

## **ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

The Essex County School Board met on October 13, 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  
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.

Chair, Raymond Whitaker, stated that he needs more information from Reverend Dr. Ronnie Sidney regarding his concern during public comments at the September meeting. He also added that he had spoken to Mrs. Bethsaida White and she was satisfied with the response that she received regarding the concerns of the Rappahannock Industrial Alumni Association.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments

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

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent, Dr. Scott A. Burckbuchler, thanked building administrators, faculty and staff for a successful first month of school. Dr. Burckbuchler also stated that there are still certain situations that need to be addressed that we are working on.

Mrs. Whitney Orlando and Ms. Katherine Branscomb organized a Writing Across the Curriculum Project in the first grade. Students selected an animal of their choice, conducted research, prepared a written report about their animal and presented their animal project to the class. Mrs. Orlando was presented with the Superintendent's Starfish Award & Pin. Ms. Branscomb was absent but will receive the Superintendent's Starfish and Pin.

The Animal Project was a huge success and Joshua Hartso-Smith was recognized because he did an outstanding job on his project. He received the Superintendent's Star Student Award and Backpack.

Five Boy Scouts dedicate time each morning to make sure that the flag is put on the pole and taken down and properly folded each afternoon. The Superintendent's Star Student Award and Backpack were presented to Logan Cooke, Jose Cota, Austin Hammond, John Parker and Anthony Urban.

Mr. Joel Urban received the Superintendent's Starfish Award and Pin for his supervision of this very important project.

At their June 9, 2014 meeting, the Essex County School Board approved a resolution to honor the Rappahannock Times Newspaper and WRAR Radio Station through the Virginia School Boards Association Media Honor Roll. Reporters and local media play an important role in public education. School division leaders rely on responsible reporting by local media representatives so that our community members receive timely information about division initiatives and programs. Considering the impact that media coverage can have on community attitudes and beliefs, the Media honor Roll was created to recognize fair and balanced reporting about our schools and Virginia's public education system. The VSBA will publish the Media Honor Roll in the VSBA Newsletter and issue a news release about those honored through this program. Mrs. Mary Alice Passagaluppi from the Rappahanock Times, Mrs. Betty Osbourne and Mr. John Stallard from WRAR were present to receive the awards.

Board Chair, Mr. Whitaker, recognized the recipients.

### **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

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Backpack Buddy Program**

On a motion by Denise Hammond, seconded by Keren Ellis, the Board approved the initial concept planning for implementation of the “Backpack Buddy” type of supplemental nutrition for Essex County Elementary Students as presented by Mr. John Clickener.

#### **ECPS Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy**

On a motion by Liz Martin, seconded by Keren Ellis, the Board approved the ECPS BYOD Policy as presented by Jon Barnes, Technology Director. The BYOD policy will allow employees and students to bring technology into the schools and allow access to specific services like the internet. This policy will allow students who have signed the BYOD Acceptable Use Policy to connect a personal device to the BYOD wireless network during BYOD learning times. This would be determined by the administration and the classroom teacher. Employees who have an educational use may also bring in a personal device such as a tablet or laptop to use in an educational setting. This policy gives students and teachers a greater educational opportunity by allowing the use of personally owned technology.

#### **Resolution for Disability History and Awareness Month**

On a motion by Liz Martin, seconded by Denise Hammond the Board approved the Resolution for Disability History and Awareness Month as presented Mrs. Tara Roane, Director of Special Education and Student Services. One-fifth of all Americans have disabilities, including almost one million people in Virginia. During October, Disability History and Awareness activities provide an opportunity to create greater public awareness for individuals with disabilities, with the goal of full inclusion in their communities.

**Bus Lease Agreement**

On a motion by Keren Ellis, seconded by Denise Hammond, the Board approved the Bus Lease Agreement as presented by Annette Thompson, Director of Accounting. The lease purchase enables Essex County Schools to replace aging buses in a cost effective manner.

**ECPS Policy Manual Update –Policy EEA-Student Transportation Services**

On a motion by Liz Martin, seconded by Keren Ellis, the Board approved Policy EEA-Student Transportation Services, as presented at the September 15, 2014. The revised policy is to clarify that if a student chooses not to use ECPS transportation, the parent/legal guardian shall assume full responsibility for and hold the School Board, its agents, servants, and employees harmless from any legal liability, injury, or damage to the person or property of others in connection with the student's transportation to and from such regional program. The parent/legal guardian will sign a letter to this regard. Liz Martin requested that the parent letter be clarified to state that students who are allowed to drive themselves will not be prohibited from riding the bus on days that they do not drive.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Literacy Update**

For informational purposes, the Essex County Public Schools' Literacy Coaches, Maureen Dunn and Ruth Tobey, assisted by T.E.S. Teacher, Jessica Emery; E.I.S. Teacher, Amber Sydnor; and E.H.S. Teacher, Catherine Ser Shen presented to the School Board members on the current status of our English performance and summarized items in place to move our division towards improvement.

**Special Education Update**

For informational purposes, the Director of Special Education and Student Services, Tara Roane, assisted by Danielle Thompson, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher; Pam Booth, Virginia Pre-School Initiative Teacher; and Special Education Teachers, Nicole Davis and Alyssa Slater presented to the School Board members informing the members of the goals for the Special Education Department during the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Roane's presentation also included information about the Student Services Department, as it relates to implementing the Virginia Tiered Support System (VTSS) framework during the 2014-2015 school year.

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

Human Resources Director, Nan Alga, reviewed ECPS Policy updates for Sections A, B, C, and D of the ECPS Policy Manual for information this month (October) with recommended School Board approval next month (November).

### **School Board's Report**

Denise Hammond commented that the community has concerns about announcements regarding School Board meetings and not everyone has access to computers. Dr. Burckbuchler clarified that meeting announcements are published in the Rappahannock Times. Mrs. Hammond would like to see more info on bullying.

Liz Martin would like to hear more information about Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and whether we are having more or less discipline problems when compared to last year.

Chair Whitaker stated that motions are not done in Executive Session, but are done when the Board returns to Open Session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

### **REGULAR SESSION**

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

### **CLOSE OF MEETING**

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

**VOTE**

**AYES:** 4

**NAY:** 0

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

**VOTE**

**AYES:** 2

**NAY:** 1

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Chairman

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