

P.G. Super News

Renée P. Williams

Prince George County Public Schools

August 29, 2017



Important Dates:

September 1
Convocation
@ 8:00 PGHS

September 4
Labor Day

September 5
First Day of School
for Students

September 8
International
Literacy Day

September 10
Grandparents' Day

September 10-16
National Arts in
Education Week

September 11
Patriot Day

September 11
School Board
Meeting

September 17-23
Constitution Week

September 18
Constitution Day

School Board News

The School Board held its regular meeting on August 21, 2017.

Recognitions

- * **Rebecca Stroop** was recognized for receiving the Drs. Singh and Bhuller Tri-Cities Outstanding Educator of the Year Award. She received a \$3,000 award that will be used for tuition, lodging, travel, etc., when she takes a Native American ceramic art class in New Mexico.
- * **Meredith Baker** was presented with a commendation certificate from the VSBA's Media Honor Roll Program. The School Board nominated her for fair and balanced reporting for the school division.
- * **William A. Walton Elementary School** was recognized for receiving the 2016-17 Virginia Index (VIP) Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award. The school received the distinguished award for being fully accredited and for making significant progress toward educational goals established by the Board of Education. **Sharon Kushma**, principal, stated "the faculty and staff earned this award" and that it was "truly a team effort". She recognized **Julie Connolly**, new assistant principal, and other staff members in the audience.

Action Items

- Snack Room at Prince George High School.

Discussions Items

- ≈ Cameron Foundation Grant application for J.E.J. Moore Middle School Innovation Center
- ≈ Weighted Grades 2017
- ≈ 2017 Summer School Enrollment Report—937 students completed summer academic and enrichment programs
- ≈ 2017 Professional Development Report—631 professional development activities requested
- ≈ FY2018 Capital Improvement Process
- ≈ School Staffing Agreements and MOUs
- ≈ Tuition Rates and Collections (i.e. Preschool costs; Redflex Cameras; True-Up Salaries and Benefits FY2017; Tuition rates and collections)
- ≈ Financial Report for July 2017

Presentations

- + **Ron Rhodes** said 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. He has received bids for new windows at Harrison and South Elementary Schools and already confirmed funds for use next summer. Computer labs at Moore, Clements and high school are ready with new tables and computer equipment for the rooms. He responded to the Board's request that it would cost over \$40,000 to retrofit school buses with intercoms. His department is working on last minute school requests and fire extinguisher safety training has been completed for custodians and maintenance personnel. There was discussion on resurfacing the track and possibly adding this item to the Capital Improvement Process.
- + **Clarence Thweatt** said the upcoming year looks very positive. Seven applications were received from the job fair on July 26, 2017. The department is down only 2-3 drivers to start the year. The Transportation Driving Rodeo was held August 14-15, 2017 with a great turnout and success. Drivers were full of energy and morale was high. He is very optimistic for the new year.

Public Comments

- ^ **Tonya Humphrey** spoke on senior students attending Richard Bland College and having to pay high tuition costs for the opportunity of taking college courses when there are no costs associated with those attending John Tyler Community College or Rowanty Technical School.
- ^ **Leila Holmes** expressed concerns that elementary teachers and aides may not get enough time to have their lunch when they have to help students through the lunch line. She also shared concerns that paraprofessionals need more opportunity for training, teachers should follow dress code, and that board members are not returning phone calls or responding to emails.

School Board News

(Continued)

BACK-TO-SCHOOL ORIENTATION DATES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

August 31

Beazley

K—9:00 a.m.

Grades 1-5—10:30 a.m.

Harrison

K-Grade 1—8:30 a.m.

Grades 2-5 (new) - 10:00 a.m.

Grades 2-5 (returning) - 11:00

North

K—9:00 a.m.

Grades 1-5—11:00 a.m.

South

K—9:00 a.m.

Grades 1-5—11:00 a.m.

Walton

K—9:00 a.m.

Grades 1-2—10:00 a.m.

Grades 3-5—11:00 a.m.



SECONDARY SCHOOLS

August 29

N.B. Clements

(by last name)

A-M—8:30 a.m.

N-Z—11:30 a.m.

Prince George High School

All Students—7:00 p.m.

August 30

Moore

Grade 6—8:30 a.m.

Grade 7—1:00 p.m.

PGEC

PG Pals—10:00 a.m.

Public Comment (continued)

^ **Teresa Tennant** and **Sherry Harvey** spoke on the bus route in the Puddledock area. Students are rude, loud, disrespectful, speak vulgar language, cause problems on the bus and they feel these students need to be held accountable for their actions and pay the consequences, not the students who behave and follow the rules. Something needs to be done about this route and solutions need to be recommended immediately.

^ **SRO Butch Pearson** commented how amazing PGHS building looks and recognized **Lin Turner** and his staff.

School Board Member Comments

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

Mr. Stevenson stated 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 year. He thank **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 the School Board approved the Core Committee's recommendation (with revision to 750 students capacity per school) to build two new elementary schools to replace Walton and Beazley Schools and renovate PGHS. The recommendation was presented to the Board of Supervisors and he encouraged people to reach out to the supervisors to support the recommendations. He questioned how the Board could help address the bus situation on Puddledock route. He also shared his opinion of Rowanty and how the technical school has turned around under the direction of **Cheryl Simmers**. He is proud of how staff has re-tooled and turned the programs around at Rowanty.

Superintendents Report

- Current enrollment August 15, 2017 - 6,110 students
- 2017-18 Student Expulsion/Suspension Report, Final 2016-17 Expulsion Statistics, Current Building Use Requests, Student/Employee Emergency Monthly Report via School Messenger
- 2016 Orientation Schedules
- Thank you email from Lori McCoy dated July 11, 2017
- VSBA Newsletter
- VSBA Alert

Upcoming Events:

- Back to School Fair August 24, 2017 @ Scott Park
- Salary Study Workshop September 9, 2017 @ 9:00 a.m.
- October VSBA Bully Prevention
- Superintendent Evaluation Workshop Sept. 14, 2017
- VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference Sept. 28, 2017
- VSBA Webinar, "Bring the Media on Board with Proactive Communication Tactics—October 4, 2017
- VSBA Education Foundation Workshop November 14, 2017
- VSBA Annual Conference November 15-17, 2017

*Next School Board Meeting
Monday, September 11, 2017
at 6:30 p.m.*

