

ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Essex County School Board met on August 11, 2014 for Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. at the Essex County School Board Office and Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. at the Essex High School Auditorium.

CALL TO ORDER

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Larry Lenz, seconded by Denise Hammond, the Board went into Executive Session for the purpose of Legal Matters.

OPEN SESSION

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

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

Dr. Anthony Walker, Exec. Director of Student Services

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Whitaker stated that Agenda Item 3-C would be moved down on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Denise Hammond, 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

On a motion by Denise Hammond, seconded by Larry Lenz, the Board approved the following policies as presented by Nan Alga, Human Resources Director:

JFC-R – Standards of Student Conduct – Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-277.07 and 22.1-277.08 by HB 198/HB752/SB 441. (Review of #20 Communication Devices)

GBA/JFHA – Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation -- Policy updated to reflect Compliance Officers

JB -- Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination -- Policy updated to reflect Compliance Officers

JFHA (GBA) -- Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation -- Policy updated to reflect Compliance Officers

Board Member, Liz Martin, recommended that the superintendent reports to the Board about the recent changes made by legislation regarding Drug Free and Gun Free Schools, and the impact these changes will have on Essex County Public Schools.

Summer High School Graduation

During the Summer Graduation Ceremony, Essex High School Principal, Andrew Hipple, assisted by Division Superintendent, Dr. Scott A. Burckbuchler, presented a high school diploma to Kelondra Croxton. Board Chair, Ray Whitaker, gave congratulatory remarks and Board members congratulated Kelondra on her accomplishments.

Informational Presentations

Chairman Whitaker stated that the Board remains engaged in keeping the public aware of what is going on in our school system. An attempt will be made at tonight's meeting to address the concerns and questions of the community.

Superintendent Burckbuchler encouraged everyone to take an ECPS Directory and feel free to contact administrators and staff for any questions or concerns. He asked Administrators, Dr. Anthony Walker, Dr. Lori Watrous and Mrs. Nan Alga to share information in their areas of expertise.

Dr. Anthony Walker, Executive Director of Student Services, presented information on Safety Plans, Special Education, Discipline and Guidance.

Dr. Lori Watrous, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Federal Programs, presented information on Teacher Evaluation, Professional Development, Remediation and Title Grants.

Mrs. Nan Alga, Director of Human Resources, presented information on employee recruitment and retention.

Dr. Scott Burckbuchler, Superintendent, thanked Dr. Walker, Dr. Watrous and Mrs. Alga for their presentations, and their hard work in educating our students. Dr. Burckbuchler stated that he sees great potential in our school division, but feels that we are not living up to that potential. He is impressed with our students, the commitment of our faculty/staff, and believes in the success of all students. The community is needed to partner with us, focusing on positivity, team work, and self-improvement. There is no quick fix in obtaining the vision of excellence. He added that the superintendent is responsible for the daily operations of the schools. He reports directly to the School Board and is also accountable for following state and federal requirements. The superintendent recommends actions to the Board for approval, but this does not replace School Board prerogative. He feels that his first responsibility is to advocate for all students, seeking improvement in all areas. Dr. Burckbuchler's statements continued as he addressed the outsourcing of the custodial staff. He stated that some difficult decisions had to be made regarding the staff. The outsourcing of the custodial staff saved the school division \$75,000.00, which will be used to purchase technology and text books. Dr. Burckbuchler is proud of our School Board and Board of Supervisors, and thanked them for their hard work and support, allowing all contractual employees to be given a raise.

Chairman Whitaker thanked all of the presenters for the information shared. He stated, "Essex County School Board is not a Board of our own, but your Board, and here to serve and meet the needs of our students". He invited the partnership of the community as we move forward to educate the students of Essex County, and invites the public to inform the Board if they felt that their questions have not been answered. He also recognized the changes on our website and commended Gina Powell, Instruction

Technology Resource Teacher, for her hard work. Mr. Whitaker encouraged the public to utilize the website for information on our school system.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were made by Jacob Plummer regarding what he perceived as a failed attempt of the School Board to address the questions and concerns of the community. He stated that the community is not going away, but will continue to meet as a community, and be present at public meetings. Mr. Plummer also had interest in the areas of new teachers, Student Code of Conduct, Board Policies, Exit Interviews and the Custodial Service Contract.

Vice Chair, Keren Ellis, stated that policies are posted on the agenda, for public review, one month prior to School Board approval. Public input is welcomed during this time.

Chairman Whitaker added that all policies are vetted by lawyers.

ACTION ITEMS

ECPS Vision, Mission, and Goals

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Larry Lenz, the Board approved the ECPS Vision, Mission and Goals as presented by Superintendent Burckbuchler.

The Superintendent is recommending a revised of Vision, Mission, and Goal statements and motto. These statements are largely the same as the current statements with some word changes. A survey was constructed and a *Superintendent's Public Forum* was held on 8/4/14 to solicit input. Based on input, changes have been made to the original draft.

Student Code of Conduct

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Larry Lenz, the Board approved the 2014-2015 Student Code of Conduct as presented by Dr. Anthony Walker, Executive Director of Student Services, pending final approval by legal counsel.

Chairman Whitaker suggests that the Student Code of Conduct be submitted for Board review one month prior to approval.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

School Board's Report

Board Member, Liz Martin, thanked everyone for their attendance and encouraged them to come to future meetings. She recognized the importance of dialogue and encourages feedback. She hopes that the questions and concerns of the public were answered sufficiently; we will move beyond adversity and help to make a better School Board.

Board Member, Denise Hammond, was happy to see everyone return to the meeting. She stated, "The School Board oversees the policies, but administration oversees the day to day operation of our schools". Mrs. Hammond also highlighted the advantages of having

access to the Board agenda electronically which enables access to attachments. She encouraged continuous dialogue with Board Members if there are questions or concerns, and added that the Board has attempted to address the public's concerns.

Chairman Whitaker stated that the Board met on July 29, 2014 to discuss the public's concerns. He added that the Board is not infallible, striving to get better, and invites input to help in being more effective.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Larry Lenz, the Board returned to Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel.

REGULAR SESSION

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

CLOSE OF MEETING

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Denise Hammond, 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 a motion by Keren Martin, seconded by Larry Lenz, the Board approved the Personnel Agenda as presented by Mrs. Nan Alga, Human Resources Director.

VOTE

AYES: 2

NAY: 1

ABSENTIA: 1

On a motion by Liz Martin, seconded by Keren Ellis, the Board approved the September 8, 2014 School Board meeting to be changed to September 15, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Essex County School Board Office at 7:00 p.m.

VOTE

AYES: 4

NAY: 0

Chairman

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