

P.G. Super News

Renee P. Williams

Prince George County Public Schools November /December

School Board News



Important Dates:

December 20-January 2
Christmas Break

December 21
First Day of Winter

December 25
Christmas Day

December 26 - January 1
Kwanzaa

January 1
New Year's Day

January 14
School Board Meeting

January 21
Martin Luther King Holiday

Merry Christmas

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

This newsletter combines the November and December school board meetings.

The School Board held its regular meeting on November 19, 2018 and due to inclement weather and the closing of the school district, the December 10, 2018 regular school board meeting was postponed until December 12, 2018 with a modified, abbreviated agenda that was posted to the district's website on Sunday, December 9, 2018. All items removed from the December agenda will be placed on the January 14, 2019 school board agenda.

Presentations

⇒ School Psychologists week was celebrated November 12-16, 2018. This year's theme was "Unlock Potential, Find your Password". The board was given a bag with several resources that highlight what the school psychologists are doing to unlock the potential in students. **Michele Harris, Jackie Jones, Chris Roberts,** and **Cindy Smith** shared information about activities that were performed at each school in support of awareness week. During the 2017-18 school year, 225 psychological assessments were performed. In addition to student-based intervention team meetings, IEP team meetings, and manifestation determination meetings, they have supported school teams in conducting threat assessments and suicide and other crisis interventions. Over 18 professional development trainings have been presented, and they have participated in community outreach programs throughout the county.

⇒ **Mike Nelson** reported on the high school's Life Skills Program. There has been increased opportunities for students to participate in more engaging learning activities. Students are engaged in studying diverse cultures, science activities, reading/

Presentations (continued)

math activities, learning about customer service, conducting transactions, and counting change. They use some of these skills to sell items to faculty/staff in their Royal Café Program. They are taking field trips to local businesses and receiving hands-on community based instruction. **Mr. Nelson** also presented the idea of moving away from Convocation Sunday to a Senior Assembly Day. This is being considered by the board. More details to follow next month.

⇒ **Ron Rhodes** reported on the Froehling & Robertson Limited Mold and Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) assessment conducted at Moore Middle School. Industry standards call for microbial indoor levels to be less than outdoor levels with no individual mold elevated above background concentrations. Mold and mold spores are present in nearly all indoor environments and there is no way to eliminate all mold and mold spores from the indoor environment. However, growth can be controlled by cleaning and removing affected materials and addressing the source of water or moisture which create conditions that allow mold growth. F&R made recommendations to prevent additional or spreading of microbial growth. Once all cleaning has been completed, F&R will conduct a second IAQ assessment. **Mr. Rhodes** also reported on other construction and maintenance work throughout the division, including information about the Field House expansion.

◇ **Clarence Thweatt** reiterated appreciation for the driver pay increase. Since October, thirty-nine new applications have been processed, including four teacher applications. Fifteen applicants had CDL licenses. The number of double backs and phone calls about late buses has decreased.

School Board News

School Board Member Comments



Mr. Eley spoke about the upcoming holiday season. He is thankful for the school division and his family, and he wished each a "Happy Holiday".

Mr. Foster also wished all a "Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday". He reiterated what a great school division we have and he is thankful for all the great and wonderful things that happen to our students. The community has lost several extraordinary people in the last few weeks and he asked that we keep these families in our prayers. He appreciated the school psychologists presentation, reflecting on a retreat the board had a couple of years ago. "A lot of great things have happened since then". He also thanked **Mr. Nelson** for his presentation and thanked his staff for the strides taken to get this group of students career ready.

Mr. Johnson said "gratitude was the theme of the night". He was grateful for the students and opportunities they have with the school district, and he is also grateful for our staff and the influences they have on our students in the district. He is very proud of **Leah Crowder** and her accomplishments and thanked **Mr. Crowder** for sharing this information.

Mr. Cox requested staff to arrange for **Leah Crowder** to come back to a school board meeting to be recognized for her Rhode Scholar achievement. He spoke about the Board of Supervisors' meeting on November 7th, stating the School Board is still waiting for a decision on their request about site school construction. He has reached out to **Mr. Carmichael** seven times but has not received a return phone call. **Mr. Cox** read a letter from **Chief Early** thanking the School Board for appropriating \$8,000 for ballistic body armor/safety equipment to the school resource officers.

Public Comment

- ◇ **Alvin Crowder** announced his daughter, **Leah Crowder**, attended Maggie Walker Governor's School. She is 1 of 32 Rhode Scholars in the United States. He feels her years in public school and the Governor's School prepared her for this accomplishment and he thanked all educators. He understands there are zero students allocated to start at Maggie Walker next year and he spoke about developing a mechanism to make sure other county students get the same opportunity to attend the Governors' schools.
- ◇ **Sheila Minor** stated she has a sophomore attending Appomattox Regional Governor's School and a 7th grader attending Moore Middle and she is concerned about the allocation of student slots at each Governors' Schools, particularly with the regional transfer policy. She also commented on the long-standing transportation problem and she appreciated the efforts the division has taken to correct the problem. She shared her concerns about a particular bus being consistently late every day and pondered how much instructional time has been missed by students from their first period class.
- ◇ **Ashely Rhodes** thanked the Board for the increase in driver pay. The pay increase was a big boost but the A/B runs are still a concern. Drivers do appreciate the board's decision/efforts to retain drivers.

Action Items (November/December)

- * Technology Funds School Security Equipment Grant
- * Request for Approval and Appropriation of the Title IV, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program, Grant Funds for Use in FY19
- * Policy Revisions—JED, JGD/JGE, KKA-R
- * Revised 2018-19 Rowanty Budget Based on Additional Grant Funding Awarded for FY18-19
- * Revised 2018-19 Adult Education Budget Based on Additional Grant Funding Awarded for FY18-19
- * Revised 2018-19 Adult Education Budget Based on Additional Grant Carryover Funds from 2017-18
- * Potential Carry-Forward Funds for the School System from FY18

Discussion Items

- √ Comprehensive Plan Updates for Technology and Operations
- √ Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Slot Commitments for FY20
- √ Hearing Officer/Residency Investigator

Superintendent's Report

- ◇ Current Enrollment Report as of November 12, 2018
- ◇ 2018-19 Expulsions/Reinstatements
- ◇ Email from **Danielle Perry**, re: JV Volleyball Team
- ◇ Rowanty Technical Open House November 21, 2018 and Special Events Calendar
- ◇ VSBA Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- ◇ VSBA Capital Conference—Richmond Marriott, January 14-15, 2019
- ◇ NSBA Conference—Philadelphia March 30—April 1, 2019

Next School Board Meeting January 14, 2019

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be safe during your travels throughout the holiday season!

