

ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Essex County School Board met in the Essex County School Board Room on February 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Present:	Larry Bullis	Marvin Wright
	Keren Ellis	David Rector
	Ray Whitaker	Peg Norman
	Carl Slaughter	Robin Harmon
	Liz Martin	Jean Saunders
	Kim Hodges, Clerk	Ron Largett
	Joseph Melvin, Superintendent	Mary Clark
	Darnell Carter, Principal EHS	Sterling Harris
	Andrea Roane, Principal EIS	Deanne Compton
	Robert Lukacevic, Assistant Principal EIS	Ernestine Fauntleroy
	Patrick Dispirito, Principal TES	Brad King
	Fontella Calhoun, Assistant Principal TES	Steve McMahon
	Annette Thompson	Jacob Plumber
	Sharon Saunders	John Clickener
	Erin Kelley	Edith Moore
	Wayne Lewis	Tammy Fulford
	Jane Kurczak	Mary Zayas
	Vanessa Burns	Denise Hammond
	Gina Powell	Tammy Payne
	Anne Taylor	Suzanne Hicklin
	Margaret Golian	Princess Dockery
	Lynn Holmes	Jasmine Holmes
	David Hodges	LaDaijia Ball
	Lydia Hodges	Ann Rector
	Leah Hodges	
	Kathy Bullis	

CONSENT AGENDA

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

On a motion by Mr. Whitaker, seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the superintendent asking the Board of Supervisors for additional appropriations of \$181,833.42 (see attached).

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

Dr. Melvin read the Governor's proclamation for School Board Appreciation Month. Certificates were presented to each Board member in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month.

SCHOOL BOARD CLERK APPRECIATION WEEK

Dr. Melvin informed the Board of School Board Clerk Week on February 12-18, 2012. Certificates were presented to the clerk and deputy clerk in recognition of School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

FCCLA STAR EVENTS COMPETITION

Mrs. Dockery introduced students Ann Rector, Jasmine Holmes and Dijia Ball who presented a powerpoint presentation explaining Family Career and Community Leadership Association (FCCLA) purpose and goals.

POLICY & PROCEDURE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dr. Melvin thanked the Policy & Procedure Committee for its hard work. He explained that the committee was formed to bring clarity to current school policies. The committee has produced a draft policy on Class I offenses and consequences. Dr. Melvin recommended the draft be placed on the website for a month so that all can review it. He also stated that it had been reviewed by the school board attorney (see attached).

INTRODUCTION OF SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

Dr. Melvin introduced Brad King as the school board attorney. Mr. King stated his credentials and noted that he only represents school boards. He mentioned that "zero tolerance" law is mandated by the federal government in deciding discipline cases however individual school boards may choose to decide individual cases based on special circumstances. He explained how committees are formed based on the Code of Virginia.

Mrs. Ellis stated that the Board had met with another VSBA attorney about forming committees and decided to choose a diverse group which would include individuals from various areas. Mr. Bullis stated that a number of people expressed a desire to be a part of the committee. Mrs. Ellis stated that the goal is to update the Student Code of Conduct. Dr. Melvin informed the board that this committee would meet annually.

2012-2013 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Dr. Melvin presented a powerpoint presentation of the proposed 2012-2013 budget based on the Governor's proposed budget (see attached). He mentioned that no decisions can be made until the General Assembly makes their decision.

Mrs. Ellis reminded everyone that the budget always looks bleak at this time of year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Melvin informed the Board that the bidding for the renovation of Essex High School would begin this week.

He requested the March board meeting be moved to Essex Intermediate School because students would be performing for Music in Our Schools and Youth Art Month.

SCHOOL BOARD'S REPORT

Mr. Bullis gave a powerpoint presentation explaining the timeline of events from October to November dealing with public concern with drugs in school. He also provided information from the National Institute on Drug Abuse as well as local and state statics on drug abuse in schools. He suggested that all go to the Department of Education website and look at the statics themselves. He acknowledged that there is a problem with drug use in society. However, the Board's responsibility is the educating of children.

Mrs. Ellis thanked Mr. Bullis for his hard work in putting together the presentation. She mentioned that it's going to take all to work together to help with this problem.

Mr. Whitaker stated that he attended a conference and all school divisions have the same bleak outlook for the coming school year. He thanked the budget sub-committee for their hard work.

Dr. Melvin thanked Annette Thompsen for her work putting the budget together.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bullis read the protocol for addressing the Board (see attached).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Erin Kelly voiced her concern about a memo from the superintendent on Media Release. She asked why the memo was issued.

Mrs. Ellis stated that the memo was issued in respect to board policy.

Mrs. Denise Hammond stated her concern about the new signup sheet and asked for clarification about how many times one can speak before the Board. She also mentioned that it's understood that the public is considered "ease droppers" on Board meetings and wanted to thank the Board for the opportunity to comment.

Mr. Bullis stated that an individual or representative from a group who has signed up to speak may address the Board and after everyone has had a turn they may address again if the Board so chooses.

Mrs. Valerie Taylor represented the Essex Education Association. She asked the Board to invest in kids.

Mrs. Ernestine Fauntleroy informed the Board about Read Across America on March 2nd and asked members to come to school to read to the children.

Mr. Steve McMahon voiced his concern with budget cuts and asked that upper management be considered when it comes to cuts.

Mr. Jacob Plumber asked that the Board give serious thought when it comes to downsizing because it can lead to a decrease in quality of personnel.

CLOSED SESSION

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

2.1-344.23	Personnel
2.1-344.24	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

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board approved the following coaches:

Kenneth Waters	-	Assistant Baseball
Clifton Balderson	-	Assistant Track & Field
Michael Gilbert	-	Volunteer Baseball
Jeremy Futchko	-	Volunteer Soccer
Tripp Lawrence	-	Volunteer Soccer
Asa Reynolds	-	Volunteer Softball
Keith Bundy	-	Volunteer Softball
Reed Harmon	-	Volunteer Softball
Sue Sherwood	-	Volunteer Softball
Joseph Parr	-	Volunteer Softball
Scott Carson	-	Volunteer Softball
Mike Patterson	-	Volunteer Baseball

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board approved the suspension of student 02132012-IIB-1 modified to time served.

On a motion by Mr. Whitaker, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the Board approved the release from compulsory attendance for student #02132012-IIB-2.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the Board approved the home schooled request for student #02132012-IIB-3. Mr. Whitaker voted nay.

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

Chairperson

Clerk/Deputy Clerk