

January 11, 2012

TO: Principals

FROM: James E. McDaniel, Division Superintendent

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTION TAKEN AT JANUARY MEETING

1. The Board approved the following overnight field trip:

SCHOOL(S)	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DATES
Tunstall High	Region IV Scholastic Bowl Tournament	Richlands, VA	February 3-4, 2012

2. Because of the absence of Ms. C. Cierra Gunter, Student Representative from Tunstall High School, the January Character Word of the Month (“Responsibility”) will be presented at the February meeting.
3. Ms. Jessica Jones, Executive Vice President of the Pittsylvania Education Association (PEA), addressed the Board with thanks for the most recent bonus provided to employees. She also acknowledged that the School Board is about to enter a crucial time that will impact everyone under the umbrella of the school system. The School Board is challenged to do much with little. It is with hope that the school system will be able to maintain staffing, programs and activities related to the delivery of instruction and will continue the support of maintaining all benefits for employee and a living wage for the educational support personnel. The PEA endorses the concepts of a professional teacher salary schedule that would compensate for advanced course work and a limited number of steps to maximize career earnings. The PEA continues to be committed to working together with the Board for the betterment of public education.
4. Mr. Donald R. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Business, provided a listing of the budget requests that have been received for consideration in the 2012-2013 budget proposal. It was indicated that budget initiatives totaling \$6.7 million had been received. The School Board will need to cut approximately \$3.7 million in the current budget.
5. Mr. Donald R. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Business, provided a report on the budget outlook for the 2012-2013 school session. A summary of the revenue analysis was reviewed. The school system may receive an increase of \$1.4 million in State funds for 2012-2013. Because of an increase in the composite index, the local governing body will have to provide an additional \$884,316.00 in local funding to meet the State minimum requirement. This

provides a total of \$2.3 million of increased funding; however, these funds are earmarked to be spent on Virginia Retirement System (VRS) benefits for employees, textbooks, pre-school programs and the early reading intervention programs. The school system will have to pay more for VRS because the legislators borrowed money from this fund to balance the State budget. The information provided was based on the Governor's proposed budget. The House and the Senate will also be proposing budgets and a compromise will be reached for a final State budget. The Central Office Executive Team will meet on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, to begin discussions relative to budget considerations. The school system has tried to protect jobs and programs; however, this may be difficult to do for the 2012-2013 budget. A question was raised about the possibility of increased federal funding. The Superintendent, along with Dr. Jeff Early, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, and Mrs. Clarissa T. Knight, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, met with Congressman Hurt to discuss funding. It is not anticipated that more funding will be available; however, Congressman Hurt indicated that he would check.

6. Mr. Sanders, Chairman of the Budget Committee, indicated that there would be no new information to present for the Budget Committee meeting planned for Thursday, January 12, 2012; therefore, the meeting was cancelled. The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Stowe asked Mr. Mike Hutson, Director of Maintenance & Facilities, to indicate if there were any maintenance issues that would need to be addressed. Mr. Hutson stated that he did not know of anything that would need to be done before the end of the school year.

7. Mrs. Tracey R. Worley, Budget Supervisor/Deputy Clerk, indicated that the budget initiatives relative to maintenance and building site improvements had been prioritized and were included on the budget initiatives listing.
8. Mr. Donald R. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Business, updated the Board on the building renovations. All of the storage buildings at the high schools are now under roof. The track and soccer fields at Chatham High School have been graded and retaining walls are being put in place. A gravel base will be put in place and the softball field is being graded. The grass on the softball field at Chatham High School has been changed to fescue (instead of Bermuda) because the softball coach wanted to use the field this Spring.
9. The Superintendent provided the following reports:
 - Notification has been received from Governor Robert McDonnell that the following schools are being recognized as VIP Performance Award winners:
 - Union Hall Elementary School – VIP Excellence Award

- Mt. Airy Elementary School, Chatham Elementary School and Hurt Elementary School – VIP Competence to Excellence Award
Out of 2,000 schools in the State of Virginia, only about 400 schools received these awards.

- Additional notes of appreciation for the bonus were received from staff members and schools. These notes were provided to the Board.
- The recording of School Board meetings was discussed. In order to provide a quality product, the school system would need to invest \$20,000 - \$30,000 to purchase the equipment needed to record the School Board meeting. It was the consensus of the Board members to not pursue this endeavor at this time.
- A trend analysis on the attendance data for the school system was provided. The principals and teachers are doing an excellent job of encouraging attendance in the schools. The school division has a 95.92% attendance rate at this time. Appreciation was also expressed to the parents for sending the students to school on a regular basis.
- Upcoming VSBA conferences include the following:
 - VSBA Southern Regional Forum (which includes the Regional Art Contest) will be held on April 24, 2012, at Dan River High School
 - VSBA Orientation for New School Board Members, January 30, 2012, at the Richmond Marriott, Richmond, Virginia
 - VSBA Legislative Conference, January 30-31, 2012, at the Richmond Marriott, Richmond, Virginia
 - VSBA Hot Topic Conference, March 14, 2012, in Wytheville, Virginia

10. The Board approved the second and final reading of the following School Board policy:

- JO-PC, Student Records

11. The committee appointments/assignments for the School Board for 2012 were assigned by the Chairman.

12. The Board approved the 2012-2013 School Calendar as presented.

13. The Board adopted the VSBA Code of Ethics.

14. Mr. Robertson had requested the discussion of school division student discipline. He expressed his concerns as well as the concerns of teachers and parents as stated to him in regard to student behaviors in the schools. He asked the Board for direction. After discussing the procedures, rules and regulations that are

currently in place, the Chairman indicated that this issue could be discussed at a School Board retreat and that he would be glad to continue this discussion along with the Superintendent in order to determine specific circumstances that may have occurred in the school system. Mr. Robertson was provided the opportunity to serve on the Behavior Management Taskforce which consists of Mrs. Clarissa T. Knight as Chairman, level administrators, parents, students and a School Board member. Board members and the Superintendent did indicate that the administrators receive an annual evaluation and have the opportunity to provide staff a survey for the principal which includes topics such school climate and discipline.