



PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS
 P.O. Box 232 • 39 Bank Street S.E. • Chatham, Virginia 24531

Dr. Mark R. Jones
 Division Superintendent

February 15, 2017

TO: Principals
 FROM: Mark R. Jones, Ed.D., Division Superintendent
 SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTION TAKEN AT FEBRUARY MEETING

1. The Board approved the following overnight field trips:

SCHOOL(S)	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DATES
Chatham High	VHSL – Scholastic Bowl Regional	Central Wise	February 3-4, 2017
Chatham High	JROTC – Rifle Competition	Camp Perry, Ohio	February 15-19, 2017
Chatham High	FFA – Block & Bridle Livestock Judging	Blacksburg, VA	February 24-25, 2017
Tunstall High	Wrestling – Regional Competition	Christiansburg, VA	February 10-11, 2017
Tunstall High	DECA – State Leadership Conference	Virginia Beach, VA	March 3-5, 2017
Tunstall High	Band – World Finals Competition	Dayton, Ohio	April 18-23, 2017

2. The Board approved the membership of the 2016-2017 Behavior Management Taskforce as follows:

Dr. Lillian Holland	Assistant Superintendent for Administration
Mrs. L. Ann Cassada	Assistant Superintendent for Support Services
Mr. J. Samuel Burton	School Board Members
Mr. Jim Tolbert	School/Home Coordinator
Ms. M. Elizabeth Craig	Director of Middle/Secondary Education
Mr. M. Todd Sease	Director of Elementary Education
Mrs. Stacey Oakes	Principal, Gretna High School
Ms. Julia Woodward	Principal, Chatham Middle School
Mrs. Christie Dawson	Assistant Principal, Kentuck Elementary School
Ms. Jessica Gardner	Guidance Counselor, Chatham High School
Mr. Aldarich Beard	Teacher, Gretna Middle School

Ms. Jessica Jones	Teacher, Tunstall High School
Ms. Paige Hines	Teacher, Stony Mill Elementary School
Ms. Tamela Warren	Teacher, Union Hall Elementary School
Mr. Phillip Stamps	Teacher, Regional Alternative School
Mr. Frank Blevins	Student Representative, Dan River High School
Rev. James Wimbush	Minority Advisory Council
Mrs. Kim Jones	Parent (Citizens' Advisory Council)
Mr. Steven Merricks	Parent (Citizens' Advisory Council)

3. The Board authorized the application for the Autism Education Fund grant from the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region to support and expand the Autism program for Pittsylvania County Schools.
4. Ms. LeAnne Hardy, Chairman of the Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk, addressed the Board. She presented information relative to suicide prevention including available resources and training that could be provided to the schools. Ms. Amanda Oakes, Community Services Board, and Ms. Lori Eanes Brooks were also present and provided detailed information relative to the training availability.

The consensus of the Board was to ask staff to present a recommendation on ways to involve the students and schools to address issues relative to depression and suicide prevention.

5. Mr. Samuel Nicholson, Student Representative from Chatham High School, presented the Character Word of the Month for February which was "Self-Control."
6. The Board recognized Mr. Ricardo Luck, a student at Chatham High School, for placing 31st in the National FFA Convention Job Interview Career Development Event.
7. The Board adopted a resolution recognizing the week of February 20-24, 2017, as School Board Clerk Appreciation Week. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Mrs. Janet F. Hancock, Clerk, and Mrs. Tracey R. Worley, Deputy Clerk.
8. The Superintendent read a proclamation from Governor Terrance R. McAuliffe and announced that February has been designated as School Board Appreciation Month. The theme for this year was "Lead to Inspire." Each School Board member was recognized and presented a certificate of recognition.
9. Mr. Henry Walker, Teacher at Chatham High School and President of the Pittsylvania Education Association (PEA), addressed the Board and expressed appreciation for the progress that has been made. He expressed the desire to work with the suicide prevention program. He also indicated that the PEA would be glad to discuss any legislative issues at the Virginia Education Association (VEA) Convention. Information relative to the budget appears to be positive at this time, and employees are still waiting for any information about a new health insurance plan.

10. Mrs. Tracey R. Worley, Director of Finance/Deputy Clerk, presented information about the proposed budget for 2017-2018. The proposed budget has been based on the Governor's version for 2017-2018. The House version provides approximately \$60,000 more than the Governor's. The Senate version provides a few thousand dollars less than the Governor's budget. The differences in the budget versions lie in where the money may be spent.

Mr. Sanders, Chairman of the Budget Committee, reported on a recent meeting with the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors. The School Board has requested an increase in funding to implement the recommendations of the Compensation Study. The members of the Board of Supervisors shared dialogue and were receptive to the need to implement this proposal.

11. Dr. Jeffrey B. Early, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, provided information relative to the Joint Facility Use Agreement with the Pittsylvania County Parks and Recreation Department. He presented recommendations for proposed changes in the Agreement as follows:
 - Under Scheduling of School Facilities – added a statement to include the middle school parks and that middle school park hours are before or after school is in session and close at dark.
 - Under Maintenance of School Facilities – added these statements: General maintenance and care of parks, restrooms and athletic fields not located at high schools will be handled by the Parks and Recreation Department. However, the parties to this Agreement concur that there will be maintenance requirements due to general use, vandalism, etc. and will work to reach a mutual agreement to address repairs as needed.

Mr. Mark Moore, Director of Pittsylvania County Parks & Recreation Department, addressed the Board to express appreciation for the partnership for the last six (6) years. The Joint Facility Use Agreement has been a great asset. Mr. Moore and Mr. Mike Hutson, Director of Maintenance & Facilities, are continuing to work together on projects that will be beneficial for the school system and the Parks & Recreation Department.

The consensus of the Board was to move forward with this recommendation. The Joint Facility Use Agreement will be presented to the Board for approval at its March, 2017, meeting.

12. The Superintendent reported on the following items:
 - Congratulations were expressed to Zander Cornell, a student at Southside Elementary School, as the winner of the art contest for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 2017 in the Dan River Region.
 - Congratulations were expressed to Ms. Jessica Jones, Agriculture Teacher at Tunstall High School, as the runner-up in the Farm Bureau Discussion Meet at the 2017 Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show on January 6, 2017, in Phoenix, Arizona. She also earned a Case Tractor.

- Students in the elementary and middle schools participated in the National Geographic Bee in December, 2016. The winners will now take an on-line test to determine the top 100 scores across the State. These finalists will compete in the State Bee on March 31, 2017, at Longwood University.
 - Dr. Lillian D. Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, and the Human Resources Department, will host a Teacher Job Fair on March 11, 2017, at Chatham Middle School (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon).
 - The band directors are hosting the All County Band Concert at Chatham High School on February 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. The guest directors will be Mr. David Holley and Mr. Earl Shaffer.
 - Current education bills that are being discussed by the General Assembly include:
 - HB1578 (Tebow Bill) - Bill allows homeschool students to participate in VHSL activities. This bill has passed the House and Senate Education and Health Committee.
 - HB1983 - Pre-Labor Day bill allows school divisions to open prior to Labor Day. The bill was passed in the House by a large margin but has been passed by indefinitely in the Senate Education and Health Committee.
 - SB1243/HB1605 (Virginia Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts) – Bill allows private school students to receive public school money to apply toward the cost of private school education. The Senate has killed this bill. The House bill is still on the floor.
 - HB1534/SB995 – Bill reduces the maximum length of long-term suspension from 364 days to 60 school days unless the School Board or the Superintendent finds the student’s behavior may constitute an offense that would be a crime if committed by an adult.
 - HB1536 /SB997 – Bill prohibits students in grades PK-3 from receiving long-term suspension or expulsion from school except under specific circumstances involving weapons, inappropriate sexual behavior, or serious bodily injury.
 - School attendance was discussed. The number of absences has been higher than normal for students because of the flu, Norovirus and Strep incidents. Appreciation was expressed to Mrs. Ann Cassada, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, school nurse coordinators, school nurses, principals, attendance staff, teachers, maintenance and custodians for their work in cleaning and disinfecting areas in the schools.
 - The Cortez classrooms at Gretna High School and Dan River High School will be converted into labs to accommodate students taking virtual classes.
 - The Board members were reminded of the following upcoming VSBA conference:
 - 2017 VSBA/WVSBA March Hot Topic Conference, March 15, 2017, Wytheville Meeting Center, Wytheville, Virginia
 - VSBA Southern Regional Forum, April 25, 2017, (Location TBA – Lynchburg, Virginia)
13. The Board waived the first reading and approved the following School Board policy:
- GCE-PC, Part-time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment

14. The Board waived the first reading and approved the following School Board policy:
 - GCPB, Resignation of Staff Members
15. The Board approved and authorized the Superintendent to sign the contract with William's Logging and Chipping for the removal of trees from the Kentucky Elementary School property.
16. The Board present approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Piedmont Governor's School for Mathematics, Science and Technology.
17. The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from Big Smiles Virginia.
18. The Board approved the Hybrid Option of the Compensation Study Proposal pending the availability of funding.
19. The Board authorized the application for the VTSS/PBIS State grant budget justification and Statement of Commitment with funds to be utilized to support the school division's academic and behavioral goals.
20. The Board approved the Request for Special Project for Gretna High School to remove the existing press box at the softball field and construct a new press box.
21. The Board approved a request from Pittsylvania County to run fiber optic cable from the Network Operations Center to the new Animal Services Center pending the successful completion of an easement between the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors and the School Board.
22. Dr. Lillian D. Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, introduced Ms. Tammy Hensley-Hazlett, a new teacher at Gretna Middle School.