

## **ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

The Essex County School Board met in the Essex County School Board Room on November 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Carl Slaughter  
Larry Bullis  
Keren Ellis  
Kim Hodges, Clerk  
Joseph Melvin, Superintendent  
Stephanie Bassett, Assistant Superintendent  
Darnell Carter, Principal EHS  
Angela Gross, Assistant Principal EHS  
Andrea Roane, Principal EIS  
Robert Lukacevic, Assistant Principal EIS  
Fontella Calhoun, Assistant Principal TES  
Wayne Lewis, Director of Student Services  
Annette Thompson  
Ron Largett  
Sharon Saunders  
Antoinette Jones  
Erin Kelley  
Denise Hammond  
David Hammond  
Ellen Baker  
Russell Smith  
Doris Martin  
Sylvia Thornton  
Kim Rector  
Rusty Carlton  
Jocab Plummer  
Tony Shelton  
Deanne Compton

### **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

The following was added to the agenda:  
Nonqualified School Construction Bond Resolution

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Bullis, the Board approved the consent agenda.

**ADOPT THE 2012-13 BUDGET CALENDAR**

Dr. Melvin recommended the Board adopt the 2012-2013 budget calendar (see attached).

On a motion by Mr. Bullis, seconded by Mrs. Ellis, the Board adopted the 2012-2013 budget calendar.

**APPOINT BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board appointed Larry Bullis and Ray Whitaker to the budget subcommittee.

**APPROVE NONQUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND RESOLUTION**

Dr. Melvin recommended the Board approve the resolution to obtain a proposal for financing a portion of the costs of the design, acquisition, construction, renovation and equipping of a new high school that's not finance by the County's qualified school construction bonds (see attached resolution).

On a motion by Mr. Bullis, seconded by Mrs. Ellis, the Board approved the above resolution.

**TES & EIS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT**

This was tabled until the December board meeting.

**OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Melvin informed the Board of the activities that took on professional development day October 27, 2011.

**GOOD NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS (TES)**

Mrs. Calhoun reported on the partnership with Food Lion on Math night at Tappahannock Elementary School. Each student and staff received a gift from Food Lion.

Mr. Carter informed the Board that Essex High School was selected by Samsung to receive \$4000.00 worth of technology equipment to be used to compete in a program they sponsor.

**VSBA CONFERENCE**

Mrs. Hodges informed the Board of the agenda for the annual VSBA Convention.

Ms. Saunders presented the certificate and pins awarded to the Board and Clerks from VSBA for their participation and various workshops and conferences.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Melvin reported that a total of 198 students are attending the afterschool programs held at Tappahannock Elementary and Essex Intermediate Schools.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. David Hammond voiced his concern about policies not be upheld.

Mrs. Deanne Compton expressed her disappointment with the decision the Board made on a recent discipline ruling of two students.

Mrs. Doris Martin explained that her son was expelled from school for processing drugs. She wants justice for all students.

Mr. Russell Smith, representing the NAACP, asked that the Board uphold justice and do the right thing.

Mrs. Ellen Baker explained that in the past her son was expelled and sent to alternative school. She mentioned that the policy has not changed from 2007 to present and students have to sign an honorary code. She feels an injustice has been made and needs to be corrected.

Mr. Jacob Plummer, Chairman of the Democratic Tea Party of Essex County, stated that schools are supposed to be a drug free zone. He stated that the decision was a serious matter and needs to be look into.

Mr. Bullis thanked the public for voicing their concerned. He mentioned that the Code of Conduct handbook has 17 offenses for drug/alcohol and that a review committee is the first process. He did state that the Board needs to review the current policy.

Mrs. Kim Rector asked if the policy will change to fit the latest decision by the Board.

Mr. Rusty Carlton asked for clarification on what cases are brought before the Board.

Mr. Bullis stated that there are certain procedures which include an appeal process. However, individual cases cannot be discussed.

Mr. Carlton asked when the policy would be reviewed.

Dr. Melvin stated that Code of Conduct will be reviewed by a committee which would include parents, law enforcement and administrators. He mentioned that the policy would be brought up to state code.

Ms. Sylvia Thornton stated that the Board and administrator's children should receive the same punishment as the rest of the students.

Mrs. Doris Martin asked if first time offenders are treated differently.

Mr. Bullis stated that the Board couldn't talk about specific cases.

Mrs. Denise Hammond acknowledged the fact that the Board could not discuss individual cases. However, she asked what type of committee would be established and if the recent decision would change.

Mr. Bullis stated that the Board would have discussions and look at the Code of Virginia to see what it allows.

Mr. Tony Shelton stated that the code for this year is already in place and cannot be change but the community wants justice now.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Bullis, the Board went into closed session for the following purposes:

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 2.1-344.11  | Personnel       |
| 2.1-344.12  | Pupil Personnel |
| 2.1-344.7.1 | Legal           |

#### **REGULAR SESSION**

On a motion by Mr. Bullis and seconded by Mrs. Ellis, the Board returned to regular session.

#### **CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Essex County School Board had convened a closed meeting of this 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, (i) 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.

**VOTE**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>AYES</b> | 3 |
| <b>NAY</b>  | 0 |

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

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Bullis, the Board approved Don Fike as Clerk of the Works.

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Bullis, the Board approved Debra Emery, Charlie Goad, Dana Hogan, Maryemma Zayas and Charles LaFuire as Odyssey of the Mind coaches.

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Bullis, the Board approved placing students #11142011-IIB-1 & #11142011-IIB-2 in alternative school in compliance with the Code of Virginia for up to 45 days or until documented proof of enrollment in an appropriate counseling program as stated in the Essex County Code of Conduct handbook.

On a motion by Mr. Bullis, seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the home schooled request to student 11142011-IID-1.

On a motion by Mr. Bullis, seconded by Mrs. Ellis, the Board approved establishing a committee to look at the current code of conduct policy.

On a motion by Mr. Bullis, seconded by Mrs. Ellis, the Board approved the superintendent contacting VSBA's legal counsel to review the interpretation of current policies.

The meeting will continue on November 17<sup>th</sup> in Williamsburg, VA.