

UNOFFICIAL SYNOPSIS
PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA
REGULAR MEETING
December 11, 2017

The regular meeting of the Prince George County School Board was held at the County Administration Building, Third Floor Board Room, on Monday, December 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

A closed meeting was added to the agenda and held at 5:30 p.m.

Members and staff present:

Mr. Reeve E. Ashcraft, Board Member
Mr. Robert E. Cox, Jr., Board Member
Mr. Kevin S. Foster, Chairman
Mr. Roger E. Franklin, Board Member
Mr. Lewis Stevenson, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Renee Williams, Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Bingham, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Rebecca Kirk, Clerk of the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Foster, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated all Board members present:

Present: Ashcraft, Cox, Foster, Franklin, Stevenson

III. VOTE TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC PERSONNEL MATTERS (pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3711)

- A. Personnel Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.1
1. P17/17-18
 2. P20/17-18

Motion and second to go into a closed meeting to discuss specific personnel matters pursuant to the personnel records exemptions of the VA Code §2.2-3711.A.1.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

IV. CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING AND ACTIONS

Motion and second 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.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

No action was taken on Personnel Matters P17/17-18 or P20/17-18.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Foster led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Foster stated that a couple of recognitions would be added to the agenda and Mr. Cox asked that Personnel Report items Appointments #5 and Resignations #4 be removed from the Personnel Report. Motion and second to approve the agenda as amended.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

VII. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

A. Retirees

- * Buddy Smith – HVAC Mechanic, SBO/Maintenance (29)

Buddy Smith was recognized for his upcoming retirement. He has worn many hats in the school division over his 29 years as coach, lawn expert, and HVAC mechanic in the maintenance department. Mr. Rhodes and board members spoke about the many years of hard labor Mr. Smith has provided and that he has always been passionate about what he does and has done an exemplary job.

B. Board Members [added to agenda]

- * Reeve Ashcraft
- * Roger Franklin

Mr. Foster recognized Reeve Ashcraft and Roger Franklin as they leave the board at the end of this term. Mr. Ashcraft has served 2 years and Mr. Foster stated Reeve was passionate about serving his community. He was young and sought to become a public servant by running for the Board in support of our district's children. He graduated from Prince George High School, has been a faithful member of the board for the last two years, has brought a youthful presence to the board, and he serves on the Maggie Walker Governors' Board and the inaugural CodeRVA board. He's enjoyed getting to know Reeve and they've laughed and debated about issues and he respects Reeve, and his desire for public service is much appreciated. Mr. Foster wished him luck as he pursues his educational goals. Mrs. Williams stated Mr. Ashcraft was instrumental in introducing her to social media like Twitter, Snapchat, etc.

Mr. Ashcraft withheld his comments until the School Board Member comment period.

Mrs. Williams acknowledged that Mr. Franklin has served 14 years on the School Board. Teaching children is his passion and he advocates for keeping kids firsts and she is blessed that their paths crossed. Mr. Foster also stated Mr. Franklin has been a member of the School Board for 14 years, serving as Chairman and Vice-Chairman multiple times during his tenure. A lifelong educator of high school and college students for 46 years, he has touched the lives of thousands of students in the classroom. He led the charge in his local community by being an advocate of the multiple facets of public education. He has championed funding for operational and capital needs, and crafted policies to improve academic achievement for students. His drive for competitive salaries and benefits have resulted in successful recruitment and above retention rates. He was a pioneer in web-based distance learning and he initiated Richard Bland College's first distance education offering and championed the Prince George School system to adopt a virtual learning platform, (i.e., an alternative education for expulsion students to continue with their education and gain credits for graduation). Mr. Franklin has served on many committees and boards (i.e. Appomattox Regional Governor's School Board, College of William and Mary Board of Visitors, City of Petersburg Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee) and has held many positions overseeing academic classrooms and labs, creating, securing research and resources that allowed students the collaborative tools for learning and student achievement while employed at Richard Bland College. Mr. Franklin's personal motto, "If you got'em, you got'em", speaks volumes on his commitment to provide the very best educational environment for every student regardless of race, economic status, nationality, physical and mental challenge. As a lifelong educator, he was committed to instill in each student the love of learning and he believes each child deserves his 200% commitment to work towards providing the best education possible. Mr. Franklin is the "real deal" and while he is from Alabama, Prince George is now his home.

Mr. Franklin humbly thanked the public for allowing him to serve the community for 14 years. He reflected on his years of service as a board member, vice chairman and chairman, stating that "hanging with these guys has been good for me and that the board has made it work by working together. Prince George is a very unique place and whatever position one holds in the division is an important job. Teaching here is very special, and we have great people in our system that impact tomorrow's generation.

They take the challenge, meet the challenge, and rise to the challenge and we can expect greatness from all our students.”

Mr. Ashcraft and Mr. Franklin were presented with a farewell Bluetooth Bulova clock in honor of their service to the board.

Mr. Foster thanked the audience for allowing the Board the opportunity to recognize these two special people.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. November 20, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting
- B. November 27, 2017 Special School Board Meeting
- C. November 30, 2017 Special School Board Meeting
- D. December 5, 2017 Special School Board Meeting

Motion and second to collectively approve the minutes referenced above.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

IX. PRESENTATIONS

- A. North Elementary School – by Chris Romig, Principal

Ms. Romig shared her message about North Elementary School thanking her staff and Ms. Franchok for making this the best start of school year ever. She’s privileged to be working with her staff and teachers at North. Instead of telling about North’s successes, she presented a video to highlight some activities that makes North so special. The video had students and teachers speaking about clubs and activities: Art Club, Green Team (recycling products), Helping Hands (grades 3-5 giving back to the school and community), little/big interactive groups, safety patrol, Cardinal Choir, and the storybook tree (ornaments made by students of their favorite storybook characters), just to name a few. She also invited everyone to attend their choir presentation on December 14. There are two performances at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. She thanked Mr. David Dockan and the rest of her staff for preparing the video. She welcomed the Board to visit North anytime. On a personal note, she thanked Mr. Ashcraft and Mr. Franklin for their time served on the board and she wished them well. She also congratulated Mr. Eley and Mr. Johnson on being elected to the board and looks forward to working with them.

- B. Construction and Maintenance Update – by Ron Rhodes

Mr. Rhodes recognized and publically thanked several team players on his maintenance crew (Tony Vlk, Ralph Otey, and John Campo). These men “get it done” and he wanted them recognized because they step it up every day, providing their expertise and taking care of things. He also commented on repair of the hot water heater at Prince George

High School, completed work orders and replacement of HVAC filters. He is also preparing a capital improvement list for next year to get ahead of the game.

C. Transportation Update – by Clarence Thweatt

Mr. Thweatt provided an update on the transportation department. On November 1, 2017, the School Board approved a Perfect Attendance Bonus for bus/car drivers and aides. As a result, 54 out of 61 employees have had perfect attendance so far (breakdown includes 39/46 drivers (85%); 5/5 car drivers (100%); 10/10 aides (100%)). The Perfect Attendance Bonus has been an incentive to keep drivers/aides from taking time off, and it's working. On December 8, 2017 the department had a job fair and 12 people came out with 10 potential bus/car drivers. Mr. Thweatt anticipates a driver-training class to begin in January. He is enthusiastic about the \$1000 signing bonus the board approved on November 30, 2017. He feels this is another incentive to get drivers out in addition to the \$500 bonus to any school district employee who recruits a driver to sign up before January 15, 2018. "Spread the word!"

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL

Erin Ehrenfeld, 13655 Taylor Drive, Disputanta, addressed the board with her concerns relating to late afternoon buses and lack of a Student Resource Officer (SRO) at Walton Elementary. She stated that there are 4-5 buses late daily at Walton Elementary affecting teachers' time every day. She was on duty to 40 kids today and this large amount of kids causes a risk for problems. If the buses are on time in the mornings, why can't they be on time in the afternoons? She also indicated that a SRO was promised last year but the school has yet to receive one. Walton is an open-style campus, easily acceptable to Interstates 95, 295, and Route 460. She is fearful of potential problems that could occur without a SRO on the campus.

Darkeesha Sims, 7212 Brandon Lane, Prince George, shared her concerns about late buses, particularly Bus 110. The bus has been late every day since the return from Thanksgiving break and her child is missing out on instructional time at J.E.J. Moore Middle School. If she does not take her child to school then he gets to school late which affects his grades because he is not getting proper instructional time and she feels this is not fair to him or to her to have to adjust her schedule to get him there on time.

Butch Pearson, Prince George County Police Department, was excited to talk about an enhanced Crime Solvers program. It started out tips were recorded on paper, next students texted their tips through text-a-tip program. Today there is a new way using P3.com or P3tips.com. It's more user friendly with dropdown boxes that prompt one to answer questions and it's live, real time. He hopes the program will be rolled out to all schools before Christmas break. Crime Solvers was introduced to the schools in the mid '90's and has been a very valuable resource to the police department. He thanked Mr. Franklin and Mr. Ashcraft for their service to the community as school board members.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Ashcraft read from a prepared statement reflecting on his two years as an elected official, a freshly graduated student who fought “for the people within the hallways he had just finished walking” and he was grateful for the opportunity to serve the people. He was humbled by the tasks that were in front of the board and was inspired by the people who give Prince George the reputation it has and working together for one common purpose: Our kids, the next generation. He summarized many accomplishments the board made during his 2-year period: appointed a new superintendent to begin solving problems immediately, gave teachers and staff a raise, improved benefits, added personnel to help better serve our most challenged students, cut an outdated and inefficient IB program to give more academic opportunities to all of our students, enacted a 10-point grading scale to put our students on an even playing field for college admissions and scholarships, conducted studies on compensating our employees and providing safe buildings for our students, and updated within the technology department as a key tool to be used by teachers in the curriculum. Even with these accomplishments, there is still work to do and he feels “Mr. Johnson and Mr. Eley will be there to pick up the baton and keep us moving forward.” He thanked his parents for making him the person he is today, his mom for her love and support during his formative years, and he hoped to be half the man that his dad is. He then thanked senior staff at the School Board Office for taking time with him, answering his questions, and fighting for our kids and bringing our school system into the future. Lastly, he thanked his fellow Board Members. “Though we’ve had many disagreements that tested the patience of each other, we showed why democracy works every meeting that was held. You each debated me on my ideas, and not on my character. You questioned my information, rather than my merits. You treated me like a colleague, and not simply as a community mascot. While you each have showed me why you have been elected and re-elected to serve in this critical capacity, I hope along the way I proved to you why I deserved to share the stage as well.” He ended with, “While the future is uncertain, I like to believe that this isn’t a goodbye, but an impatient and heartfelt see you later”.

Mr. Cox thanked Ms. Romig for the popcorn and North presentation. He appreciated the positive feedback Mr. Thweatt provided on the transportation situation. He expressed gratitude working with Mr. Ashcraft and understands that he may come back and run again in the future. He respected Mr. Ashcraft’s comments made and thanked him for his service. He stated he met Mr. Franklin 18 years ago and has enjoyed their working relationship. They have the same commitment to treat employees fairly and to advocate for students. He thanked Lena Franklin for sharing Roger with the board all these years and he congratulated both of them on their new life journey.

Mr. Stevenson recognized Mr. Rhodes for being a team player. You never hear him say “I did” because he always gives credit to his staff in all situations. However, he will take the credit if anything goes “bad”. He considered the great things Mr. Franklin said about Prince George. He had three children graduate from Prince George and still has one child in the middle school. He gives credit to Prince George schools for the exposure

they had with the schools, teachers, administrators, and successful outcome as Prince George graduates. He spoke about getting to know Mr. Ashcraft personally in Boston stating, "It is rare for board members to sit around and socialize and get to know one another individually. Mr. Ashcraft brought a youthful aspect to the board and refreshed technology competencies that the board needed." They have had some heated debates but he's always respected him and will miss him. When Mr. Stevenson first come onto the Board, Mr. Franklin was quick to accept him and made him feel welcomed and like part of a family. He has always had interesting stories to tell and he will be missed.

Mr. Foster shared with the audience that "You don't have to like any of us, but everyone's heart is in the right place." Whatever side of the vote you are on, there is one common goal....our students. In October the Board met with the police and sheriffs' departments on school safety. He is happy to say that some things have been implemented as a result of this meeting and the division continues to move in the right direction. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas. It is a time to reflect on how truly thankful you are for living and/or working in Prince George County and the Commonwealth. He also mentioned that he and Mrs. Williams would be attending the Board of Supervisors meeting on December 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. to hear discussion on the sewer billing credit/reimbursement at North Elementary School.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Personnel Report
- B. Board Requests
- C. Warrants
 - 1. General
 - 2. Title I
 - 3. Food and Nutrition Services
 - 4. Permission to Pay Additional Bills/Anticipated Bills not listed on Warrants List

As a reminder two items were pulled from the Personnel Report: Appointments - Item A5 and Resignations – Item B4.

Motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, including the permission to pay additional bills/anticipated bills.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

XIII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Local Plan for the Gifted 2017-2022 – by Willie Elliott

Motion and second to approve the local plan for the Gifted 2017-2022 Plan as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

- B. New Course Proposals – by William Barnes, Mike Nelson, Pete Fisher
 - 1. AP Environmental Science
 - 2. AP Principals of Computer Science
 - 3. AP World History
 - 4. AP 3 D Art
 - 5. Cybersecurity Fundamentals
 - 6. Mechatronics

Motion and second to approve the new course proposals as presented.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

- C. Appointment of Clerk and Deputy Clerk for 2018 – by Renee Williams

Motion and second to approve Rebecca Kirk as Clerk and Stephanie Estep as Deputy Clerk for 2018.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

- D. Champions Request for Change of Hours – by Renee Williams

Motion and second to approve the Champions Before Program to open at 6:00 a.m. beginning January 3, 2018 at all elementary schools.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

- E. Investigative Services RFP – by Renee Williams

Motion and second to approve the Request for Proposal for Investigative Residency Fraud Services with proposals due by January 16, 2018.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

- F. Request for Appropriation of Funds Received from Tyler Technologies And Volkswagen Group of America – by Becky Hicks

Motion and second to approve appropriation of funds and refer to the Board of Supervisors for additional appropriation of \$31,763.41 of these funds to be included into the FY18 budget for the division in Fund 500.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

G. FY2019 Budget Calendar – by Becky Hicks

Motion and second to approve the FY18 Budget Calendar as presented.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Financial Statement for November 2017 – by Becky Hicks

Ms. Hicks provided the Financial Report for November showing expenditures for the month. The auditors will be presenting at the next Board of Supervisors meeting and the school division will receive its FY17 report. She indicated the school division should have information on carryover funds before the Christmas break. She also stated no Impact Aid funds had been received for the November report.

XV. INFORMATION ITEMS/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. November 2017 Bus Suspensions and School Suspensions
- B. 2017-18 Expulsions and Reinstatements
- C. Current enrollment as of December 6, 2017
- D. 2017-18 Year-to-Date Building Use Requests
- E. Student/Employee Emergency Monthly Report via School Messenger
- F. VSBA Webinar – Improving Emergency Management in VA School Divisions – January 12, 2018
- G. VSBA Capital Conference – Richmond Marriott – January 22-23, 2018
- H. VSBA Orientation for New Board Members and Chairmen and Vice Chairmen – Richmond Marriott – January 23, 2018
- I. NSBA Conference – San Antonio, TX – April 7-9, 2018
- J. Save the Date – Southside Regional Spring Forum April 30, 2018 @ Nottoway High School
- K. VSBA Policy Page

Mrs. Williams shared several conference dates with the Board for staff, board members, new board members, and chairman and vice chairman, including the NSBA conference. She also indicated on January 30, 2018, the VSBA would have Governance training for existing and new board members. This is the first time Board Governance training has been offered to our school board.

In January the board will be given information on Title I funds, current student enrollment, and carryover funds. Mrs. Williams indicated that a proposed fee structure had been provided to the board for review, providing cost for paying teachers to stay over for late buses. A special school board meeting for student discipline is on December 13, 2017 and it is requested a personnel item and late bus staffing discussion be added to the agenda.

Lastly, she wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Clerk of the Board