

SYNOPSIS
PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA
June 7, 2021

The regular meeting of the Prince George County School Board was held at the Prince George High School Commons on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

A closed meeting was held at 5:30 p.m.

Board Members and staff present:

Mrs. Jill A. Andrews, Board Member
Mr. Robert E. L. Eley, III, Chairman
Mr. Christopher A. Johnson, Vice Chairman
Mr. Cecil M. Smith, Board Member
Ms. Sherry D. Taylor, Board Member
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Superintendent
Mr. William Barnes, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Rebecca Kirk, Clerk of the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Eley, Chairman, called the Prince George County regular school board meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated all School Board members present:

Present: Andrews, Eley, Johnson, Smith, Taylor

III. MOTION TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PERSONNEL MATTERS RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT, ASSIGNMENT, APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, PERFORMANCE, SALARIES, OR RESIGNATION OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES, PUBLIC SAFETY MATTER RELATING TO SCHOOL PROJECTS, *LEGAL MATTER RELATING TO LEGAL CLAIM, AND STUDENT MATTER RELATING TO STUDENT PROGRAMS* (pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3711)

- A. Personnel Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.1
1. P44/20-21
 2. P56/20-21
 3. P70/20-21

4. P71/20-21
 5. P72/20-21
 6. P73/20-21
 7. P74/20-21
 8. P75/20-21
 9. **P76/20-21 [added to agenda]**
- B. Public Safety Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.19
1. PS16/20-21
- C. **Legal Matter – Section 2.2-3711.A.7 [added to agenda]**
1. **L12/20-21**
- D. **Student Matter – Section 2.2-3711.A.2 [added to agenda]**
1. **SM01/20-21**

Motion and second to go into a closed session pursuant to the personnel, public safety, legal, and student exemptions of the VA Code §§2.2-3711.A.1, 2.2-3711.A.19, 2.2-3711.A.7, and 2.2-3711.A.2.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

IV. CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING AND ACTIONS

Motion and second to return to an open meeting and certification that nothing was disclosed other than what was stated in the original motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

No action was taken on Personnel Matter P44/20-21; information only.
No action was taken on Personnel Matter P56/20-21; information only.

Motion and second that in Personnel Matter P70/20-21 to adjust contract from grandfathered status to 260 required workdays with annual vacation leave eligibility.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

No action was taken on Personnel Matter P71/20-21; information only.
No action was taken on Personnel Matter P72/20-21; information only.
No action was taken on Personnel Matter P73/20-21; information only.

The School Board will return to a closed session after the meeting to continue with other closed session items.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – led by Mr. Chris Johnson

VI. INVOCATION BY SCHOOL BOARD – led by Mr. Cecil Smith

VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion and second to approve the revised meeting agenda as presented, including two additional Personnel Matters for closed session and Resolution under Recognitions, Item G.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. May 3, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting
- B. May 4, 2021 Special School Board Meeting
- C. May 12, 2021 Special School Board Meeting
- D. June 3, 2021 Special School Board Meeting

Motion and second to collectively approve the School Board minutes identified above as presented.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

IX. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- A. Rowanty Technical Center – Carpentry Award
 - Nathaniel Berry

Mr. James Kellenberger explained the Chris (Grizzley) Daly Carpentry Award was created by family and friends in memory of Chris Daly. The scholarship is to be awarded to a carpentry student who has completed the course at Rowanty Technical School. Applicants submitted an application, high school transcript with projection of graduation date, 250-word essay, and created a wooden object as part of application process. Nathaniel Berry is the first recipient from Prince George County to receive this award. He was presented a work tool set at a presentation at Rowanty Technical School on May 26, 2021.

- B. Girl Scout Gold Award (Jill Magruder – Scout Leader, Troop 360)
 - Lisa Parker

Lisa Parker was recognized for attaining the Girls Scout Gold Award, the highest award bestowed on a Girl Scout. She is a member of Troop 360. Dr. Pennycuff read a Commendation that had been prepared for Lisa. Lisa earned her Gold Award by completing her project, "Ouch-She Bit Me!" The 96-hour project was creating a website link for the Prince George Animal Services and Adoption Center. The website gives new pet owners links in finding training classes, vaccine schedules, veterinary advice, grooming tips, and places to find help for caring for pets. Ms. Magruder stated Lisa was a valued mentor for all students, and she made a difference everyday to her Brownie Troop. Dr. Pennycuff outlined Lisa's accomplishments at school and expressed appreciation for her service to her community. The School Board congratulated Lisa and wished her continued success as a valuable member of society.

C. 2021 Congressional Art Competition

- Annabelle Starr, Prince George High School – 2nd Place

Annabelle Starr submitted a drawing to the Congressional Art Competition sponsored by the U.S. House of Representatives. Annabelle won second place in this nationwide competition. Mr. Elliott and the School Board recognized and congratulated Annabelle on her artwork entitled, "The King Will Come".

D. Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium Award

- Blair Sammler, South Elementary School

Mrs. Braswell stated Ms. Sammler has been one of the hardest workers at South this year to go beyond expectations for virtual and in-person students. She was proud to announce that Ms. Sammler had won the SVRTC Technology Teacher Award and then she listed a summary of things that Ms. Sammler did over the year to help staff, students, and parents to be proficient in new programs, troubleshoot technology issues, and assist in many ways possible for student achievement and success. She helped bring staff/students from no Chromebooks at the beginning of the year to being 1-1. SVRTC recognized her in March with the Technology Leadership Award and South Elementary School and the school division are appreciative of her going the extra mile for our students and staff.

E. New Faces in New Places

- Chrystal George – Associate Director of Student Services

Mrs. George will be joining the Student Services Department beginning July 1, and she brings additional experience to assist the department in her new role. Dr. Pennycuff spoke about her educational background, extensive training, and leadership attributes instrumental in leading a support services team. She also provided information on roles that she served in other areas which included Coordinator for Little Feet Meet, Homebound Instruction, 504 Plans, and overseeing transportation for special, outplaced,

and homeless students. Mrs. George has had many roles in education from middle and high school Special Education teacher, Support Services Specialist, to Coordinator and Director. Her background, knowledge, and experiences will be a great asset for the division, and we welcome her to our Prince George family in her new role.

F. Retirees (individual years of service in parenthesis)

- Leslie Allin – Librarian, South (35)
- Wilbert Allen – Bus Driver, Transportation (18)
- Jennifer Brockwell – Teacher, South (32)
- Matt Hall – Visiting Teacher/Social Worker, SBO (32)
- Charlene Hebert – Teacher, Clements (31)
- Rose Lawhorn – Food and Nutrition Services Field Manager, SBO (20)
- Janice Leland – Teacher, Clements (30)
- Shelley Lewis – Speech-Language Pathologist, Beazley (32)
- Jaunita McDaniel – Food and Nutrition Services Café Manager, Clements (33)
- Nancy Pelter – Office Associate II, Harrison – July 1, 2021 (37)
- Karen Philbrook – Teacher, Moore (35)
- Barbara Phillips – Bus Driver, Transportation (37)
- Barbara Platte – Highly Qualified Paraprofessional, North (44)
- Lorraine Powell – Food and Nutrition Services, PGHS (27)
- Julia Richardson-Wooden – SPED Teacher, Moore (36)
- Iris Talley – Teacher, South (35)
- Lucille Thompson – Teacher, PGEC (36)
- George Tucker – Head Custodian, Moore (33)
- Jeannette Walker – Teacher, Harrison (33)
- Linda Washington – Kindergarten Teacher, Harrison (44)

TOTAL NUMBER OF YEARS EXPERIENCE = 660

Retirees were recognized for their combined years of service, totaling 660 years in education. Retirees were applauded for their dedicated years of service as teachers and support staff. Each retiree received a clock with their names and years of service inscribed. Board members expressed their appreciation for the commitment of service provided by these wonderful people.

G. Superintendent Recognition [added to agenda]

Mr. Eley stated that due to extraordinary leadership of 113 public school division superintendents during the 2020-21 school year and their roles in serving their communities through the COVID pandemic, VASS is honoring all 133 division superintendents as Virginia Superintendents of the Year. “It is my privilege to recognize Dr. Lisa Pennycuff as Superintendent of the Year for Prince George County.” He thanked her for her leadership over the last year.

Motion and second to adopt the Resolution recognizing Dr. Lisa Pennycuff as a Virginia Superintendent of the Year for 2020-21, as designated by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS).

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

X. PRESENTATIONS

A. J.E.J. Moore Middle School – Robert Knowles, Principal

Mr. Knowles and Mr. Ligatti spoke about the successes at J.E.J. Moore for the 2020-21 school year. Moore's Beta Club finished the year as a National Beta School of Distinction, while Jessica Chan was chosen as the Virginia State President. The girls' basketball team won its second consecutive division title and students participated in various activities (virtual PBLs, musical performances, virtual holiday concert, spring concerts, Honor's night, publishing its first digital school newspaper, televising Moore Meals and Munchies, and Memorial Garden tribute to the fallen soldiers of the county). Moore also celebrated the success of the new student drop off/pick up process. Mr. Knowles expressed his appreciation for "the greatest teachers" and their selfless dedication that provided "Moore" celebrations. A video, created by Mr. Dockan, highlighted a few more successes from Moore. It has been a year of challenges but the students and staff at Moore made it a successful year. The school's new motto is: Ready to be a Royal. This motto will carry on from year to year. The goal is to develop what the elementary schools started and continue to prepare each student to be their best and "Ready to be a Royal!"

B. VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Regional Award Entry – Matt Weston

A Workforce Readiness Regional program was developed to promote the importance of work ethic, character skills, and technical aptitude among high school students, and aimed to give high school students the option to show they are ready to enter the workforce. He explained the criteria required of students to demonstrate workplace readiness standards for the Workforce Diploma Seal. Seven other local divisions participated. Seventeen business and industry partners were involved for the 2020-21 Pilot Year, and this number is expected to increase as the program grows. Four Prince George students earned the Workforce Diploma Seal and the opportunity to interview with our industry partners. "We are excited for the growth opportunities next year." The regional submission was submitted by Dinwiddie County to the VSBA for the Annual Excellence Workforce Readiness Award.

C. Instructional Update – Robin Germanos and Jason Chandler

Mrs. Germanos and Mr. Chandler stated Chromebooks and hot spots would be collected from elementary and secondary students during the week of June 14. Rising students in grades 7-11 will have the option to keep their Chromebooks over the summer. However, Chromebooks will be audited, and a device agreement is required from students who wish to keep them over the summer. They provided information on the Summer School programs (dates, locations/principals, number of teachers and student/teacher ratios for each program). Meals and transportation will be provided for elementary and secondary students and instruction focus will be on math and reading. In-person and virtual instruction will be offered during the summer. They summarized the parent requests for virtual instruction for 2021-22 (63 elementary / 118 secondary). Parents of students who are approved for virtual learning will be notified of their approval/denial by June 30, 2021. Virtual Virginia will offer virtual instruction to students, and the deadline for virtual student enrollment is July 15, 2021.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Current enrollment as of May 24, 2021
- B. Facility Use Requests for May 2021
- C. June Athletic Events
- D. VSBA Conference on Education – July 20, 2021 (Virtual)
- E. VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference – Richmond Hilton – September 23, 2021
- F. PGCPS Superintendent Messages
 - 1. Upcoming Adjustments to PGCPS 2020-21 Calendar
 - 2. Virtual Instruction Requests for FY2022 School Year
 - 3. Support Employee of the Year Media Release
 - 4. New Elementary School Groundbreaking Ceremony**
 - 5. VDH COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic for PGHS Students 12 and Older

Dr. Pennycuff provided her report to include a PowerPoint on the new elementary school groundbreaking ceremony on May 21. A new elementary school project page was created to share news, updates on the site's progress, and pictures with the community. The new portal page can be found at <http://www.pgs.k12.va.us/newschool/>. She thanked Michael Campbell, Ron Rhodes, and Scott Brubaker for their assistance in this new portal. She spoke about the VSBA training opportunities for Board members and thanked those who attended the latest virtual conference to help move our Board closer to a Board of Distinction status. She reminded all that June 17 and 18 would be staff workdays and graduation would be held on June 17 at 9:00 and 1:00 and the final ceremony would be held on June 18 at 9:00. Each ceremony would take place at the football stadium.

XIII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Andrews congratulated all retirees on their accomplishments and many years of service with the division. She has personally worked with many of the retirees, and she wished them the best. She also indicated that the teachers and staff leaving will be missed, and she thanked them for their service. She is also excited that graduation will be back on the football field this year and looks forward to the event.

Mr. Smith stated that it has been a tough year, but we did it and he looks forward to the upcoming year when things can “get back to normal.” He attended events at N.B. Clements Junior High and J.E. J. Moore Middle Schools recently and expressed appreciation to our talented students. He has recently received anonymous letters and while he appreciates people taking time out to write these letters, he would like for people to sign their names to the letters so that a follow-up conversation can be initiated with these people. “We cannot follow up with you if we do not know how to get in touch with you.”

Ms. Taylor expressed her appreciation for the teachers and staff who have worked endlessly over this past year for student success. She also commented on the retirees for their outstanding, dedicated service over the years, and she hopes they will all enjoy retirement. She is looking forward to the 2021 graduation service on the football field, and she wished the graduates success and for all to have a great summer.

Mr. Johnson congratulated all the retirees recognized and wished them well upon retirement. He congratulated Dr. Pennycuff on the Superintendent of the Year Award and stated that it was well deserved for her successful efforts in challenging times. He commented on a recent America’s Got Talent episode in which a sophomore at Prince George High School was seen on television performing an aerial routine. He is a self-taught aerialist who watched videos and used his grandmother’s bedsheets tied to trees. He has an exciting story, and he wished the sophomore success on the show and hopes to follow his journey on prime time.

Mr. Eley also congratulated all retirees for the many years of combined service in education. He also reiterated Mr. Smith’s comments about anonymous letters. One letter was about “unmasking” our children. He stated that the School Board continues to follow the state guidelines and the CDC recommendations. He hopes by September 8 each child will come back to school in a normal way. However, we must follow guidelines as mandated by the state and CDC. He thanked all school staff for working together to get us through this year and he looks forward to getting back to normal next year.

XIV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Personnel Report**
- B. **Board Requests**
- C. Warrants
 - 1. General
 - 2. Title I
 - 3. Food and Nutrition Services
- D. Projects
 - 1. Support Services
 - 2. Technology

Motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

VOTE: Ayes: Andrews, Johnson, Smith, Taylor
Abstain: Eley

XV. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Fuel Bid Renewal – Propane & Other – Ron Rhodes

Motion and second to approve the recommendation as presented.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

[For the record, propane fuel awarded to Suffolk Energies and all other fuels to James River Solutions].

- B. Uniform Bid Renewal – Ron Rhodes

The invitation to bid for Uniform Service was posted on May 25, 2021 and was opened on June 1, 2021, however, there were no responses to the bid. The invitation to bid was posted back on the division's website on June 7 with an opening date of June 22, 2021. This Item will be placed on the July 14, 2021 agenda.

XVI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Comprehensive Planning Committee Update – Betsy Overkamp-Smith

As we are approaching the end of the 2022-27 Comprehensive Plan process, Mrs. Overkamp-Smith provided Board members with final drafts of the vision and mission, and objectives and strategies for each goal to obtain feedback to make additional changes before a final copy of the 2022-2027 Comprehensive Plan is presented to the School Board at its July 14, 2021 for final approval.

- B. VSBA Recognition Programs – Lisa Pennycuff
 1. VSBA Board of Distinction
 2. VSBA Regional School Board Member of the Year
 3. VSBA School Board of the Year

The VSBA has three recognition programs that school boards and members may apply for each year. Nomination forms for each program must be received by the VSBA before July 19, 2021. Our School Board is working towards the VSBA Board of Distinction but still needs to fulfill specific requirements.

- C. VSBA Advocate for Education – Lisa Pennycuff

The School Board has the opportunity to nominate and recognize a board member who has demonstrated significant and outstanding leadership, commitment, and contributions to public education that has had an impact on our region and the Commonwealth. Nominations must be the consensus of the Board and nominations must be submitted before July 30, 2021.

- D. VSBA Media Honor Roll – Lisa Pennycuff

The VSBA has a program to allow school districts to recognize reporters through its VSBA Media Honor Roll. This is a way for school districts to recognize reporters via print, radio, or television) who deserve recognition by 1) making an effort to get to know the superintendent and board chairman; 2) understanding the division's mission and goals; 3) reporting school news in a manner that is fair, accurate, and balanced; 4) gives a high-profile position to good news; 5) regularly visits the schools, attends board meetings; and 6) maintains a policy of "no surprises" by sharing information with school representatives.

- E. Review of GAB/IIBEA: Acceptable Computer System Use/Internet Safety Policy – Scott Brubaker

To be compliant with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the division's Internet Safety Policy must be publicly reviewed to meet requirements for E-rate funds. Mr. Brubaker explained the division's off/on site filtering and our Policy GAB/IIBEA satisfies requirements to be compliant and to maintain E-rate funds.

- F. Financial Report for May 2021 – Monique Barnes

Mrs. Barnes provided an overview of the May 2021 Financial Report to the School Board.

XVII. MOTION TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS A SPECIFIC PERSONNEL MATTER RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT, ASSIGNMENT, APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, PERFORMANCE, SALARIES,

OR RESIGNATION OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES, PUBLIC SAFETY MATTER RELATING TO SCHOOL PROJECTS, LEGAL MATTER RELATING TO LEGAL CLAIM, AND STUDENT MATTER RELATING TO STUDENT PROGRAMS (pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3711)

- 7. P74/20-21
- 8. P75/20-21
- 9. **P76/20-21**
- E. Public Safety Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.19
 - 1. PS16/20-21
- F. **Legal Matter – Section 2.2-3711.A.7**
 - 1. **L12/20-21**
- G. **Student Matter – Section 2.2-3711.A.2**
 - 1. **SM01/20-21**
 - 2. **SM02/20-21 [added to agenda]**
 - 3. **SM03/20-21 [added to agenda]**

Motion and second to go into a closed session pursuant to the personnel, public safety, legal, and student exemptions of the VA Code §§2.2-3711.A.1, 2.2-3711.A.19, 2.2-3711.A.7, and 2.2-3711.A.2.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

XVIII. CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING AND ACTIONS

Motion and second to return to an open meeting and certified nothing was disclosed other than what was stated in the original motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

Motion and second that in Personnel Matter P74/20-21 to approve the position of Coordinator of Educational Technology & Innovation to begin service on July 1, 2021.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

Motion and second that in Personnel Matter 75/20-21 to approve the position of Coordinator of Testing & Accountability to begin service on July 1, 2021.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

No action was taken on Personnel Matter P76/20-21; information only.
No action was taken on Public Safety Matter PS16/20-21; information only.
No action was taken on Legal Matter L12/20-21; information only.
No action was taken on Student Matters SM01/20-21, SM02/20-21, and SM03/20-21; information only.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Clerk of the Board