated that this is an ambitious budget but we have a great school system and he is optimistic that the board will be able to work through this process to maintain the quality of education and programs for all students.

Mr. Franklin commented that there is never enough money but somehow the school division manages to find the means to maintain the level of quality education for our students. He indicated he is confident that the board will work hard to provide a budget that will allow continued quality education for students and continued support of its employees.

Mr. Stevenson raised questions on several slides for clearer clarification. He wanted the salary survey to be distributed as soon as available for review while going through the budget process. He wanted to know the number of years left on the utility debt service owed to the county and he also indicated the sewer line at North Elementary is no longer the responsibility of the school division per contract signed and the increase of water and sewer pump replacements should not be part of the school division's budget.

Mr. Foster commented on Prince George being fully accredited and the success of our school division. However, a lot of state funds are poured into other unaccredited localities surrounding our county. The model for education in our country is flawed because the unsuccessful divisions are receiving funds to help them and the successful divisions are not being rewarded with additional funds. He indicated that he, Mr. Stevenson and Mrs. Williams recently met with state and local legislators lobbying with them for additional funds and he encouraged staff to contact local and state representatives to do the same. Some other comments he made related to the stress of teachers working with students with disabilities, the stress of students who struggle in their environment and those who receive free and reduced lunch, the accelerated increase of VRS payments, replacement cycle for student and staff devices is unacceptable, etc. He also indicated the need to evaluate what works, what doesn't and rethink the way to reteach the students. He congratulated administrators, staff, teachers, and paraprofessionals for the efforts to obtain full accreditation despite our low per student expenditure (\$9,345). The document presented tonight now becomes the School Board's budget to work with staff. They will be in discussions about all

programs, how to be successful, how to measure success and how to produce productive students for CTE, business, military, and other opportunities. The Board will conduct several budget workshops and we want to hear from all employees and the community with any innovative saving tips. The next regular meeting is February 13 followed by a work session on February 16, 2017. The Chairmen and Vice Chairmen from the Board of Supervisors and School Board will meet jointly on March 7, 2017. More budget work session dates will be communicated and approved during the February 13 meeting. Mr. Foster also shared that the Facility Study Core Committee, consisting of community citizens, school personnel, county personnel, School Board members and members from the Board of Supervisors will be working with a consultant for the replacement of L.L. Beazley and William A. Walton Elementary Schools.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Franklin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we set our signatures this ____ day of February, 2017.

Approved:

/s/ Kevin S. Foster – Chairman

Attest:

/s/ Rebecca B. Kirk – Clerk

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: 3

/s/ Rebecca B. Kirk - Clerk
February 7, 2017
Meeting Date