

ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Essex County School Board met in the Essex County School Board Room on December 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Carl Slaughter
Larry Bullis
Keren Ellis
Ray Whitaker
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
Erin Kelley
Vanessa Burns
David Rector
Peg Norman
Debra Emery
Antoinette Jones
Maryemma Zayas
Gina Powell
Florence Pollard
Denise Hammond
Jacob Plummer
Doris Martin
Vernon Keeve
Edith Moore

Mrs. Ellis asked for a moment of silence for Mary Gaskins who was seriously ill at the time.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following was added to the agenda:

VSBA Voting Member for Insurance Service

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

TITLE VI PART B APPLICATION

Mrs. Bassett presented the Title VI Part B application for approval and informed the Board that \$34,872.88 would be awarded to the division.

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Bullis, the Board approved the Title VI Part B application.

VSBA VOTING MEMBER

On a motion by Mr. Bullis, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board approved Keren Ellis as the VSBA voting member.

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION RECOGNITION

Mrs. Powell explained the process of earning the national board certification and recognized Michelle Atkins for receiving the certification.

TES & EIS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

Mr. Dispirito presented a powerpoint presentation on the goals and strategies at TES.

Ms. Roane presented a powerpoint presentation on the goals and strategies at EIS.

GOOD NEWS AT EIS

Ms. Roane informed the Board that Essex Intermediate School has a National Junior Honor Society. There were 18 inductees who had to meet 5 criteria to be inducted.

Ms. Jones informed the Board that the after school SAFE program at TES won 1st place in the local Christmas parade.

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST

Mrs. Hodges reminded the Board that the annual statement of economic interest forms are due by January 15th.

WINTER BREAK

Dr. Melvin informed the Board that winter break begins December 20-30, 2011.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Melvin reported that the Policy & Procedures Committee met on December 10, 2011.

Rev. Keeve reported on the purpose of the meeting and that the "zero tolerance" law was discussed. Also, the procedures that are available to parents to help them through the appeal process were discussed. He stated that the committee plans to meet again.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Edith Moore stated that her child has not be provided the appropriate education. The I.E.P. has not been met and the division is not in compliance with federal law. She asked that the Board look into the matter.

Mr. Jacob Plummer asked if the Policy & Procedures Committee minutes would be provided to the public. Mrs. Ellis stated that an agenda can be placed on the division website. Mr. Bullis also stated that the copier issue that he mentioned at the last meet would be looked at during the budget work sessions.

Ms. Doris Martin stated that no child should be put out of school however to repeat an offense and still come back to school is no right. She stated that all children should be treated fairly and equally. Mr. Slaughter stated that the information she was provided was incorrect.

Mr. Bullis thanked the public for their comments at last month's meeting. It was a wakeup call for the Board. He has done 100 hours of research information on drug use by students.

CLOSED SESSION

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

2.1-344.15	Personnel
2.1-344.16	Pupil Personnel
2.1-344.7.1	Legal

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis 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	4
NAY	0

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

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board approved updating the current policies.

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board appointed Jennifer Gilbert as interim Special Education Director.

On a motion by Mr. Whitaker, seconded by Mrs. Ellis, the Board approved Paula Garner as substitute school psychologist.

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board approved the resignation of Wayne Lewis as presented.

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

Chairman

Clerk/Deputy Clerk