

**ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
SUMMER RETREAT MEETING**

The Essex County School Board met at Kings Mill Resort, Williamsburg, Virginia on July 19, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Larry Bullis, Chairman
Ray Whitaker, Vice Chairman
Keren Ellis, Board Member
Liz Martin, Board Member
Carl Slaughter, Board Member
Kim Hodges, Board Clerk
Sharon Saunders, Deputy Clerk
Joseph Melvin, Superintendent
Stephanie Bassett, Assistant Superintendent
Anthony Walker, Director of Special Ed.
Dashan Turner, Director of Student Services
Darnell Carter, Principal EHS
Angela Gross, Assistant Principal EHS
Andrea Roane, Principal EIS
Sinclair Harris, Assistant Principal EIS
Patrick Dispirito, Principal TES
Fontella Calhoun, Assistant Principal TES
Annette Thompson, Director of Finance
Jon Barnes, Director of Technology
Gina Powell, ITRT
Brad Hall, Maintenance Supervisor
Ronnie Fones, Transportation Supervisor
George Towns, Cafeteria Supervisor
Brad King, School Board Attorney

ADDITION TO AGENDA

The following was added to the agenda:

Elect Board Member to VSBAGeneral Assembly

Mr. Bullis thanked all for attending the retreat and for all the work that they do.

Dr. Melvin introduced Dashan Turner (Director of Student Services), Sinclair Harris (Assistant Principal EIS), and Dr. Anthony Walker (Director of Special Ed.) to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board approved the consent agenda with the correction on the date change to June 30th on item B.

AUTHORIZATION OF SIGNATURE IN ABSENCE OF SUPERINTENDENT

On a motion by Mr. Whitaker, seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board authorized Stephanie Bassett to sign in the absence of the superintendent.

VHSL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board approved the VHSL membership application (see attached).

APPROVE POLICY UPDATES

Dr. Melvin presented the policy updates and noted policies GCDA & JHCD as policies of interest (see attached).

On a motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Ellis, the Board approved the policies with the exception on policies GCDA & JHCD.

APPROVE REVISED STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Whitaker, the Board approved the revised Student Code of Conduct with the addition of policy JFCL (see attached).

APPROVE REPRESENTATIVE FOR VSBA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter, seconded by Mrs. Ellis, the Board approved Liz Martin as the VSBA General Assembly representative.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW PRESENTATIONS:

TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Fones informed the Board that a child reminder system was installed on some buses, as well as the addition of video cameras, and two-way communication systems with GPS were added to buses. The goal for the upcoming year is to have more bus driver meetings and training videos. He would like an additional special needs bus.

MAINTENANCE

Mr. Hall informed the Board that the general and overall cleaning was done at each school due to the new reporting system. He mentioned that some jobs were outsourced such as carpet

cleaning, painting, asphalt, roofing and renovation. His goal is to install a security video system at TES, purchase maintenance software for tracking supplies, and training staff.

FINANCE/BUDGET

Ms. Thompson informed the Board of the changes in board reports, timesheets, and purchase orders. She mentioned that café enterprise and café prepay are up and running and leave will be on payroll checks. Her goal is to run accounts payable checks twice a month.

FOOD SERVICE

Mr. Towns presented a powerpoint presentation of the food service program (see attached). His goal is to make healthy changes and choices for healthy children.

ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Carter informed the Board of Essex High School's strategies and activities to reach the goals of the 2011-2017 comprehensive plan (see attached).

ESSEX INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Ms. Roane presented a powerpoint presentation to the Board on Essex Intermediate School's strategies and activities to reach the goals of the 2011-2017 comprehensive plan.

TAPPAHANNOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Dispirito informed the Board of the accomplishments at Tappahannock Elementary School (see attached). He also noted changes for the upcoming year such as school colors will be purple and gold.

CURRENT STATE OF ESSEX COUNTY SCHOOLS

Ms. Bassett spoke on accountability measures, diploma changes, testing results (2011-2012), and the three year trend both improvements and declines.

The Board thanked all the presenters.

LEGAL UPDATES

Mr. King presented information on Virginia Freedom of Information Act, State and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act, and 2012 General Assembly updates.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Mr. King presented information on the guidelines of the School Board and how the Board will work together in 2012-2013 and what improvements should be made.

CLOSED SESSION

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

2.1-344.159	Personnel
2.1-344.160	Pupil Personnel
2.1-344.7.1	Legal

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Mrs. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, 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. Whitaker, seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the following personnel:

Carlie Muldowney	-	TES PreK
Rachel Barker	-	EHS Biology
Diondra Mercer	-	TES 3 rd Grade

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Regular Session

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

Chairman

Public Comments: Regular School Board Meeting on 9 July 2012

I'm John Clickener, a resident and registered voter in the Central District of Essex County. Thank you for the opportunity to briefly address three topics.

First, I commend the School Division for their successful launch of the new Essex County Public Schools web site. The "look" of the site is bright and positive, navigation is greatly improved, and there are many other improvements which will benefit the students, parents, teachers, and administration.

There is one major open government improvement included in the new site. Within the internal link "*School Board*" the secondary link "*School Board Members*" now provides essential details: each member's name, current photo, the district they represent, and their current term in office. Of even greater importance – the page provides a direct e-mail link to each board member. One suggestion – please add a "group address" that will simplify contacting the entire School Board.

To the School Board, the Administration, and particularly the staff who have obviously worked so hard to develop the new site – thank you for what you have accomplished so far. There are still many features that were described during the initial demonstration to be added. I encourage you to place the highest priority on implementing the multi-layer calendar feature.

Second, one of the most important functions, second only to providing an exceptional education for the children of Essex County is developing a sound budget. I urge you to create the School Board Budget development cycle calendar as soon as possible. Please ensure that all public budget workshops, presentations, meetings, and action dates are posted on the School Board portion of the multi-layer calendar for both open government and transparency.

Third, in this room, which was specifically designed for public meetings, there is at least one microphone, an amplifier, and speakers. Why isn't the system being used effectively? Each Board Member, the Board Clerk, the Superintendent, and each presenter or speaker should have and use microphones. I, and perhaps others here tonight, have a hearing impairment. Those who address the Board have their backs to the public and are inaudible, without amplification, behind the fourth or fifth row. This lack of accommodation for the hearing impaired may constitute a violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended.

Additionally, concerns have expressed that statements by the Board and Superintendent in front of the room have been misunderstood by the audience. A digital recorder connected to the sound system would ensure that a complete and accurate record of each meeting is available, thereby eliminating future misunderstandings.

Please implement the enhanced sound and recording system to increase transparency an open government.

Thank you.