



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

Dr. Mark R. Jones
 Division Superintendent

September 14, 2016

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

1.. The Board approved the following overnight field trips:

SCHOOL(S)	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DATES
Dan River High	JROTC – Raider Competition	Camp Powhatan, Foster Falls, VA	September 23-24, 2016
Dan River High	Chorus – District VI Choral Event	E.C. Glass High School, Lynchburg, VA	February 10-11, 2017
Dan River High	DECA – State Leadership Conference	Virginia Beach, VA	March 3-5, 2017
Dan River High	DECA – International Career Development Conference	Anaheim, CA	April 25-30, 2017
Dan River Middle	FFA – State Convention	Blacksburg, VA	June 26-29, 2017
Gretna High	BETA – State Convention	Williamsburg, VA	February 9-12, 2017
Gretna High	BETA – National Convention	Orlando, FL	June 27 – July 4, 2017
Tunstall High	AP Social Studies Classes Enrichment	Charlottesville, VA & Washington, DC	November 12-14, 2016
Tunstall High	Chorus – All District Chorus	E. C. Glass High School, Lynchburg, VA	February 10-11, 2017
Tunstall High	FF – State Convention	Blacksburg, VA	June 26-29, 2017
Tunstall Middle	FFA – VT Block and Bridle Horse Contest	Blacksburg, VA	February 10-11, 2017
Tunstall Middle	FFA – VT Block and Bridle Livestock Judging	Blacksburg, VA	March 17-18, 2017
Chatham High	Golf – Regional	Draper Valley, VA	October 3-4, 2016
Chatham High	Golf – State Tournament	Harrisonburg, VA	October 10-11, 2016

2. The Board accepted the following donations (Copy filed in Donations Book at School Board Office):
- a. 2007 Ford Escape from Leslie M. Dobbins (value of \$3,072) to be used for instruction/lab work in the Auto Technology Department at the Pittsylvania Career & Technical Center
 - b. Donations for the Dan River High School Football Program

- The Knights of Columbus of Danville - \$500.00
 - Mr. Danny Myers, class of 1966 and former faculty member - \$1,345.00
 - Sam's Club of Danville, Virginia - \$1,000.00
 - Negril of Danville - \$1,500.00
 - Mr. Rick Slaughter, parent of a Dan River High School student - \$1,346.83 in materials for the construction and installation of media platform for the football complex
 - Mr. Jerry Echols - \$700.00
- c. Donation from the Piedmont Regional Governor's School of \$50.00 for the Brosville Elementary School Library
3. The Board approved the 2017 graduation site selection at the Averett University's Grant Center, Danville, Virginia, as follows:
- Gretna High School - Friday, May 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
 - Chatham High School – Saturday, May 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
 - Dan River High School – Saturday, May 27, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
 - Tunstall High School – Saturday, May 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
4. The Board authorized the implementation of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Program at Mt. Airy Elementary School.
5. The Board recognized the following students who attained perfect scores on all Standards of Learning (SOL) tests taking during the 2015-2016 assessment period:

<u>Student</u>	<u>School</u>
Hyrum Tonks	Student at Gretna Elementary School
Katelyn Geistel	Student at Southside Elementary School
Taylor Dodson	Student at Tunstall Middle School
Clay Hardy	Student at Tunstall High School
LaMiracle Carter	Student at Chatham Middle School
Mia Davis	Student at Chatham Middle School
Xavier Kelley	Student at Chatham Middle School
Aaliyah White	Student at Chatham Middle School
Da'nasia Wooding	Student at Chatham Middle School
Adrianna Zuniga	Student at Chatham Middle School
Jacob Coates	Student at Dan River Middle School
Kristopher Owens	Student at Gretna Middle School
Herman Witcher	Student at Gretna Middle School
Reese Bowles	Student at Tunstall Middle School
Shaniya Green	Student at Tunstall Middle School
Sophia Strange	Student at Tunstall Middle School
Andrew Walker	Student at Tunstall Middle School

Lisa King Student at Gretna High School
Jontay Stone Student at Gretna High School

6. The Board recognized the following student as a State FFA Winner:
 - Savannah Childers, a senior at Tunstall High School - Placed 3rd in the State FFA Dairy Handlers' Career Development Event
7. Mr. Cedric J. Hairston, Supervisor of Specialty Curricula Areas, presented the Character Word of the Month for September which was "Trustworthiness."
8. Mr. Henry Walker, President of the Pittsylvania Education Association (PEA) and Teacher at Chatham High School, addressed the Board. He recognized several of his AP History class students who were present in the audience.

Dr. Willie Sherman, Teacher at Chatham High School and representing the PEA, addressed the Board. He shared information about the proposed diversity plan of action for the 2016-2017 school year and the WHAM program. The VEA will host a Teachers of Color Summit in February 2017 which will include discussion relative to the diversity plan. Also, goals are being developed and will be discussed at the World Day for Cultural Diversity in May, 2017. The PEA would like for the School Board to partner with them to work on the Diversity Plan for 2016-2017.

9. The Superintendent announced that Mr. Jason, Ince, Agriculture Teacher at Chatham High School, was selected as the Region VI Teacher of the Year. A special surprise recognition was celebrated with Mr. Ince at Chatham High School on September 13, 2016. He was selected as one of the State finalist from 6,600 teachers in Region VI. Mr. Ince will travel to Richmond in October along with seven (7) other regional teachers of the year for the selection of State Teacher of the Year. This is a tremendous honor for the school division and Mr. Ince.
10. Mr. Mike Hutson, Director of Maintenance & Facilities, reported on the recent thermostat setbacks as required by the EnerNoc energy efficiency agreement. There were a few complaints from schools and parents. These complaints were the results of more misunderstanding than issues relative to the setback in temperature. The purpose of the program is to take the load off of the power grid during an extreme increase in power usage for the power companies. The school division has participated in the EnerNOC program for four (4) years. The division has only had to cut back for required test runs and three (3) emergencies. The demand response timeframe is from June 1 – September 30. Mr. Hutson asked staff and parents to continue to work with the division to ensure continuing energy savings for the schools.
11. Mrs. Avery Wyatt, Retired Gifted Resource Teacher/Director of the Piedmont Summer Regional Governor's School, provided a report on the Piedmont Summer Regional Governor's School program held at Chatham High School, June 20-30,

2016. Participating school divisions and private schools included: Eight (8) school divisions: Bedford, Campbell, Danville, Franklin, Halifax, Henry, Martinsville, Pittsylvania; and five (5) private schools: Carlisle, Faith Christian, Heritage Academy, Sacred Heart and Westover Christian. There were 312 identified gifted students in grades 4-7 and fifteen (15) staff members participating in the summer program. Offerings included eleven (11) classes, a computer research lab and 35 field trips. An open house and drama production of *Alice in Wonderland* concluded the program. This program is funded by the State Department at \$17,630.00 with additional money provided by each participating division to cover materials. The comments from teachers, students and parents were all very positive.

Mr. Burton expressed appreciation to Mrs. Wyatt for her work with this program. He also encouraged other Board members to attend the open house to experience the excitement of the students and staff.

12. The Chairman indicated that 17 of 18 schools are accredited by the State this year. He commended the staff and students at Kentuck Elementary School for the phenomenal job they have done in obtaining accreditation.
13. The Superintendent reported on the following items:
 - Board members were invited to attend the 20th anniversary celebrations for Gretna Elementary School and Twin Springs Elementary School as follows:
 - Gretna Elementary School - Sunday, September 18, 2016, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
 - Twin Springs Elementary School - Tuesday, September 20, 2016 (rain date: September 27, 2016)
 - The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) hosted the 44th Annual Danville-Pittsylvania County Schools' College Night on September 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
 - Dan River High School, Dan River Middle School and Tunstall High School held ceremonies recognizing Patriot Day on Friday, September 9, 2016. Fire and rescue departments, State Police, Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Department and the Danville Police were recognized in appreciation of their work.
 - The Department of Education has provided the fiscal year 2015 instructional expenditures. For Pittsylvania County Schools, the percentage of Standards of Quality (SOQ)-recognized total expenditures for instruction is 67.61% of the operational budget.
 - Governor Terrence McAuliffe has addressed the Joint Money Committees (House Appropriations, Senate Finance and House Finance) relative to the

State budget and economic outlook for the Commonwealth. The Governor announced that Virginia is facing a major budget shortfall for the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years of approximately \$1.5 million. Information relative to budget issues will be released by the Governor in December. He has indicated his commitment to make education a top priority. The Division's finance department has reviewed budget projections and remains confident that salary increases will not be affected.

- The STEM Academy held Cyber Saturday on August 13, 2016. There were 65 identified gifted students from grades 6-9 participating. Appreciation was expressed to the staff and volunteers who assisted with this program.
- The membership to date is 8,842 students in grades K-12 and 284 in pre-kindergarten. The 2016-2017 budget was based on a membership of 8,832 students.
- The Board of Education is revising the Standards of Accreditation (SOA). Specifically, these revisions relate to high school graduation and graduation requirements. It is anticipated that the proposed revisions will be released in January, 2017.
- An update on the Kentuck Solar Farm project was provided to the Board.
- The Board members were reminded of the following upcoming VSBA conferences:
 - Legislative Advocacy Conference, September 15, 2016, Doubletree by Hilton, Charlottesville, Virginia (8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)
 - VSBA Annual Convention, Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Virginia, November 16-18, 2016

14. The Board approved naming of the middle school parks as follows:

- Chatham Middle School – Cavalier Park
- Dan River Middle School – Wildcat Park
- Gretna Middle School – Hawk Park
- Tunstall Middle School – Titan Park

Mr. Mark Moore, Director of Pittsylvania County Parks & Recreation, also reported on the progress of the middle school parks. The playgrounds and shelters will be completed before the end of September. Contracts have been secured for the walking tracks at Dan River Middle and Chatham Middle Schools. Other items to address will be restrooms, utility tie-ins and sewer hook-ups. Mr. Moore is working with Mr. Mike Hutson, Director of Maintenance & Facilities, as this project continues.

15. Mrs. Tracey R. Worley, Director of Finance, provided information related to a required change in hiring practices for retiring or resigning employees who may wish to return to work in a substitute or non-benefit position. Under the Affordable Care Act ruling, any employee who resigns or retires and returns to work in a substitute or non-benefit position for Pittsylvania County Schools prior to the expiration of the 26-week break in service period, the school system is required to continue the payment of the employer rate for health insurance premiums for eligible employees for up to one year or the age of 65 (whichever may occur first). This will include any employee who retires under ERIP.
16. The Board directed the Superintendent to develop a policy relative to hiring practices for retiring and resigning employees to require a 26-week break in service period before they are allowed to return to work for Pittsylvania County Schools in a substitute or non-benefit capacity.
17. The Board approved the preliminary, non-binding interest in participation in a local health insurance plan similar to the State Health Insurance Plan.
18. The Board adopted the resolution for the installment purchase contract for the bus lease agreement.
19. The Board approved the offer of an employer-sponsored hybrid 403(b) retirement plan and adopted the Resolution to allow eligible employees to direct hybrid voluntary contributions to an employer-sponsored hybrid 403(b) retirement plan.
20. The Board approved the Deed of Easement for the installation, maintenance operation and report of drainage and sewer facility on the Pittsylvania Career & Technical Center (PCTC) property.