

P.G. Super News

Renee P. Williams

Prince George County Public Schools

January 24, 2019



Important Dates:

January 20-26
Virginia School
Principals Appreciation
Week

February
School Board
Appreciation Month;
African-American
History Month;
National Career
& Technical
Education Month®

February 1
National Freedom
Day;
Report Cards to
Parents

February 2
Groundhog Day

February 4-8
National School
Counseling Week

February 11
School Board Meeting

February 12
Superintendent
Presents proposed
2019-20 Budget

February 14
St. Valentine's Day

School Board News

The School Board held its regular meeting on January 14, 2019.

Special Recognitions

✓ **Lana Pearce** spoke about **Kathleen Nicholas** being a tremendous asset to the school division for 22 years as a teacher's aide and custodian at Burrowsville Elementary and finishing out her career as the Food Service Manager at Harrison Elementary. She spoke of her loyalty, commitment to excellence, and dedication and wished her well as she retires and relocates.

✓ **Mike Nelson** expressed his gratitude to **Brenda Lockhart-Clary** for her heroic action recently by performing the Heimlich maneuver on a student who was choking during the lunch period. **Ms. Lockhart-Clary** witnessed a student in distress in the cafeteria and took charge to assist the student. She always goes above and beyond the call of duty and he is proud of her actions that day that prevented a tragedy.

✓ **Wanda Gilbert** and **Tami Bowman** were recognized for renewing their National Board Certifications, an achievement of highest standards. Ten years ago, both teachers received their first certification. **Ms. Gilbert** explained the grueling dedication and workload required of them to complete the certification process, taking a full college load and maintaining a full-time job while attending classes. Re-certification still requires hard work, many hours of commitment, and dedication. They both expressed their appreciation to their administrators, fellow teachers, and the school board for their support throughout this process and for being recognized for this accomplishment.

Public Comment

≈ **Alvin Crowder** addressed the board about Governor School allocations. Children are aware of the opportunities and rewards of attending a Governor school at an early age and they look forward to it. He reiterated

the request to allocate more slots. He spoke briefly on the transfer policy, stating it is not fair for transfer students to take slots from those waiting to get in. Prince George has a first-class program.

≈ **Kimberly Meza** also spoke as a proud parent of an Appomattox Regional Governor School junior and stated her child has benefited from both the local education and Governor school education. She also requested to increase student slots to attend the Governor schools. She indicated the number of applicants completing paperwork is slow but each class should be given the opportunity to apply for the Governor schools or CodeRVA.

≈ **Jason Smith** commented on supporting school buses traveling on private roads. Two students were almost run over last month crossing the road when a car passed a bus stopped with flashing lights and safety guard extended on Middle Road in front of the Brickhouse Landing subdivision. He is requesting the Board take action on this item tonight to allow buses to come into the subdivision to pick up students for safety and security of this situation.

Action Items (Approved)

- * Proposal for 2019 Senior Day
- * International Exchange Student
- * 2019 School Board Meeting Schedule
- * 2019 Discipline Committee Schedule
- * Request for Approval and Supplemental Appropriation 2018-19 Budget Based on 2018-19 Notification of Impact Aid
- * Allocation of Additional Student Slots at the Governor Schools
- * Signing Bonus for Speech Pathologists
- * School Buses Traveling on Private Roads

Discussion Items

- ◇ Draft policy for Assignment of Slots in Governor Schools and Regional Magnet School Programs
- ◇ Revised Licensure Fee Schedule January 2019
- ◇ Financial Report/Highlights for December 2018
- ◇ FY2019 Budget Calendar



School Board Comments

Mr. Foster wished everyone a Happy New Year! He thanked the public speakers for addressing the board with their concerns and stated potential action could be taken this evening. There are two bills being introduced into the General Assembly: House Bill 1969 and 1921. HB 1969 reverts all unexpended funds back to the school board and HB 1921 allows unexpended funds may be used for capital projects. A request was made to the Board of Supervisors to return \$583,616 carryover funds back to the school division but we were denied. These House Bills are important to the school division, contact your delegates to pass these House Bills. It is important to know that out of our \$63 million plus budget, we had approximately \$583,000 left over. "We can't spend down to zero dollars. This amount is less than 1% of our budget. Help us get these bills through the General Assembly."

Mr. Johnson wanted to recognize new faces in different places. He welcomed Monique Barnes as our new Finance Director. He also recognized Jeff Darby as our new Director of Transportation. He spoke about use of electric buses and the cost illustrated by **Mr. Woodford's** presentation. It was determined electric buses are better suited for city routes vs. the rural setting. It was interesting to have the cost and return investment calculations for electric buses provided to the division. He is grateful for the opportunity to serve the board and community. There are many positive things happening in our school system and he looks forward to our school and student accomplishments.

School Board News

(Continued)

Discussions Items (continued)

- ◇ Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
- ◇ Revised 2019 Mileage Reimbursement Report

Superintendent's Report/ Informational Items

- ⇒ Current enrollment as of January 8, 2019
- ⇒ 2018-19 Expulsions and Reinstatements
- ⇒ Thank you note from **Isabella Bennett**

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ VSBA Capital Conference - Richmond - January 23-24, 2019
- ⇒ Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week - January 20-26, 2019
- ⇒ VSBA Free Webinar - Virginia Lottery 30 Years of Fun, \$9 Billion to Education - January 23, 2019
- ⇒ Statement of Economic Interest - Due February 1, 2019
- ⇒ February - School Board Appreciation Month "Leading for Success"
- ⇒ School Board Clerk Appreciation Week February 18-22, 2019
- ⇒ Southside Regional Spring Forum March 7, 2019 @ Powhatan High School
- ⇒ VSBA Hot Topics - Benefits of Creating Trauma Informed School Systems - March 13, 2019 @ Wytheville
- ⇒ VSBA Free Webinar - Combating the Stigma of Youth Mental Illness - March 27, 2019
- ⇒ NSBA Conference March 30-April 1, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA

School Board Comments (Continued)

Mr. Stevenson stated that contacting your delegate does make a difference. Members of the board have attended legislative meetings in the past and they listen and respond, so please reach out to them regarding House Bills 1921 and 1969. If these bills are approved this would prevent our having to ask the Board of Supervisors each year for the return of unspent carry-over funds. The School Board has requested a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors for January 28, 29, or 30th. The public is invited to attend the meeting when scheduled. He recognized Monique Barnes and wished her well in her new position, and hopes her "tenure is a long one

in the division".

The next School Board Meeting

is Monday, February 11, 2019
at 6:30 p.m.



During the School Board's Reorganization Meeting on January 10, 2019, the following re-appointments were made:

Robert E. Cox, Jr. - Chairman
Lewis Stevenson - Vice Chairman

Congratulations

ANNOUNCEMENT

WELCOME

Monique Barnes, Finance Director
Jeff Darby, Director of
Transportation
Christina Pope, Assistant
Principal, Prince George High School

School Board News

(Continued)



PRESENTATIONS

Logistics Consulting Services Update – by Kenneth Woodford

During the September 24, 2018 meeting, the school board approved the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) / **Capt. Woodford** and six other graduate students to study the division's logistical transportation problem. The school district is dealing with a bus driver shortage that is resulting in inconsistent drop-off/pick-up times for students riding buses. This is frustrating to parents and students are losing valuable academic time. The team's objective was to analyze the division's logistical shortfall to improve current processes or implement new concepts within the given parameters of the organization and public laws. Some of the obstacles for driver shortage included recruitment, retention, hiring drivers, salary and benefits. Solutions included offer additional compensation (signing bonuses, referral bonuses, attendance bonus, safety bonus, driver training, and driver appreciation). The group reviewed the maintenance of buses and stated the maintenance program does not have any major issues. They also reviewed transportation of special needs students and the benefits of tracking special education students to get more funds into the budget, metrics for safety, maximize capacity of Versatran Management Program (route analysis), use of diesel vs. vehicle to Grid (V2G) analysis (electric buses), and drop-off and pick-up programs and techniques. Mr. Woodford thanked Mr. Thweatt and staff for assisting them with this project by providing information to them. The group did receive an "A" on their project.



North Elementary School – by Theresa Marshall, Principal

Dr. Marshall started by expressing her excitement about being the new principal at North Elementary to build on "past strengths and find new ways to engage our students, support our teachers, and partner with families and community members". She shared a Powerpoint presentation to highlight events at North Elementary School. The school is fully accredited thanks to the dedicated faculty and staff. Kindergarten activity illustrates emphasize on writing from the moment students come into the building. She spoke about a community partner who donated mulch, landscaping plants and time to upgrade and beautify the courtyard. **Eric Liverman**, music teacher, led the third grade students in a musical tribute to our men and women in the military during the Veterans' Day program. **Brad Manning** and members of the Rotary Club shared their thoughts on education during an assembly for third graders, and they distributed dictionaries to each student. **Tammy Shank**, North's reading interventionist, and **Danielle Newton**, North's math specialist, put a lot of planning and effort into their Math and Reading Night for a very successful event. Community partners that supported this event included Fort Lee volunteers, representatives from the police, fire, and emergency services departments, and local business partners who donated door prizes for families. The school also received a \$3,000 donation from Love's Travel Stop's charitable foundation. She emphasized the importance of their involvement with community relationships. Lastly, she said North continues to grow the PTAC and to work on involving students in a garden club.