

P.G. Super News

Renee P. Williams

Prince George County Public Schools

October 17, 2016

Important Dates:

October 24
United Nations Day

November
American Indian
Heritage Month

November 6
Standard Time Ends
(turn clocks back)



November 8
Election Day
No school for students

November 11
Veterans Day
Schools & SBO Closed

November 14
School Board Meeting

November 14-18
American Education
Week

WE SALUTE
ALL VETERANS!



School Board News

The School Board held its regular meeting on October 10, 2016.

Special Recognitions

⇒ **Pete Fisher** congratulated PGHS and recognized the Economics and Personal Finance teachers for their efforts in helping the school become a WISE Blue Star School. Schools participating in the "Working in Support of Education Financial Literacy Certification" program whose students achieve a pass rate of 85% or higher is designated a WISE Blue Star School. Thanks to EPF teachers **Takisha Ogunyemi, Michelle Crumpler, Janet Carr, Cheryl Reifer, Nelson Britt, Kendell Warren, Carrie McSherry, Cynthia Chinworth, Raven Holc,** and **Anne Roberts/Test Coordinator**, on a job well done!

⇒ **Louise Thornton** was recognized as the 2017 Region I Teacher of the Year. She will compete against 7 other school divisions on her quest to be honored as the state's Teacher of the Year on October 17, 2016.

⇒ The School Board nominated **Amir Vera** to the VSBA's 2016 Media Honor Roll. He was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his fair and balanced reporting in school division and education related topics when he worked for "*The Progress Index*".

⇒ VSBA Academy Awards were presented to **Jill Andrews** (Award of Recognition), **Reeve Ashcraft** (Award of Achievement), **Becky Kirk** (Award of Excellence), and **Renee Williams** (Award of Distinction).

⇒ **Kathy Petik** was recognized with 19 years of service in education as she retires from the school division.

Presentations

* **Doug Westmoreland/Moseley Architects**, gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing Facility Study/School Program Capacity. Observations established indicate program capacity is an issue in the 10-year planning stage for Prince George. A Core Committee should be established with community people,

Presentations (continued)

county and school personnel, school administrators and board members to work with Moseley Architects to understand enrollment projections and existing school program capacities, identify facility priorities and identify and analyze appropriate options.

* **Bertha Judge**, reported on the success of the 5th Annual Back to School Fair. Statistics from the fair included 1,055 total book bags distributed (549 elementary and 506 secondary bags), over 3,000 people in attendance, 1,360 hot dogs served by BBQ Bliss, over 1,000 waters furnished by Container First Services, 52 community resource participants, 42 vision screenings, and entertainment provided by Unity Church Band and the **Prince George Marching Band and Drill Team**. She thanked the School Division for its support in another successful event. The 6th Annual Back to School Fair will be August 24, 2017 at Scott Park.

* **Mike Nelson** welcomed the opportunity to report on behalf of fully-accredited PGHS. The school's math scores improved from 65 to 80% pass rate. Other areas also improved due to being proactive in maintaining accreditation and using tiered intervention lesson plans, academic labs, academic tutorial, and ETEH after school programs in math and English and being proactive in project based learning. Teachers are embracing project based learning, teaching real and relevant examples and students are learning and applying what they learn.

* **Ron Rhodes** provided updates on maintenance, construction, and transportation. There were a lot of weather-related problems over the weekend with the aftermath of the hurricane including normal repairs and work order completions. Over 5,100 students continue to be safely transported daily. This number will increase when the fall sports end. There are 108

School Board News

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School Board Comments

Mr. Cox indicated that McDonalds is offering teachers with a free coffee/tea on Tuesdays now through June. Just show your I.D. for a complimentary beverage. He commended staff and the PG Police Dept. for their presence during the Homecoming game and dance. He responded to Ms. Tison's comments by stating that the school division does not own the former J.E.J. Moore building and she did not have her facts correct on several of her comments.

Mr. Stevenson stated he is in his 3rd term on the School Board and he has been honored to work with former board members **Kenny and Ann Parr, Jerry Warren and Patrick Bingham**. He alluded to Ms. Tison's comments stating that he's "not sure where she got her facts from but they were untrue." **Mr. Rhodes** is doing an excellent job holding the maintenance, construction and transportation departments together, including all the facilities and working with Moseley Architects to identify needs for the future, and we need volunteers to serve on the Core Committee.

Mr. Foster stated that a lot of good things are happening with PG Schools. He responded to Ms. Wiseman's comments by stating that Central Office staff and PGHS administrators have had meaningful and informative conversations with students since last Monday over issues and perceived interpretations.

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routes of which 48% are at capacity (51 elementary/57 secondary buses). There are 56 bus drivers, 8 SPED drivers, 1 Maggie Walker Governor School driver, 7 car drivers and 1 combination driver. The department also services 9 schools outside the district and the division has 6 reliable substitute drivers. "The Transportation Department has great folks who work with the division every day and we appreciate our drivers!"

Public Comment

^ **Alexandria Wiseman** commented on a controversy at PGHS during homecoming/spirit week. During Patriotic Monday some students did not feel comfortable with clothing that others wore. Students did not think faculty did enough to handle the concerns and anxieties of students. She wants to know how the school can be made safer for all students.

^ **Mary Jo Tison** voiced several concerns extending from bell schedule at PGHS, lunch times, taking classes at both Clements and PGHS, school division wasting money on renovating the old J.E.J. Moore building, purchase of the transportation office and upkeep of grounds and storm water at J.E.J. Moore Middle School.

Action Items

- ◆ Approved 2015-16 Gifted Advisory Board Report and Annual Report and End of Year Report
- ◆ Approved removal of Sick Leave Bank Provision in Policy GCBD-R
- ◆ Approved revised Policy GCBD-R (VRS Plan 1 and VRS Plan 2 Employees)
- ◆ Approved revised Policy GCBD-R (VRS Hybrid Employees)
- ◆ Approved 2015-16 Final Budget Adjustments

Discussion Items

- * School Staffing Agreements
- * Fiscal Year 2015-16 School Activity Fund Audit Reports
- * Fiscal Year 2015-16 PTO and Booster Club Audits
- * 2016-17 Monthly Budget Update
- * Update on FY 2016 Budget

Superintendent's Report

- Active Enrollment Summary October 5, 2016;
- 2016-17 Reports for Bus and School Suspensions and Reinstatements; Building Use Requests and School Messenger
- VDOE 81% Schools Fully Accredited
- Disability History and Awareness Month
- National School Lunch Week Oct. 10-14, 2016
- National School Bus Safety Week Oct. 17-21, 2016
- Read Aloud to a Child Week Oct. 23-29, 2016
- VSBA Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- VSBA Hot Topic—Leading the Digital Transformation in Schools—Chesterfield—October 18, 2016
- VSBA Education Foundation Workshop, Williamsburg—November 15, 2016
- 2016 VSBA Annual Conference and Clerk's Conference, Williamsburg—Nov. 16-18, 2016
- VSBA School Budget & Finance 101 Webinar Part 1 and Part 2—November 29-30, 2016
- VSBA Webinar—Changes to the State of Economic Interest—December 6, 2016
- NSBA Annual Conference, Denver—March 25-27, 2017

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**The next School Board Meeting is  
Monday, November 14, 2016  
at 6:30 p.m.**

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School Board Comments continued:

Mr. Foster recognized **William Robertson** and **Officer John Pearson** in the audience for their support to the board and attending the meeting. He indicated the school division lost some influential people over the week: **Ed Eakin**/former School Board member, **Mary Coleman**/former teacher and guidance counselor at Walton & Woman's Club and Library advocate, and **Don Schraner**/former teacher and guidance counselor at J.E.J. Moore Middle School. "These former employees moved education forward and influenced many people with their leadership, direction and guidance". He also thanked everyone for cards, calls, and prayers extended to his family during their recent loss. Lastly he responded that this board has always been and continues to be transparent. Comments about any wrong doing by a board member are false.