

P.G. Super News

Renee P. Williams

Prince George County Public Schools

October 30, 2015

School Board News

Important Dates:

November
American Indian
Heritage Month



November 3
Election Day
Staff Development Day

November 4
Community Breakfast

November 9
School Board
Meeting

November 10
Grading Period Ends

November 11
Veterans Day
Teacher Work Day

November 17
Report Cards to
Parents

WE SALUTE ALL
VETERANS!



The School Board held its regular meeting on October 12 and continued on October 14, 2015.

Special Recognitions

⇒ **Juanita McDaniel** (Clements) received "School Hero" recognition through the Con Agra, "Rethink School Meals—One Bite at a Time," Program. **Lana Pearce** also recognized all the cafeteria managers and presented them with plaques: **Tom Giusto** (PGHS), **Monica Giusto** (Moore), **Rose Lawhorn** (Walton), **Debra Smith** (South), **Delois Grant** (North), **Kathy Nicholas** (Harrison), **Debbie Artus** (Beazley).

⇒ **Bill Barnes** recognized individuals who have been instrumental in educational scholarships and programs for students, and recipients of scholarships. **B.J. Patton** and **Kiffy Werkheiser** (establishing the Trudy Bogese Endowment for Youth Development scholarships through the John Randolph Foundation), **Sharon Jadrnak** (working closely with the Math Science Center to give approximately twelve \$200 scholarships to students through John Tyler's Nanotechnology program), and **Joshua Townsend** (recipient of a tuition scholarship to participate in the Welding Pipeline Program at John Tyler Community College). **Justin Vincent**, **Brianna Brown** and the parents of **Sebastian Turcotte** shared their appreciation for students being allowed to participate in the Pipeline program.

* Corporate Sponsors and individuals were recognized for their contributions to the school division: **Kevin Elliott**, who organized 59 volunteered employees from Wal-Mart to paint, replace kick plates and do other cosmetic work to beautify and upgrade the field house. Over 290 work hours were clocked in and a \$5,000 donation will be made to PGHS. **Glen Horst** was presented with a plaque recognizing Prince George Electric Cooperative for its generous donation to assist a student with a tuition scholarship for the Welding Pipeline Program.

Presentations

* **Susan Braswell** presented on behalf of South Elementary School. She spoke on the need for improvement in the area of educating students with disabilities. **Maria Torrella** and **Morgan Morris** are piloting an inclusion class for their 5th graders to engage students in cooperative groups in order to encourage learning and social skills, sharing more resources, etc. The secondary level had been successful in this type of collaborative class and South was piloting it for success on the elementary level.

* **Jon Hampton**, Cenergistic, provided the Board with a Cost Avoidance Summary report sorted by building for May-August showing the savings benefit to the division.

* **Vince Wilson** acquainted the Board with programs being offered at Grand Canyon University (GCU) for school employees at a 10% discount giving them an opportunity to advance their studies and professional development. The Board will review the MOU to form a partnership with GCU.

* **Ed Kaufman** provided statistics on the Transportation Department. He reported that 2529 secondary students are being transported in the mornings and 2581 returned in the afternoons. Drivers transport 2154 elementary students in the mornings and 2240 students in the afternoons. There are 125 special needs students requiring transportation and 26 students transported to Appomattox and Maggie Walker Governor Schools daily. He also discussed the need for more bus drivers to eliminate overcrowding, double backs, substitute drivers, the need for a solution to attract more drivers and need for more pay, benefit incentives, commitment to training, etc.

* **Ron Rhodes** thanked **Mr. Kaufman** and **Karen Perry** for working diligently redistributing bus routes. He spoke on the bus drivers, substitute drivers and the need for mechanics to substitute for short-

School Board News

(Continued)

School Board Comments

Mr. Cox thanked all school personnel for the work they do. He addressed the bus drivers stating that money is tight and drivers are needed but the negativity in the newspapers does not help. "We are trying to do the best we can" and revenue has to come from funds from the Board of Supervisors. He asked drivers and parents to understand the Board's predicament and be "part of the solution, not part of the problem".

Mr. Foster is extremely excited about the collaborative class at South Elementary and he commended the instructional staff pursuing this program. He indicated he had used a recent public forum at J.E.J. Moore Middle School to encourage students and parents to reach out to cafeteria and custodian staffs and drivers to say "thank you for a job well done."

Mr. Franklin stated all positive and negative comments are welcomed. He indicated the Board will do the best it can with the monies allotted from the Board of Supervisors. The School Board has no way to generate revenue. The School Board knows the job you do and "we're working hard to make funds available for you!"

Mr. Warren has confidence the Transportation Task Force will find solutions to the transportation issues. The answer most likely will need to include compensation, process, technology, and routing.

(Continued next column)

staffed mornings. The Maintenance Department completed 297 work orders last month. He gave an update on work being done around the schools and work completed throughout the school district, emphasis on fall inspections and roof work at Beazley Elementary and Prince George High Schools.

- * **April McKelvey/Monarch Consulting Services** gave an update on the completion of roofs at Rowanty Technical Center, Beazley Elementary, and PGHS. She also provided evaluation information on the roofs at the remaining elementary, middle, and junior high schools.

Public Comment

- ^ **Gladys Stevens** commented on the bus driver hourly rates for contract and substitute drivers versus local areas and the shortage of drivers in Prince George.
- ^ **Kiffy Werkheiser** spoke about the upcoming City Point 5K and Kids Fun Run on October 31, 2015 in Hopewell.
- ^ **Sherri Jones** shared her concerns about N.B. Clements Junior High School student drop off change in the mornings which causes traffic problems on Route 156 and parents late for work.
- ^ **Sue Brockwell** has been a driver for 47 years. She had been moved from her special needs run to be placed on a regular bus run the second week of school, noting all drivers are making sacrifices to provide a solution to the bus crisis.
- ^ **Taise Kiser** also shared concerns on the driver situation regarding morning and afternoon runs, substitutes, routing changes, office staff and driver stress, driver training hours, and parents not receiving School Messenger announcements about late buses.

Action Items

- ◆ VRS Hybrid 403(b) Resolution
- ◆ Title III Statewide Consortium Application/Grant
- ◆ Revised 2015-16 Title 1 Award
- ◆ Sewer Force Main

Discussion Items

- * Fiscal Year 2014-15 School Activity Fund Audit Reports

Discussion Items (continued)

- * VSBA September 2015 Policy Updates
- * School Staffing Agreements
- * Policy DJ-R—Purchasing Accompanying Regulations

Superintendent's Report

- Active Enrollment Summary October 6, 2015; 2015-16 Reports for Bus and School Suspensions; and Building Use Requests
- Positive parent email 9/21/15 re: Harrison Elementary School
- Disability History and Awareness Month
- National School Lunch Week Oct. 12-16, 2015
- Read Aloud to a Child Week Oct. 18-24, 2015
- National School Bus Safety Week Oct. 19-23, 2015

Upcoming Events

- VSBA Education Foundation Workshop, Williamsburg—November 17, 2015
- 2015 VSBA Annual Conference and Clerk's Conference, Williamsburg—Nov. 18-20, 2015
- NSBA Annual Conference, Boston—April 9-11, 2016

**The next School Board Meeting is
Monday, November 9, 2015
at 6:30 p.m.**

School Board Comments (continued from column)

Mr. Warren indicated each department has been hit hard and must rebuild as a result of economic issues the last four years. Only 22 out of 132 school divisions operate with a lower cost per student rate than we do, meaning our state, federal, and local revenue is really low for our size district. We desperately need all of our revenue streams to increase and the cost of benefits to stay flat so we can begin to rebuild according to demand.

Mr. Stevenson has heard the transportation issues and has had staff looking at opportunities for improvement. In 8 years, the Board has met 432 times for scheduled meetings of which 373 discipline meetings were held, equating to approximately 4.3 times meeting a month. The OSHA problem at the bus garage has been addressed. "This has been a trying year to maintain budget" but the Board continues to be hopeful that both Boards will work together effectively for all employees.