The regular meeting of the Prince George County School Board was held at the County Administration Building, Third Floor Board Room, on Monday, August 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

A closed meeting was held at 5:00 p.m.

Members and staff present:
Mr. Reeve E. Ashcraft, Board Member
Mr. Robert E. Cox, Jr., Board Member [arrived at approximately 5:06 p.m.]
Mr. Kevin S. Foster, Chairman
Mr. Roger E. Franklin, Jr., Board Member
Mr. Lewis E. Stevenson, Vice Chairman [arrived at approximately 5:07 p.m.]
Mrs. Renee Williams, Superintendent
Mrs. Rebecca Kirk, Clerk of the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Foster, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated all Board members present:

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

III. VOTE TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC PERSONNEL, STUDENT AND LEGAL MATTERS (pursuant to Va. Code §§ 2.2-3711.A.1, 2.2-3711.A.2 and 2.2-3711.A.7)

A. Personnel Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.1
   1. P02/17-18
   2. P07/17-18
   3. P08/17-18

B. Student Matter – Section 2.2-3711.A.2
   1. 20/16-17

C. Legal Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.7
   1. L09/16-17
2. L01/17-18
3. **L02/17-18 [per addendum]**
4. **L03/17-18 [added to agenda]**

Mr. Franklin made a motion to go into a closed meeting to discuss specific personnel, student, and legal matters pursuant to the personnel, student, and legal records exemptions of the VA Code §§2.2-3711.A.1, 2.2-3711.A.2 and 2.2-3711.A.7. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

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

**IV. CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING AND ACTIONS**

Mr. Franklin 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

[For the record, Mr. Cox and Mr. Stevenson arrived at approximately 5:06 and 5:07 respectively.]

No action was taken on Personnel Cases P02/17-18 or P07/17-18.

Mr. Cox made a motion in Personnel Case P08/17-18 to request re-payment of conference fees and other fees identified for said conference. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Ayes: Unanimous

No action was taken on Student Matter 20/16-17.

Mr. Cox made a motion that in Legal Matter L09/16-17 to grant waiver for parent to be on school property. Mr. Franklin seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Ayes: Unanimous

Mr. Stevenson made a motion that in Legal Matter 01/17-18 to approve the superintendent to write letter denying tuition request. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Ayes: Unanimous

Mr. Stevenson made a motion that in Legal Matter 02/17-18 to authorize the superintendent to respond to parent’s letter of July 24, 2017. Mr. Franklin seconded the motion.
VOTE:  Ayes: Unanimous

In Legal Matter L03/17-18 it was the consensus of the Board for the superintendent to consult with legal counsel.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Foster stated an Addendum to the Agenda has been provided to include Legal Matter L02/17-18 and revised Personnel Report. The Board asked that Item C. Transportation be added under Action Items, and Legal Matter L03/17-18 be added as presented including an estimated list of anticipated warrants.

Mr. Franklin made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, including adding additional items as presented. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

VOTE:  Ayes: Unanimous

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 10, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting
B. July 12, 2017 Special Adjourned School Board Meeting
C. July 27, 2017 Special School Board Meeting
D. August 8, 2017 Special School Board Meeting

Mr. Cox made a motion to collectively approve the July 10, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting minutes, the July 12, 2017 Special Adjourned School Board Meeting minutes, the July 27, 2017 Special School Board Meeting minutes and the August 8, 2017 Special School Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

VOTE:  Ayes: Unanimous

VIII. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

A. Drs. Singh and Bhuller Tri-Cities Outstanding Educator of the Year Award

* Rebecca Stroop – J.E.J. Moore Middle School
The Drs. Singh and Bhuller Tri-Cities Outstanding Educator of the Year Award was established several years ago. Any educator in the Tri-Cities area may submit an application to The John Randolph Foundation and they select the winner of the award. This year the $3,000 award was presented to Rebecca Stroop, art teacher at J.E.J. Moore Middle School. Ms. Stroop will take a Native American ceramic art class in New Mexico, learn the culture and gain experience to further advance her professional development. She will bring her experiences back to her summer enrichment art classes. The money will be used for tuition, lodging, travel, etc.

B. VSBA Media Honor Roll Program – Meredith Baker, Prince George Journal

The School Board presented Meredith Baker a commendation certificate from the Virginia School Board Association recognizing her for fair and balanced reporting on the school division and education related topics. Her work has aided this community in focusing on the goal of providing the best public schools we can for the children in our division.

C. 2016-17 Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award

* William A. Walton Elementary School – Sharon Kushma, Principal

William A. Walton Elementary School was recognized for receiving the 2016-17 Virginia Index (VIP) Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award based upon data for the 2016-17 school year. The school received the distinguished award for being fully accredited and for making significant progress toward educational goals established by the Board of Education and the Governor. Mr. Foster read the proclamation from the Board of Education and presented it to Sharon Kushma, principal. Mrs. Kushma stated “the faculty and staff earned this award” and that it was “truly a team effort”. She recognized her new assistant principal, Julie Connolly, and other staff members in the audience.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

A. Construction and Maintenance Update – by Ron Rhodes

Mr. Rhodes said things are coming along and the division is in good shape for opening day thanks to Lin Turner and Clarence Thweatt and their departments for all they have done to get ready for opening day. The buildings are in excellent shape. He spoke about receiving bids for new windows at Harrison and South Elementary schools and he has already confirmed the funds for use next summer. The computer lab rooms at Moore, Clements and the high school are ready for the new school year. New tables and equipment have been outfitted for the rooms. Mr. Brockwell is setting up computers and Clements Junior High is getting a Wi-Fi upgrade. He reported on the request by the
board to add intercoms to the school buses. To retrofit the remainder of the fleet would cost over $40,000. The department will discuss bus management strategies. He reported on school readiness for September 5 stating that final touches are being implemented to buildings, updating new principal requests at buildings, fire extinguisher safety training completed for all custodian and maintenance staff, including some school personnel and they are working on last minute requests at this time. There was also some discussion on resurfacing the track around the football field and possibly adding this into the Capital Improvement Process for the upcoming year.

B. Transportation Update – by Clarence Thweatt

Mr. Thweatt said the upcoming school year looks very positive. A job fair was held on July 26, 2017 and seven applicants are being processed with two already having their CDL license. Currently they are down only 2-3 drivers for the start of the year and that will change before September 5. The Transportation Driving Rodeo was held August 14-15, 2017 and it was a success with great turnout. It was his first time overseeing the rodeo and the drivers were full of energy and driver morale was high. He is very optimistic for the year.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL

Tonya Humphrey, 6676 Tatum Road, Disputanta, spoke on students attending Richard Bland College for their senior year and having to pay high tuition costs for the opportunity of taking college courses. There are no costs associated with RowanTyt or John Tyler Community College and no scholarships are offered for attendance at Richard Bland College. Other counties offer the program at no cost and she wants the school board to explore how senior students attending Richard Bland can get the full benefit of college without having to pay tuition.

Leila Holmes, 4260 Cedar Creek Lane, Prince George, has worked in the division at all schools. She expressed her concerns that elementary teachers and aides help their students get their lunches and then leave to have their lunch but only get a few minutes to eat before they have to return for their students. She also shared concerns that paraprofessionals need more opportunity for training and teachers need to follow the dress code. She addressed concerns of board members not returning phone calls or responding to emails and indicated she sent an email to board members in November and has not received a response to date.

Teresa Tennant, 4324 Flexon Drive, Prince George, appeared before the board earlier in the year and she returned to discuss school bus issues in the Puddledock area, specifically Fine Street. She recited the division’s Mission Statement, emphasis on “safe environment” and stated that she struggles with this statement because of the unsafe conditions and disrespectfulness of students on the bus that transfers students from that area. Children having discipline problems that voice loud, vulgar language on this bus should be held accountable for their actions and should pay the consequences, not the students who behave themselves and follow the rules. Something needs to be
done about this situation. She expressed concerns for her child having to be placed in this type of environment.

Sherry Harvey, 4482 Flexon Drive, Prince George, stated there has been a major issue on this Puddledock bus for 2-3 years. Several referrals are written daily on children from this bus and it is not a good setting as kids are talking about drugs, vulgar language, bullying, loud noises and it is an unhealthy environment and causes risks for other students. The driver should be focused on driving and the aide should be addressing these discipline issues. Something needs to be done and solutions need to be recommended.

Officer John Pearson, School Resource Officer, recognized Lin Turner and his custodian staff stating that Prince George High School looks amazing, the floors are shiny, and the building looks great.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Franklin commented that he’s back from his health issues and thanked everyone for well wishes and prayers.

Mr. Stevenson stated that Prince George has an opportunity to acquire property for an investment and advance the CTE program. “We are meeting with other localities to discuss a regional CTE facility. We would be failing our mission statement if we don’t take advantage of this opportunity.” He also commended Rowanty and staff on its facility and programs offered for a career path to those who are not college bound.

Mr. Cox is excited for another new school year. He thanked Ron Rhodes, Lin Turner, and Clarence Thweatt for getting everything ready for the upcoming year. The buildings are very well maintained and it shows that our employees take pride inside and outside of the building.

Mr. Foster stated that the School Board approved the Core Committee’s recommendation (with revision to 750 students capacity in each school) to build two new elementary schools to replace Walton and Beazley schools and renovate Prince George High School. The School Board Chairman and Core Committee Chairman presented the approved recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Foster encouraged people to reach out to the supervisors to support the building of two elementary schools and refurbish the high school. Mr. Foster asked Mr. Thweatt what the board could do to address the situation on the bus and route spoken about during public comment. He also shared his opinion of Rowanty and how the technical school has turned around in the last two years lead by Ms. Cheryl Simmers. Rowanty offers the best of everything….welding, automotive, carpentry, nursing, etc., and staff is excited about their programs. Mr. Foster is proud of how they have retooled and turned the programs around at Rowanty.
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

Mr. Cox requested the Personnel Report and Warrants List be removed.

Mr. Cox made a motion to approve the Board Requests as presented. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

Requests
Waiting for Housing on Fort Lee
Mr. Johnathan Sonnier requests permission for his children, Araya and Jathan Sonnier, to start the school year at South Elementary School. They are currently waiting for housing at Fort Lee and expect occupancy approximately September 11, 2017.

Waiting to Lease Apartment
Ms. Carlita Harris requests permission for her child, Cameron Harris, to start the school year at L.L. Beazley Elementary School. They are currently living in Petersburg and expect occupancy in Prince George approximately August 21, 2017.

Ms. Ersenia Quarrels requests permission for her child, Robert J. Quarrels, to start the school year at L.L. Beazley Elementary School. They are currently living in Colonial Heights and expect occupancy in Prince George approximately September 13, 2017.

Religious Exemptions - Section 22.1-254.B.1 of the Code of Virginia
Ms. Shelita Branch requests permission for her child, Jacob Thompson, to be exempt from compulsory attendance.

Facility Use Requests
Prince George Fire & EMS requests use of school facilities (Prince George High School driving range) for Emergency Vehicle Operator Course training program for employees on October 2, 2017.
Prince George Fire & EMS requests use of school facilities (Prince George High School auditorium, cafeteria, commons) for their annual awards program with reception on February 22, 2018.
Monumental Baptist Church requests use of school facilities (Walton gym/multipurpose room) for the Good News Club’s before school Bible Club for the 2017-18 school year each Friday from October – May.
Field Trip Requests
Kim Beale requests permission for a field trip to New York City, NY for the DECA Members, December 6-10, 2017.

Other
Dianna Johnson requests permission for her child, William Johnson, to be released from compulsory attendance to pursue getting his GED.
Austin Franklin requests permission for his son, Austin, to complete his senior year at Prince George High School for the 2017-18 school year. They recently moved to Hopewell, VA.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

Mr. Cox requested Appointment Item A5 and Resignation B4 be removed from the Personnel Report to discuss in a closed session after the meeting ended. Staff requested the addition of Appointment Item A9 to approve the Assistant Principal at Prince George High School.

Mr. Cox made a motion to approve the Personnel Report as amended per the addendum and with the changes described above. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion.

Appointments (starting on August 21 unless otherwise stated)
Wynel Harris – SPED Teacher, Clements
Susan George – Math Teacher, Clements
Regan Brown – Math Teacher, PGHS
Cameron Stanley – Office Associate III, Harrison – September 1, 2017
Donna Marks – Food Service Assistant, PGHS – September 5, 2017
Olivia Harris – Teacher, Walton
Sheila Jackson – Teacher, North
Barbara Davenport – Assistant Principal, PGHS

Resignations
Cynthia Shaver – Teacher, Harrison – August 10, 2017
Cynthia Thomas – Learning Specialist, PGHS – August 18, 2017
Heddi Leonard – Bus Driver, Transportation – September 4, 2017

Other
John Harper – Custodian, PGHS – (Rescind Letter for Retirement)

Revised Contracts
Kendall Warren – Teacher, PGHS – 12 Graduate Hours
Sarah Banks – Teacher, Beazley – 12 Graduate Hours
Jillian Ellis – Teacher, North – Child Study Chair
Nathanial Mae – Teacher, North – Child Study Chair
Monte Williams – Teacher, PGHS – Department Chair
Dale Butler – Teacher, Clements – Department Chair
Erin Ehrenfeld – Teacher, Walton – Department Chair
Marsha Tsiptsis – Teacher, Clements – Child Study Chair
Kevin Moore – Teacher, PGHS – Additional Period of Instruction
Hannah Moore – Teacher, PGHS – Additional Period of Instruction
Jan Buetow – Teacher, PGHS – Additional Period of Instruction
Kristen Dize – Teacher, PGHS – Additional Period of Instruction

2017-18 Activity Supplements (see attached)
2017-18 Coaching Supplements (see attached)

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

Mr. Cox had questions under the Warrants List concerning the Bank of Southside Virginia bank card usage. Staff replied that the descriptions explained details for use of the bank card.

Mr. Cox made a motion to approve the Warrants List as presented including permission to pay additional bills/anticipated bills not listed on the Warrants list (see attached list). Mr. Franklin seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

XIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Snack Room at Prince George High School – Lana Pearce

Ms. Pearce stated the high school’s snack room needed to be updated to be more inviting and appeasing. She sent out 4 bids and received quotes from 3 of the vendors. She made a recommendation to award the bid to Calico because of their current working relationship. If approved the work should be completed by October.

Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve Calico to update the entire snack room with the understanding an outside contractor shall be used for the electrical work. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

B. School Crisis Emergency Management & Medical Emergency Response Plan and School Safety Audit – Renee Williams

Mrs. Williams explained that the division is moving to the state’s format so that all schools will have the exact information and will only complete sections specifically for the individual school. She described several sections and stated a binder with all the tabs and appendices would be distributed to each school once completed. An example of David A. Harrison’s plan was provided to the Board. After review by the Board, the Superintendent must certify completion of the review to the Virginia Center for School
Safety (VCSS) no later than August 31 of each year. The Board tabled this item until August 30, 2017 for further review and additional revisions.

C. Transportation [added to the agenda]

Mr. Cox stated the Board previously discussed supplementing drivers by reaching out to other localities. All of the surrounding localities are in the same driver shortage situation and if there was a pool of qualified substitute drivers that divisions could pull from, it would benefit all localities. Last year Durham Transportation presented information to the Board. Mr. Cox wanted it clear that speaking to any outside source does not mean the division will outsource, it is only looking at options for cost savings, if any, and a solution to driver shortages. The board would like a presentation within a couple of weeks, but before the September 11, 2017 meeting.

Mr. Cox made a motion for staff to contact a contract service to present information on supplementing driver services. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Cameron Foundation Grant – Stephanie Bishop [renumbered]

The goal of the J.E.J. Moore Innovation Center is to provide a flexible, adaptable space that supports project-based learning and allows students to use technological tools for information sharing within groups, the school community, and their community. Christie Archer, Librarian, submitted a grant application to the Cameron Foundation to update the library space to accomplish the school’s goals. The school has some CTE and library funds for this project but they are very enthusiastic and hopeful to receive the Cameron Foundation grant in the amount of $16,120.74.

B. Weighted Grades 2017 – William Barnes [renumbered]

Mr. Barnes presented a comparison of honors classes, advanced placement, and dual enrollment classes vs. the new 10-point scale. Honor graduates would be students with a minimum 4.0 GPA for all credit bearing classes and be in the top 10% of the class.

C. 2017 Summer School Enrollment Report – William Barnes

Mr. Barnes reviewed the academic programs implemented over the summer. There were 1,071 students who enrolled with 937 students completing the academic, enrichment, and intervention or remediation programs. These programs included Summer Enrichment, Fine Arts Academy, Freshen Up, Elementary Academy, The Middle School Academy, Virtual Summer School (Math), and Moore Explorers (2M7), including high school courses for credit.
D. 2016-17 Professional Development Report – Mr. Barnes

Mr. Barnes provided the 2016-17 Professional Development statistics by schools with 631 professional development activities requested at the state, local or national levels.

E. FY2018 Capital Improvement Process – Renee Williams

Staff was provided with information on the Capital Improvement Process for fiscal years 2019-2028. All projects previously submitted will be considered in addition to any new projects submitted. Mrs. Williams shared updated costs for the Beazley and Walton School projects as a result of inflation costs since last year’s projections. The project is now estimated at $29 million vs. $25 million last year. There is an anticipated $500,000 savings per school if we use the same footprint as North Elementary School. Staff is to provide final Project Requests Forms and CIP Cost Forms to the county by September 7, 2017.

F. School Staffing Agreements and MOUs – by Renee Williams

School staffing agreements and MOUs were executed for services for the 2017-18 school year with Virginia Preschool Initiative, Walgreens (flu shots), District 19 Community Services Board, Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, Therapeutic Interventions, Intercept Youth Services, Inc. (therapeutic day treatments), Cobb Pediatric Therapy Services, Allied Instructional Services, Inc., Therapy Resources, Inc. and Talk, L.C. (speech, language and occupational services).

G. Tuition Rates and Collections – Becky Hicks

Ms. Hicks provided several reports to the Board as requested.

Preschool Costs – The state provides $415,973 for 90 students. The local match is $135,277 for a total expenditure budget or $551,250. She produced information on how funds are spent within the program.

Redflex Cameras – The revenue is posted to the county’s general fund under General School Bus Cameras. It is transferred to the capital fund to increase the school bus expenditure budget. A total of $23,311.42 was collected from FY 15-17 with interruption in collections between January 2016 and September 2016 due to statewide legislative issues/questions.

True-Up Salaries and Benefits FY 2017 – 94 Employees resigned or retired during fiscal year 2017. A list of vacated positions was provided and $1.2 million was carried forward to true-up personnel line items.

Tuition Rates and Collections – Tuition rates and collections were tracked back to FY2008 and tuition rates have been in existence since 1997. Rates and enrollment have fluctuated each year. Currently 24 employees are approved for 35 children (4
The Superintendent’s information is for the Board’s review. Mrs. Williams stated the division’s ADM is based on 6,295 students and as of August 15, 2017, there were 6,110 students enrolled. Staff welcomed 55 new teachers to the school division this morning for the new school year. She drew special attention to the email from Lori McCoy thanking board members for allowing her child to attend tuition free for her senior year.
Mrs. Williams also reminded Board members of orientation dates and upcoming events (i.e. Back to School Fair – August 24, 2017, Salary Study Workshop – September 9, 2017, and the Annual VSBA Convention – November 15-17, 2017 in Williamsburg).

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

Mr. Cox made a motion to return into a closed meeting to discuss specific personnel matters, P09/17-18, pursuant to the personnel records exemptions of the VA Code §2.2-3711.A.1. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

XVII. 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

Mr. Cox made a motion that in Personnel Matter P09/17-18, to accept A5 and B4 on the Personnel Report previously presented. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion.

Appointments
Michelle Grias – Paraprofessional, Harrison – September 5, 2017

Resignations
Michelle Grias – Office Associate III, Harrison – August 1, 2017

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT [renumbered]

Mr. Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Ashcraft seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we set our signatures this 11th day of September, 2017.
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
August 21, 2017
Meeting Date