

ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Essex County School Board met on November 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Essex County School Board Office.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Raymond Whitaker, Chairman of the Board.

ROLL CALL

The Roll Call was done by the Clerk, Sharon Saunders.

Raymond Whitaker, Board Chair
Keren Ellis, Vice Board Chair
Liz Martin, Board Member
Denise Hammond, Board Member
Larry Lenz, Board Member
Sharon Saunders, Board Clerk
Dr. Scott A. Burckbuchler, Superintendent
Dr. Lori Watrous, Asst. Superintendent
Nan Alga, Director of Human Resources
Jon Barnes, Director of Technology
Mary Coggin, Payroll Specialist
Annette Thompson, Accounting Director

Community Members
ECPS Faculty/Staff Members &
Students

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Chairman, Raymond Whitaker.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were given by Jacob Plummer regarding the sign-in procedure for making public comments at school board meetings. Mr. Plummer also expressed his concern regarding an article published in the Rappahannock Times addressing a student discipline case.

Public comments were given by James Calvin Haile, Jr. regarding the student discipline case.

School Board Vice-Chair, Keren Ellis, responded by stating that the Essex County School Board follows every law mandated by the Constitution of the United States, and the Board is unable to speak about any specifics of individual student discipline cases in order to protect the privacy of minors. She added that the facts are presented to the School Board and their decision is based upon the facts.

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Recognitions

Tappahannock Elementary Students formed a "Student Council Association". The elected school officers; Madison Syster, Melody Turner and Vicky Zang received the Superintendent's Star Student Award and backpack. The sponsoring teachers of the association, Ms. Diondra Mercer and Ms. Hailey Mitchell, received the Superintendent's Starfish Award and pin.

Students at Essex Intermediate School have voluntarily organized an Anti-Bullying Committee. The members; Micheala Brown (Founding Member), Kristen Freeman (Founding Officer), David Rainier (Founding Officer), Deana Stokes (Founding Officer), Chantice Fortune, Tieonna Holmes, Precious Johnson, Kayleigh Madison, Tiffany Olbert and Legend van den Ende received the Superintendent's Star Student Award and backpack. Mrs. Erin Caracappa, the sponsoring teacher, received the Superintendent's Starfish Award and pin.

Larkin Gross was recognized for his outstanding achievements in golf. Larkin is the VHSL Single A Golf Championship top player AND he is the VHSL Single A All-State Golf Team Player. Larkin received the Superintendent's Star Student Award and backpack.

Carter Morgan was recognized for placing 4th for the VHSL Single A Golf Championship AND VHSL Single A All-State Golf Team Player. Carter received the Superintendent's Star Student Award and backpack.

James Thorne, Essex Golf Coach, was recognized, in absentia, for his guidance and efforts to teach skills needed to be successful in the game of soccer and Hobbs Hole Golf Course for their support of Essex High School Golf program and home course host.

Essex High School PTSO leaders are responsible for the new sign at the entrance of the softball field. They provided the financial assistance and the awesome leadership for replacing the sign. Receiving the Superintendent's Starfish Award and pin were Mrs. Robin Harmon, Mrs. Hope Brooks, and Mrs. Katherine Newman.

Ann Thomas and Fontella Calhoun-Reynolds received the Superintendent's Starfish and pin for their efforts to raise school spirit during the recent Homecoming activities.

Each year the Virginia School Boards Association recognizes School Board Members, School Board clerks and superintendents in becoming further educated in boardmanship skills and curriculum issues through attendance at Academy programs.

The following awards were presented:

Certificate of Recognition - Mr. Lawrence Lenz and Ms. Sharon Saunders
Award of Achievement - Dr. Scott Burckbuchler, Mrs. Denise Hammond, and Mrs. Elizabeth Martin
Award of Excellence - Ms. Keren Ellis
Award of Distinction - Mr. Raymond Whitaker

Board Chair, Raymond Whitaker, applauded the academic and athletic achievements of everyone.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Liz Martin, seconded by Keren Ellis, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes
Approval of Financial Report & Monthly Claims
Approval of Use of Facilities Requests
Approval of Fund Raising Requests
Approval of Field Trip Requests

ACTION ITEMS

ECPS Policy Manual Updates for Sections A,B,C, and D

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Liz Martin, the Board approved the policies presented by Nan Alga, Human Resources Director, with the following amendments:

Policy AE - delete "shall" from the first paragraph.
Policy BCEA should be stricken.
Policy BDDH-R - delete "on specific agenda items" from the paragraph "Signing Up to Speak".
Policy BDDF - delete the footnote.
Policy DK - pull for the superintendent's review and present at next month's meeting.

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Denise Hammond the Board approved Policy IGBC as presented by Nan Alga, Human Resources Director, with the following amendment:

Remove “to the extent practicable” on page 3, bullet 3.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Schools’ Parent Engagement/Communications Plans

Tappahannock Elementary School Principal, Angela Gross, assisted by Valerie Taylor (Teacher), presented the Parent Engagement/Communications Plans for T.E.S.

Essex Intermediate School Principal, Patrick DiSpirito, assisted by Patrick Doyle (Assistant Principal), Tiffany Nash (Guidance Counselor), Amber Sydnor (Teacher) and Ruth Tobey (Literacy Coach), presented the Parent Engagement/Communications Plans for E.I.S.

Essex High School Principal, Andrew Hipple, assisted by Vershawn Eley (Guidance Counselor), presented the Parent Engagement/Communications Plans for E.H.S.

2015-216 Fiscal Budget Calendar Development Plan

Superintendent Burckbuchler presented the 2015-2016 Fiscal Budget Calendar Development Plan which included the Budget Calendar Cycle and the Budget Calendar Narrative. Board members would like to be involved earlier in the budget process, schedule an earlier work session, and an additional work session after February 9, 2015 before the Superintendent’s Public Forum.

School Board’s Report

Chairman Whitaker shared that he had met with the chairman of the Board of Supervisors and had a fruitful meeting. They didn’t discuss any specific issues but just had healthy dialogue. He looks forward to working with the Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Martin had questions about the Capital Plan. Dr. Burchbuchler stated that the Board will receive a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) draft.

Mrs. Hammond questioned if ECPS has a plan for SOL tests when the State eliminates certain tests. Dr. Watrous will present the Alternative Assessment Plan at the December meeting.

Mr. Whitaker questioned when the Board will be given a Benchmark update. The update is scheduled for the December meeting.

Mrs. Martin would like a PBIS update. Mrs. Tara Roane, Director of Special Education and Student Services, is collecting data and will report at a future meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Larry Lenz, the Board entered Executive Session for Personnel Matters.

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Larry Lenz, seconded by Liz Martin, the Board returned to Open Session.

CLOSE OF MEETING

On a motion by Larry Lenz, seconded by Liz Martin, the Board adjourned.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, the Essex County School Board had convened a closed meeting of this date pursuant to an affirmative record vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Essex County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (if) only public business matters lawfully exempted from closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

Clerk/Deputy Clerk (or Supt.) of Essex County

On motion by Liz Martin, seconded by Larry Lenz, the Board accepted the personnel agenda with amendments as presented by Nan Alga, Human Resources Director.

VOTE

AYES: 5

NAY: 0

Chairman

Clerk/Deputy Clerk (or Supt.) Of Essex County