

ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Essex County School Board met in the Essex Intermediate School Cafetorium on March 12, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Larry Bullis
Ray Whitaker
Keren Ellis
Liz Martin
Carl Slaughter
Kim Hodges, Clerk
Joseph Melvin, Superintendent
Stephanie Bassett, Assistant Superintendent
Darnell Carter, Principal EHS
Andrea Roane, Principal EIS
Robert Lukacevic, Assistant Principal EIS
Patrick Dispirito, Principal TES
Fontella Calhoun, Assistant Principal TES
Annette Thompson
Sharon Saunders
Chris Rose
Elaine Bartholomew
Perry Wormley
Michael Loveless
Gina Powell
Denise Hammond
Valerie Taylor
A Host of Staff, Parents, Students and Community People

CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Whitaker seconded by Mrs. Martin, the Board went into closed session for the following purposes:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 2.1-344.27 | Personnel |
| 2.1-344.28 | Pupil Personnel |
| 2.1-344.7.1 | Legal |

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Whitaker, 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

AYES 5

NAY 0

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

There was no action taken in closed session.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following was added to the agenda:

Drug & Weapons Policy (Action Item)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Valerie Taylor thanked the Board for participating in Read Across America Day. She also stated that she was disappointed the teacher salary percentage was decreased by 1%. She wanted the Board to really understand their sadness.

Mrs. Denise Hammond praised the Purple Pride Thrift Store operated by special education students. She mentioned that her son participates in the program.

Mrs. Ellis stated that the Board recently attended the VSBA Eastern Regional Forum and that Mathews County has also developed a thrift store program that was modeled after Essex County's program.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board approved the consent agenda.

VPSA RESOLUTION

Dr. Melvin recommended the Board adopt the VPSA Resolution (see attached).

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, the Essex County School Board adopted the resolution requesting that the Essex County Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution requesting Virginia Public School Authority funding for the renovation to Essex High School and roof repairs to the vocational building with the understanding that the Essex County School Board intends to construct this project within the \$20 million budget established for the project by the Board of Supervisors, and that the Essex County School Board's legal counsel will negotiate with the low apparent bidder for the project within that budget, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board adopted.

DRUGS AND WEAPONS POLICY

Dr. Melvin recommended the Drug and Weapons policy be approved and be placed on the division website (see attached).

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board approved the Drug and Weapons policy.

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

Mrs. Barthelomew's TES students performed a musical tribute to Dr. Seuss.

Mr. Wormley's EIS chorus and band performed.

Mr. Loveless' EHS chorus performed two musical selections.

QUARTERLY REPORT

Mr. Dispirito reported on the benchmark progress at TES.

Ms. Roane reported on the second quarter benchmark summary at EIS (see attached).

Mr. Carter presented data on how extra curricular participation can be used to channel energy of student athletes towards academic growth (see attached).

Dr. Melvin stressed that the focus must be on academics so that athletes are eligible to move on to college.

2012-2013 PROPOSED SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Melvin presented the 2012-2013 Proposed School Calendar and stated that it would be given to all staff and placed on the division website (see attached).

SPRING BREAK SCHEDULE

Dr. Melvin presented the spring break schedule (see attached).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Melvin mentioned that there was no decision by the General Assembly. He also informed the Board that the Policy & Procedure Committee would meet at Essex High School on March 17, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

BOARD'S REPORT

Mr. Bullis thanked the students for their performances and stated that it was a joy to watch.

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board adjourned.

Chairperson

Clerk/Deputy Clerk