

November 9, 2011

TO: Principals
FROM: James E. McDaniel, Division Superintendent
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTION TAKEN AT NOVEMBER MEETING

1. The Board approved the following overnight field trips:

SCHOOL(S)	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DATES
Chatham Elem.	BETA – Jr. State Convention	Richmond, VA	February 16-18, 2012
Tunstall High	Chorus – VMEA Honors Choir	Norfolk, VA	November 17-19, 2011
Tunstall High	Robotics – FTC SW Tournament	Richlands, VA	December 2-3, 2011
Tunstall High	Chorus – All District Choir	Radford, VA	February 10-11, 2012
Tunstall High	DECA – State Leadership Conference	Norfolk, VA	March 9-11, 2012
Tunstall High	Chorus – All Virginia Choir	Lynchburg, VA	April 26-28, 2012
Tunstall High	DECA – International Career Development Conference	Salt Lake City, UT	April 27-May 2, 2012
Dan River High	Sectional Football Playoffs	Gate City, VA	November 11-12, 2011

2. The Board accepted donations received by Tunstall High School as recorded in the Donations Book filed in the School Board Office.
3. The Chairman asked for any comments relative to the 2012-2013 school budget. Mr. Doss, Chairman of the Budget Committee, indicated that the division would not know about any definitive funding from the State until later.

There was no public input for the 2012-2013 budget proposal.

4. Mr. Tyrabia Womble, Student Representative from Dan River High School, introduced the Character Word of the Month for November which was “Respect.”
5. The Board recognized the following students with certificates of recognition:
 - Mary Hammock, a student from Gretna High School, for placing third in the State FFA Prepared Public Speaking Contest

- Candice Dalton, a student from Gretna High School, for placing first in the State FFA Swine Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency Event
6. The Board adopted a proclamation proclaiming November 13-19, 2011, as American Education Week.
 7. Ms. Kate Wells, President of the PEA, addressed the Board to express appreciation from the employees and especially the PEA for the recent information about the bonus. The action of the Board is appreciated in these very difficult economic times.
 8. Ms. Rachel Nicholson, Student Representative from Chatham High School, provided a report on the progress of a video which is being developed by the Student Representatives in conjunction with the Concussion Management Team. The Representatives plan to include the following topics in the video:
 - Clips from professional and high school games
 - Focus on high school sports and youth leagues with the beginning to highlight Andre Waters, NFL player, who committed suicide (reports indicated that his brain tissue had deteriorated)
 - A ten-second clip about how the brain bounces back and forth during a concussion using information from the New England Journal of Medicine
 - Have bullets to appear on the screen highlighting the symptoms to look for and encouraging parents to observe children after injuries
 - Stress that players of all ages should practice safety in all plays and practices
 - Stress that the younger the brain tissue, the more it can be damaged
 - Stress that football is not the only sport where concussions may occur and that concussions can happen in any sport or in playing games
 - Provide the effects of repeat concussions
 - End with slogan, “When in Doubt, Sit Them Out.”
 9. The Superintendent explained that a Concussion Management Team was developed to review information relative to concussions. This team, which consists of parents, administrators, a trainer, health care professionals, athletic directors, parents, coaches and the Student Representatives, has developed reporting documents and reviewed materials relative to concussions. These materials are being provided to parents, students and schools. The coaches are also required to complete concussion management training. The Superintendent expressed appreciation to the Student Representatives for their assistance with the development of the video.

Mr. Moon suggested that the research from Virginia Tech also be reviewed.

10. Mr. Doss asked for clarification on the improvement of the on-time graduation rate. Dr. Lillian D. Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, indicated that the principals are taking active and personal roles in following up with students that have missed days or not returned for the beginning of the school year. Services available at the school include mentoring students, credit recovery and remediation for students who may be struggling. A question was also raised about tracking students that leave the school system. With the new State reporting system, it is very rare that students could not be tracked unless they drop out and move out of the State of Virginia.
11. The Superintendent provided the following reports:
 - Appreciation was expressed to the Board for the bonus. Several thank you notes were received and presented to the Board. The appropriations letter showing the approval of the transfer of funds from the Board of Supervisors has been received.
 - A proposal from the Virginia Commission on Youth was received. The Commission is proposing legislation that would allow anyone in Virginia to place their children in the care of anyone who is kin to them without any legal documentation or court appointed guardianship. The Superintendent has responded to the Committee that the school system is adamantly opposed to this proposal. A copy of this response was also provided to Senator Stanley, Delegate Marshall and Delegate Merricks.
 - An update was provided on the school activity funds. A follow-up has been conducted with the schools, and principals have been reminded to appropriately oversee these funds.
 - Upcoming VSBA conferences includes the following:
 - VSBA Annual Convention, November 16-18, 2011, Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Virginia
 - VSBA Legislative Conference, January 30-31, 2012, Richmond Marriott, Richmond, Virginia
12. The Board approved the second and final reading of the following School Board policies:
 - GCBF-PC, Sickness and Accident
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 - GCBFA-PC, Sick Leave Bank

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13. The Board approved the first reading of the following School Board policy:

- JED-PC, Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals (addition of form)

14. Mr. Stowe moved to increase the salary for School Board members by \$1.00. There was no second. After further discussion the Board continued the discussion of this issue to allow staff to review State Code and policies and provide information at the December meeting.