

P.G. Super News

Renee P. Williams

Prince George County Public Schools

February 23, 2017

Important Dates:

March

Music in our Schools Month; National Nutrition Month; Youth Art Month; Irish American Heritage Month; American Red Cross Month; Social Work Month



March 2

Read Across America (Dr. Seuss's Birthday)

**March 6-10
National School Breakfast Week;
National Foreign Language Week**

**March 11
Johnny Appleseed Day**

**March 12
Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**March 13-19
National Agriculture Week**

**March 13
School Board Meeting**

**March 17
St. Patrick's Day**

School Board News

The School Board held its regular meeting on February 13, 2017.

Special Recognitions

⇒ **Alfreda Hagans** presented the school board with baseball memorabilia from **Jackie Bradley** as a thank you for the school division's support of him as a graduate and alumni of Prince George High School, college student and baseball player at University of South Carolina, and now a member of the Boston Red Sox baseball team. Ms. Hagans presented an autographed baseball bat, ball, and a 20" x 30" poster of her son to be displayed at the School Board Office.

⇒ **Tanveer Sodhi**, Troop 912, was recognized for earning Eagle Scout rank for repairing a foot bridge at Five Forks Battlefield National Park in Dinwiddie. Pedestrians and horses can now go across the bridge to the park again.

⇒ On behalf of the Prince George Alliance for Education Foundation, President **Bobby Cox** presented each school principal with a check for \$500 to be used for instructional materials and/or instructional technology to provide students with materials necessary for a quality education. The Prince George Foundation is partnering with the Hopewell Education Foundation and the John Randolph Foundation for grant application opportunities in the fall. Additional activities are planned for the Foundation.

⇒ February is School Board Appreciation Month and this year's theme is "Lead to Inspire". **Mrs. Williams** described each board member and their duties performed as board members, committees and other boards they serve, occupations, etc., including the years of service on the board. **Mr. Ashcraft, Mr. Cox, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Foster** and **Mr. Franklin** were recognized and presented with Certificates of Appreciation.

⇒ Certificates of Appreciation were presented to **Becky Kirk/Clerk**, and **Jill Andrews/ Deputy Clerk**, in recognition of

School Board Clerk Appreciation Week February 20-24, 2017. Board members thanked them for their continued support of the board and their dedication and hard work for public education.

Presentations

- **Mrs. Thweatt** thanked the School Board for their continued support of the Education Center and giving students an alternative way to learn, as not all other localities provide this type of program. She had students from the PG Pals and Project Choice programs present, "I Am Somebody". Each student researched someone in history and dressed for their role as they presented facts and accomplishments on that particular person. After each person presented they would end loudly with "I Am Somebody". Each presentation was linked to Math, Science, English, History and Health/PE. Some of the people students emulated were Serena Williams, Robert Frost, Cesar Chavez, Kevin Costner and Barbara Morgan. They presented "Hidden Figures" which is the new movie about a team of African-American women mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. At the end of their presentation, they turned their name tags around to show their real names and said, "We are Somebody!"

- **Ron Rhodes** reported 206 work orders were completed over the last month, including 4 days for snow removal. He indicated a sound system had been ordered for PGHS and windows had to be replaced in a building on the baseball field as a result of vandalism. Quotes are being gathered to repair the cafeteria and office doors at N.B. Clements Junior High School.

Public Comment

^ **James Easter** spoke on consolidating the county vehicle maintenance department and



**WE APPRECIATE
OUR SCHOOL
BOARD!**

The Virginia School Board Association annually observes February as School Board Appreciation Month. Prince George County Public Schools wishes to acknowledge School Board members and their commitment to Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

This year's theme – "**Lead to Inspire**" reflects the top priority of local school board members as they advocate for public education with local, state, and federal leaders. School Board Appreciation Month provides an opportunity for our school division and community to build a stronger understanding of the crucial role school boards assume in a representative democracy. School boards voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing multi-million dollar public school divisions, while preserving the core of our democratic values. Prince George County School Board is recognized for its contribution to the academic success and focus on the well-being and achievement of all children locally and throughout the state. Local school board members work with parents, businesses, education professionals and other community members to create the educational vision we want for our students.

School Board News (Continued)

the school division's transportation maintenance department, stating a county procurement study would show a cost effective savings if the two departments merged together.

Sharon Jadrnak, Michelle Bowen, Tonya Humphrey, Sheila Roalf and Sheila Minor all shared their concerns about the School Board's decision on December 15, 2016 to phase out the MYP/IB Program. Each cited reasons the program should continue, stating the assessments, accelerated interdisciplinary learning, design and implementation of principles were important for students. This program offers students a more rigorous option in middle and junior high schools that they might not otherwise be able to take. They feel removing the program is a step backwards and requests the board to reconsider their decision.

School Action Items

- ◆ Approved Revised 2016-17 Budget Based on Additional Local Funds
- ◆ Approved Revised 2016-17 Budget Based on Additional Carry Over Funds from 2015 -16
- ◆ Approved Revised 2016-17 Adult Education Carryover Funds from 2015-16
- ◆ Approved Technology Funds School Security Equipment Grant
- ◆ Approved Revised 2017 School Board Meeting Schedule

Discussion Items

- 2017-18 Proposed School Calendar
- Options to Address Students Returned to School
- Home Schooled Students Attending Rowanty
- Business Honor Roll
- Financial Statement for January 2017

Superintendent's Report/Info Items

- January 2017 Bus and School Suspensions
- 2016-17 Expulsions and Reinstatements
- Current enrollment as of February 8, 2017
- 2016-17 Year-to-Date Building Use Requests
- Student/Employee Emergency Monthly Report via School Messenger
- National School Counseling Week - February 6-10, 2017
- Career and Technical Education Month - Month of February
- Letter of Appreciation—Hopewell/PG Chamber of Commerce-December 29, 2016
- News from our Schools
- Thank you letter from the Barlow Hamilton Family
- VSBA Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- VSBA Superintendent Evaluation Workshop—Charlottesville—February 20-24, 2017
- VSBA Southside Region Spring Network Forum—Hanover H.S.—March 13, 2017
- VSBA/WVSBA Hot Topic Conference - Wytheville - March 15, 2017
- NSBA Annual Conference, Denver— March 25-27, 2017
- VSBA Hot Topic Conference—"How School Boards Make a Difference" - Charlottesville—April 20, 2017

**Next School Board Meeting
March 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

School Board News

(Continued)

School Board Member Comments



Mr. Franklin thanked people who spoke on topics that they believe in. “Everything costs money and there is only so much money in the pot for the Board to work with and make right choices for education.”

Mr. Stevenson replied to speakers regarding the MYP program stating “it wasn’t a rash decision, staff has been involved, we have discussed MYP in open, public meetings and this has been a topic for years.” MYP was started due to decline in dual enrollment and AP classes. “Kid’s passion is limited/restricted—no less important—it wasn’t a rash decision.” He commented on the “Night to Shine” event in Hopewell for special needs children. **Coach Carroll** and **Becky Haydt** brought players and cheerleaders out to help with the event.

Mr. Ashcraft reflected on not being in the MYP program but he had the same rigor in core subjects and French. Individuals have contacted him saying money could be spent elsewhere. He also shared he will not be seeking re-election but needs to “finish my education and not worry about if I’m in PG every night or not. I’ve tried to put the kids first and appreciate all of my support and the experience I’ve gained.”



L to R: Reeve Ashcraft, Lewis Stevenson,
Kevin Foster, Robert Cox, Roger Franklin

Prince George School Board
“*Lead to Inspire*”

*Thanks for caring about our
children’s education.
We applaud you for your
vision and inspiration
to help shape a
better tomorrow!*



School Board Member Comments (Continued)

Mr. Cox was sorry to hear **Reeve** will not be running again in November. “I would like to shine the spotlight on **Clarence Thweatt**, our Interim Transportation Coordinator for Transportation for about two weeks. It has been a smooth transition. Thank you!”

Mr. Foster responded to **Mr. Easter** stating, “We have discussed consolidating the vehicle maintenance department with the county but the buses require more rigorous inspections than most vehicles. The transportation building is near the end of life, I believe it was built prior to Clements School.” He also reiterated **Mr. Cox’s** recognition of **Mr. Thweatt**, commenting **Mr. Thweatt** went through the interview process, was a part-time driver and has the full support of the board and hopefully will stay when offered a full time position. “Night to Shine” was a great success. “Say Yes to the Dress” event will be held at First Baptist Church in Hopewell on February 16 from 5-8, February 23 from 5-8, and February 25 from 9-12. All dresses are \$5. There are over 600 prom dresses available. **Mr. Foster** stated the MYP discussion will be placed on the February 28 agenda at 6:00 for 45 minutes prior to the Public Hearing on the Superintendent’s proposed 2017-18 budget. He also commented it had been a pleasure working with **Reeve** and he thanked him for his wisdom and passion while on the board.