

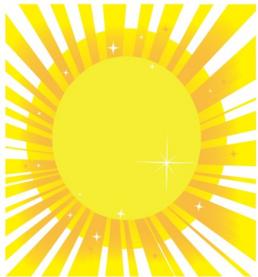
# P.G. Super News

Renee P. Williams

Prince George County Public Schools

July 18, 2017

## School Board News



### Important Dates:

June 19-August 17  
Summer Work  
Hours

July 27  
Summer School  
Graduation  
Prince George H.S.  
at 1:00 p.m.

July 31  
Administrators'  
Retreat



August 14  
School Board  
Meeting

The School Board held its regular meeting on July 10, 2017.

### Special Recognitions

- + The following retirees were recognized for their years of service in education: **James Coleman** (5), **Sharon Jones** (40), **Ina Moody** (20), and **Terry Walker** (34).

### Presentations

- **Sheri Lewis** updated and refreshed the Board on how the Redflex Program works. Cameras are installed on 5 buses and incidences are captured, reported, encrypted and data verified via DMV before sending data to the Prince George Police Department. Approved citations are mailed to violators and violators may pay the \$250 fine (unless court reduced) or appeal process. Redflex has processed 1,138 incidents and the police have issued 558 tickets during the 4-year time span. Proceeds from these fines are divided between the county and Redflex.
- **David Charland** shared a quick summary of a successful enrollment period through the Pierce Group. Enrollment meetings were held for retirees and current employees and each person was given a comprehensive booklet describing services Pierce Group provides. Benefit counselors met with 97.5% of the 863 eligible employees with 572 participants (or 66%) enrolled in health insurance. He gave other statistics of enrollment and thanked the Board for allowing the Pierce Group to serve the employees of Prince George school division.
- **Ron Rhodes** gave his monthly report by presenting a slide show of pictures showing the Construction and Maintenance and Custodial Departments hard at work unloading and assembling new furniture, removing carpet, re-lining parking lots, setting up for graduation, repairing and power washing buses and white fleet, painting garage, assisting with yard work,

installation of additional outside lighting at PGHS and SBO and capturing an opossum in a classroom to name a few. He also commented on blinds being repaired at Walton and South, carpet installation at Moore, removal of carpet and tile replacement at Clements, completion of the interlock brake system recall upgrade and installation of the new garage lift. Approximately 381 work orders have been completed by staff and he commended Mr. Turner and custodial staff for keeping all buildings looking great.

- **Mr. Thweatt** reported the Transportation Department had been tasked to look at staggered times as an option to address driver shortage. After all data was collected it was still determined drivers did not have enough time to get children to school on time or at home at a reasonable time and this was unacceptable to staff. Staff is now looking at collapsing routes and maximizing ridership on buses. A Job Fair is scheduled for July 26 and a training class begins July 17 for four new drivers.

### Public Comments

- Several people addressed their concerns about staggered times. **Lauren Messner** and **Teresa Lindsey** stated if staggered times are implemented it would hinder after school activities, family time, homework time, cause an even longer school day for children and cause a hardship on families. **Tara Peyton-Burgess** stated it would impact her dancing business as over 200 students participate in evening activities, and **Ashley Rhodes** stated implementation would lower drivers' morale.
- **Ashley Rhodes** suggested placing micro-phones and speakers on the larger buses so the driver can hear students in the back of the bus. Safety is the number one priority.
- **Jennifer Haskins** voiced her opinion in support of the 10-point grading scale and suggested cameras be placed on all buses to bring more revenue into the county.

# School Board News

(Continued)



## School Board Member Comments

**Mr. Franklin** responded to the outpouring support from the School Board, Central Office, and community during his recent stroke.

**Mr. Stevenson** commented on the outstanding graduation ceremony and stated staff has to set up two graduation facilities outside and inside in case of inclement weather and they do a terrific job. As a contractor, he does a lot of work in schools and he said most buildings he has been in are not as old as our buildings and our buildings are in far better condition because of our custodial staff and construction and maintenance departments. During the June meeting **Mr. Thweatt** reported on possibility of staggered times and that information spiraled out of control. After listening to the data, the Board will not consider staggered times.

**Mr. Ashcraft** praised **Mr. Turner**, **Mr. Thweatt**, and **Mr. Rhodes** for contributions they bring to the program every day. "There are not enough 'thank you's' for your service." He strongly urged the Board to approve the 10-point grading scale.

**Mr. Cox** congratulated the school division for another successful year. He is disappointed in the public and social media and the false information that has been communicated about staggered times. He indicated the Board would have to conduct a Public Hearing and could not take a vote without having public input from the community. "Our job affects the kids and we have their best interest at heart."

**Mr. Foster** thanked the Transportation Department for providing shuttle service to/from the football stadium and congratulated **Mr. Nelson** and staff for a successful graduation ceremony. "It was a team effort". Summer School graduation is July 27, 2017 at PGHS at 1:00 p.m. He was interested in **Ashley Rhodes'** suggestion of speakers/microphones in buses and asked **Mr. Thweatt** to get more information. He commented on bus issues and said other divisions have the same driver issues. The Board will continue dialogue and exhaust all ideas for solutions. The Board will conduct a retreat in the next couple of months to discuss the Salary Study and how we will work with the county to develop equitable raises.

## Action Items—Approved

- ◆ Foreign Exchange Student
- ◆ 2017-18 Student Conduct and Safety Handbook
- ◆ 10-Point Grading Scale
- ◆ Core Committee Recommendation with revision
- ◆ VSBA Advocate for Education Award—Nominated Roger E. Franklin, Jr.
- ◆ VSBA Media Honor Roll—Meredith Baker, *The Prince George Journal*
- ◆ VSBA Policy Services Agreement
- ◆ Appointments to Regional and County Boards
- ◆ 2017-18 Tuition Rate (\$1,539.00 regular education / \$3,078.00 SPED)

## Discussion Items

- ≈ Gift Donation for Tuition at Appomattox Regional Governor's School
- ≈ FY16 Activity Fund and PTO/Booster Audit Engagement Letters
- ≈ Financial Report for June 2017
- ≈ DoDEA Grant
- ≈ Salary Study Retreat—September 9, 2017, 9:00—4:00 @ School Board Office
- ≈ Contracted Services—Transportation and Custodial
- ≈ Pre-School Criteria

## Superintendent's Report/

### Information Items

- June 2017 Bus and School Suspension Reports
- 2016-17 Reinstatements and Expulsions Report
- June attendance report and current enrollment as of June 27, 2017
- 2017-18 Building Use Requests
- Student/Employee Emergency Monthly Report
- 2016-17 Final Reports - Legal Matters Reviewed and Personnel Matters Reviewed by School Board
- Thank you letter dated June 16, 2017 re: Mrs. Sperber (Harrison Elementary)
- VSBA Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

- VSBA Conference on Education—Richmond Marriott—July 18, 2017
- VSBA Webinar—Communication: How to Foster a Positive Relationship Between School Board and Board of Supervisors—August 7, 2017
- Back to School Fair—Scott Park—August 24, 2017 4:00—7:00
- Superintendent Evaluation Workshop—September 14, 2017—Charlottesville
- VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference—September 28, 2017



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tana Jones**

Principal, N.B. Clements

**Donna Branch-Harris**

Assistant Principal, J.E.J. Moore

**Susan Braswell**

Principal, South

**Chris Wills**

Assistant Principal, South

**Chris Romig**

Principal, North



*The next*

**School Board Meeting**

**is Monday, August 14, 2017**

**at 6:30 P.M.**



**Summer School Graduation  
Prince George High School  
July 27, 2017 @ 1:00 p.m.**

