

## **ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

The Essex County School Board met on September 15, 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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Raymond Whitaker responded to questions that were raised during public comments at the August 15<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting. The areas of concern included new teachers, teachers with less than 5 years of teaching experience, policies, Student Code of Conduct, exit interviews and service contract bids.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments were made by Reverend Dr. Ronnie Sidney regarding the absence of African-American principals in the schools. He stated that at the closing of the old Essex High School and opening of the new schools, a promise was made that an African-American would always serve as principal of Essex Intermediate School. He and other community members feel that the promise should be enforced in at least one of the schools. He added, "Justice delayed is justice denied".

Public comments were given by Bethsaida White (President of the Rappahannock Industrial Alumni Association), supported by Patricia Holmes and Dr. Griselda Bayton,

regarding the use of Essex Intermediate School for the RIA Annual Scholarship Banquet. They were dissatisfied with the condition of the cafeteria and requested a refund for the fees that were paid.

### **CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The Superintendent's Star Student Award and Backpacks were awarded to Britney Gray (Grade 10), Destinie Gray (Grade 8) and Jordan Yocum (Grade 7) for being selected to perform with the Moscow Ballet at George Mason University in their production of the The Nutcracker.

Certificates were awarded to Marjorie Brown (Special Education Teacher) for receiving a Master's Degree and Angela Barley (Administrative Assistant) for receiving a Bachelor's Degree.

The Superintendent's Starfish Award and Pins were awarded to transportation personnel. They were recognized for all of their hard work and dedication. Board Chair, Raymond Whitaker, commended the drivers for their enthusiasm that he observed on the first days of school.

Superintendent, Dr. Scott A. Burckbuchler, thanked and commended everyone involved for a wonderful and awesome opening of school. He feels positive energy and is excited about the year, looking forward to working together, as we seek excellence. He also thanked the School Board for their hard work and support. Enrollment is at 1,496 which is close to last year's enrollment. An official report will be given at the end of September. Dr. Burckbuchler also invited everyone to attend the dedication ceremony that will be held at Essex High School on October 18, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. He stated that the technology integration packet has been placed in the elementary and intermediate schools. This is the first year for the free breakfast program and student participation is encouraged. The superintendent asked Susan Kellar, Paraprofessional, to share a teacher's license from 1890 that was found on her property. The license had been issued to a teacher in Essex. Mrs. Kellar presented the framed document to Dr. Burckbuchler to be displayed in the School Board Office. Recognition and thanks were also extended to a community member for donating a banner to the football.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Liz Martin, 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

Board Chair, Mr. Whitaker, commented that he would like the financial report given in the "old" format.

Board Member, Mr. Lenz, commented that he thought it was a good idea to have a program in honor of Veteran's Day and invited everyone to attend this event that will be presented by the students of Tappahannock Elementary School and be held at Essex High School Auditorium.

The Board members held a brief discussion regarding fund raisers and want to review possibilities for reducing them.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**ECPS Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy**-On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Larry Lenz, the Board voted to review the policy and delay vote until the next Board meeting.

**ECPS Policy Manual Update-Policy EEA-Student Transportation Services**-On a motion by Denise Hammond, seconded by Larry Lenz, the Board voted to delay vote for one month to allow public input.

**ECPS Policy Manual Update-Policy IGBF and IGBF-R-Limited English Proficient Students, Native and Heritage Speakers**-On a motion by Larry Lenz, seconded by Keren Ellis, the Board approved the update on Policy IGBF and IGBF-R as presented by Lori Watrous, Assistant Superintendent. The revised policy provides clarification with regard to programs, assessments, and notification for limited English proficient students, native and heritage speakers and also provides guidelines to earn world language credit for native and heritage speakers other than English who demonstrate proficiency in the native or heritage language.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Read and Roll Program**-Parks and Recreation Director, Fred Birchett, assisted by ECPS Literacy Coach, Ruth Tobey, introduced the Read and Roll Program. Essex County

Department of Parks and Recreation, Essex County Public Library, and Essex County Public Schools have created a partnership to implement the program. The Read and Roll Program awards fee waivers for programs offered by the Essex County Department of Parks and Recreation. The program is designed to improve overall reading skills for students in Tappahannock Elementary School and Essex Intermediate Schools. The program also requires parent participation.

**Mathematics Update-** ECPS's Math Coach, Brian Risley, informed School Board members of our current situation and what corrective action the Division is taking to improve our students' performance in Mathematics. Diondra Mercer (T.E.S. Teacher), Nancy McKinley (E.I.S. Teacher) and James Moore (E.H.S. Teacher) gave highlights on their respective schools.

**School Board's Report-**Denise Hammond commended the positive atmosphere at the schools. She would like more information on the breakfast program and how we might better educate parents on menu items. Child Nutrition Supervisor, Susan McGowan, answered specific questions concerning the program, and advised looking at the website or contacting her to get further information. Accommodations can be made for anyone without computer accessibility.

Board Chair, Raymond Whitaker, encouraged anyone with questions and/or concerns not to wait a whole month for Board meetings, but to contact schools, administrators or Board members.

Liz Martin would like an update on the Backpack Buddy Program.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Liz Martin, the Board entered Executive Session for Personnel Matters and Student Matters.

### **REGULAR SESSION**

On a motion by Denise Hammond, seconded by Keren Ellis, the Board returned to Regular Session.

### **CLOSE OF MEETING**

On a motion by Denise Hammond, seconded by Larry Lenz, 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.

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

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

**VOTE**

**AYES:** 4

**NAY:** 1

On a motion by Larry Lenz, seconded by Denise Hammond, the Board approved the Home School list as presented.

**VOTE**

**AYES:** 3

**NAY:** 2

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Chairman

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