

School Board Meeting/FY2018

Public Hearing

November 8, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leah Paladino, Chairperson; Harry Daniel, Vice-Chairperson; Sharon Mack, Member; Rodney Kibler, Member; Jason Collier, Member; Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent; Jennifer Shepherd, Clerk

MEMBER PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: N/A

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: N/A

The closed session meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm in the Greene County School Board Office conference room.

Mr. Daniel made a motion to move into closed session; Mr. Collier seconded, motion carried.

Ms. Paladino announced that we would reconvene into open session in the County Meeting Room at 7:05 p.m.

Board certified by roll call vote that only such matters identified in the motion were heard or discussed.
All certified.

Ms. Mack made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation during closed session regarding supplements for 2017-2018. Mr. Collier seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Mack made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Daniel seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Mrs. Paladino and Dr. Whitmarsh presented a recognition certificates to Cory Houchens and Brice Norford for winning 1st Place in the FFA State Tractor Troubleshooting Competition.

Mrs. Paladino and Dr. Whitmarsh presented recognition certificates to William Monroe High School Golf Team for winning Class 3 Region B Championship. Team Members: Hannah Woodson, Parker Woolford (not present), Miles Lesko, Hayden Gibson, Grant Woodson & Shane Coleman. Coach: Ron Morris. There were also some individual achievements. Hannah Woodson 3rd All Region and Parker Woolford 6th All Region.

Mrs. Paladino stated public comments could be made on matters not below on the agenda. There were no sign-ups and no public comments given.

Mrs. Paladino opened the public hearing on the FY2018 budget. No comments were given. Mrs. Paladino closed the public hearing on the FY2018 budget.

Ms. Kristie Spencer presented action item # 11-408 County Lease Purchase for Buses & Cars Resolution for Board action by roll call vote. All certified.

Mr. Bryan Huber, presented information item # 11-409 Calendar. He presented the proposed school calendars for the next 2 school years, 2018-19 & 2019-20. Mr. Huber asked the calendar committee members present at the meeting to stand and be recognized for their effort. Ms. Carroll, Ms. Hernandez & Ms. Field. Our primary focus was to create a calendar that met our students needs but that also responded to a lot of the feedback that we received over the past couple of years about professional planning time. We also needed to accomplish a somewhat condensed calendar to allow time for the construction projects over the summer months. The calendars are very similar in nature. They include 180 school days as well as 15 professional days. We ended our first semester at the holiday break. Professional days were built in around

the 2nd & 3rd nine weeks.

Mr. Daniel asked about both years starting on the same date but they end on different dates a few days apart. Mr. Huber advised that this was because of the way that the holiday break fell. He also asked about the graduation dates not being included on the calendar. Mr. Huber advised that they've decided not to include those in order to give them flexibility with planning.

Mrs. Paladino commented that "if they like, then I like it".

Mr. Collier asked if when it was presented to the faculty if they liked it. Ms. Hernandez advised that these final versions have not been shared with the faculty but the different versions throughout the process were and they were happy with what was being accomplished.

Mr. Collier shared his appreciation for the calendar committee. Mr. Daniel added that he likes that it was 2 years in advance.

Mrs. Paladino said that the only thing she was worried about was the construction project but if need be we can always make a motion to make adjustments.

Ms. Kristie Spencer presented information item # 11-410 School Funds Audit Report. Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates performed our annual School Activities Fund Audit. They found no deficiencies in the accounting, no material weaknesses and no instances of non-compliance. They would like to see more segregation of duties but understand that with the limited staff that we have that the cost of that would not off-set. We do have 2 accounts which are not covered by the Virginia Security of Public Deposits Act. Both accounts are at the Bank of America in Ruckersville. This is an action that the bank has to take and we will be working very closely with them, in person, to make sure that this happens. There was also a discussion regarding an account which had a small fee associated with it. This is not out of compliance but we are looking to change this account as well. There was also an issue with a transfer out of a fund raising account which needed to have the funds transferred instead of a direct withdraw from that account. There was an issue with the High School receipting procedure and that has been addressed with the bookkeepers to achieve a satisfactory process to resolve this issue. Ms. Spencer added that it was a great audit overall and that is a testament to the attention to detail of our bookkeepers.

Mrs. Paladino stated that there are a lot of hands in this so it is a good job. Dr. Kibler added that it sounds like they are keeping it straight.

Ms. Mack asked about the 2 accounts which were not covered by the Virginia Security of Public Deposits Act. Ms. Spencer advised that since we have a governmental tax id that the bank is supposed to go in a register that account. It will just require a face-to-face. Ms. Mack asked if that is something that we asked them last year and Ms. Spencer confirmed.

Mr. Dale Herring presented information item # 11-411 Technology Update. His presentation included upgrades to the infrastructure, hardware, and management software as well as the various items provided to meet the Innovate 2021 initiative. He spoke of "today's environment" in the education of our students and how it pertains to technology. He also gave a list of "what's next" items which included flipped classrooms, 7x24 access to instruction and resources, virtual instruction, open environment and broadband access. Mr. Herring gave a presentation regarding the definition of broadband and the initiative that the County is taking on to provide broadband access to its citizens.

Mr. Daniel asked for the "future" is it a five-year plan? Did you want to accomplish most of that in the next five to ten years? Mr. Herring responded that he would like to get it done in the next year. But it's going to be a five to ten-year plan. We are undergoing a security audit and to complete that would be a five to six-year plan. Wiring in the buildings is an ongoing process and the facility upgrades will take care of a lot of that for us. The Broadband coverage across the county is going to be a long process.

Mr. Daniel asked for the 24/7 access, how does that all get downloaded? Isn't that a huge job for the teachers? Mr. Herring advised "yes & no". It is a huge undertaking but that undertaking should not be on

the teacher. It should be on the person who inputs the technology. You can set it up to record a meeting, lesson plan or a lecture and then with the push of a button it's uploaded to some type of an account like "You Tube". Teachers can use google now as a free resource to provide "Virtual Hours". Teachers also do some types of discussion through "Twitter".

Mrs. Paladino asked about the fiber that we are currently leasing for five years which we will purchase. Is there any concern regarding maintenance issues or when it becomes ours? Mr. Herring advised we pay maintenance each year. It is cheaper for us in the long run plus we have no restrictions. The expensive part is running the conduit. There are companies who want us to lease them the extra space in our conduit. We cannot look into that until we own the lines.

Mr. Daniel asked where does this leave one of the families on Dunne's Shop Road or one of the secondary roads that doesn't have the access. How is that going to work? Mr. Herring advised that the goal is to make sure that everyone in the county has the ability to have 25 mbps access. That's a long term goal. Some of the things we are looking into is a "dig once policy" which means if you are doing construction you lay the conduit at that time to save costs. We need to encourage the developer to lay the conduit at that time. There is a meeting to discuss with the electrical coops to see what they plan on doing. We are working with a group called CIT (Computer Innovative Technologies) which is a state funded agency which works with rural localities to bring broadband to the community. There is a lot of crossover between the divisions of the County. In order for us to be successful we have to be looking out for that family. If we can't provide the access to everyone then we can't do those projects.

Dr. Whitmarsh presented item #11-412, Superintendent's Update. Dr. Whitmarsh offered congratulations to Leah Paladino & Jason Collier on their re-election to the school board. Thank you for your willingness to serve for another four years.

Dr. Whitmarsh advised that the most critical topic in education in Virginia this year is teacher shortage. In 2008/2009 there were about 719,000 students enrolled in teacher preparation programs across our country. In 2013/2014 there were only 465,000 enrolled which is about a 35% decrease. Nationally there aren't enough teachers coming out of schools. In 2013/2014 there were almost 4,000 program completers in Virginia. If all of them had stayed in the State, and we know that they didn't (Liberty is the biggest school and many of these were online) there wouldn't be enough teachers to fill the vacancies in Fairfax, Loudoun & Prince William. I attended the Governor's Summit and every meeting I go to this issue is top on the list. At the Governor's Summit we spoke about long term and short term items that can be done to mitigate the situation. These short term items include changes to licensure requirements, providing more flexibility at the local level, changing higher education programs from the required five-year in Virginia to a four-year, providing scholarship or loan programs for those going into education, and then focusing on salaries. As we start our budget process it's important to keep those things in mind. Salaries are going to be an important topic going forward. I'm sure this will be a topic at the VSBA Conference next week for those that are attending.

Dr. Whitmarsh reported a facilities update, since our last meeting we've been meeting with administration, school & nutrition personnel to look at space utilization and needs for final construction specifications. The initial site survey with responses from the County and there has been a little bit of back and forth on that until we get things solidified. VMDO is reviewing templates for construction management RFP's and we'll have those in the coming weeks. We are doing some hazardous material testing coming up in the next couple weeks. Things are moving along very nicely. Ms. Spencer is doing a fantastic job leading that process.

Dr. Whitmarsh invited everyone to our Veteran's Day Celebration on Friday, 11/10. Ruckersville is at 9:00 am and Nathanael Greene is at 9:15 am. There will be fantastic tributes to those who have served our country.

Mr. Collier advised that they just had their last of this semester PREP meeting. It was an interesting meeting. Albemarle County is trying to rake us over the coals over a lease agreement. That has not ended. I have not finished saying all I have to say about that. The program is going well for our group. We got hit with a State Audit. They have not done one in Special Programs since 1978. Found out one of the reasons for that is someone is taking advantage of things. As far as the parameters and things we are actually doing things by the book and things to benefit our students to the best of our abilities and to make the best decisions and help the maximum that we can. I got to visit the Ivy Creek facility. I had a very nice visit there. Oh and thank you guys again, calendar folks.

Ms. Mack offered congratulations to Leah & Jason for being re-elected to the school board. Congrats to the Golf Team. That's awesome. Also, Mr. Houchens & Norford for their accomplishments with the FFA. That's fantastic news. Thank you to the calendar committee for all you've done. I know that's not easy trying to make everyone happy. Thank you for spending the time and coming up with what looks to be a good product. I appreciate that.

Dr. Kibler spoke to Dale and said "I don't understand what you're talking about most of the time but I've had a brainstorm and I think I want to start an anytime school franchise. We'll talk after the meeting."

Mr. Daniel advised that the one thing that struck him with the technology was the voice mail to email. That's pretty cool. That has to save a lot of interruptions. To me that really stood out. Congratulations on the audit. Good job to all the bookkeepers and good job to all the schools and administrators for keeping track of all of the monies. That's a big responsibility.

Mrs. Paladino said "Great job everybody and Happy Thanksgiving."

Mrs. Paladino adjourned the meeting at 8:06pm.

Chairman

Clerk