



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

Dr. Mark R. Jones
Division Superintendent

December 13, 2017

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

1. The Board approved the following overnight field trips:

SCHOOL(S)	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DATES
Chatham Middle	Beta – Jr. State Convention	Hampton, VA	February 13-14, 2018
Tunstall High	Wrestling – 2-day Tournament	Cave Spring - Roanoke, VA	December 15-16, 2017

2. The Board designated the following individuals to sign all Virginia Department of Education correspondence, reports, documents, requisitions and other official correspondence in their area of responsibility in the absence of the Division Superintendent for a period beginning January 1, 2018, and ending December 31, 2018:

Mrs. L. Ann Cassada, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services
Dr. Jeffrey B. Early, Assistant Superintendent for Operations
Dr. Lillian D. Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administration
Ms. B. Teresa Petty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

3. The Board designated Dr. Lillian D. Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, to represent the school system in the absence of the Division Superintendent for a period beginning January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018.
4. Ms. Matalynn Lewis and Ms. Chastity Gibson addressed the Board relative to concerns about bullying in the schools. Ms. Lewis expressed her interest to provide assemblies at no cost and speak with students in the schools to assist them with bullying prevention.

Appreciation was expressed to these individuals.

5. Mr. Michael Joseph Kendrick addressed the Board relative to a recent incident that occurred at Tunstall High School. He indicated that the school staff should be honest with parents and provide information relative to situations that may require a lockdown or other emergency code.

The Superintendent and Board Chairman indicated that the safety of the students is paramount in all situations. There are times when an active situation may require the school to be under a Code Orange but no call is made to the parents to allow the police to thoroughly investigate the circumstances.

6. There were no individuals to speak relative to the 2018-2019 budget proposal.
7. Ms. Monique Barbour, Student Representative from Gretna High School, presented the Character Word of the Month for December which was "Courtesy."
8. Mr. Henry Walker, Teacher at Chatham High School and President of the Pittsylvania Education Association (PEA), addressed the Board. He provided information from the recently released Executive Directive from Governor Terence McAuliffe relating to budget actions to address Virginia's teacher shortage. These actions include:
 - New funding (\$1.1 million over biennium) to automate the teacher licensure process
 - New funding (\$1 million over biennium) to support the recruitment and retention of principals in Virginia's most challenged school divisions
 - An increase in the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program (\$225,000 in FY2020)
 - New funding (\$100,000 over biennium) the help cover the cost of tests and test-preparation programs for provisionally licensed minority students
 - Revised budget language to improve the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program

It was noted that the funding included in the Executive Directive would be included in the Governor's Budget Proposal. Mr. Walker also provided information relative to the effect teachers have on student growth. He indicated that teachers need to be appreciated.

9. The Student Representatives provided a report from the VSBA Annual Convention. The Representatives were very appreciative of the opportunity to attend the convention and participate in the workshop with other student representatives. The opening session with Mr. Manny Scott, one of the original Freedom Writers, and the workshop were very informative.
10. The Board reviewed the following desk reports:
 - VTSS-PBIS professional development training
 - Academic/School Improvement Reviews
 - Medicaid Cost Report
 - Bullying/Suicide Prevention Program/Training for Tunstall High School
 - Monthly Report on Use of School Facilities
11. The Superintendent reported on the following items:
 - Mr. Brian Boles, Principal of Tunstall High School, provided a report relative to the ways that Tunstall High School will address bullying/suicide prevention at the school. Tunstall High School is working with Ms. Amanda Oakes, Representative from Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services Board, Ms. LeeAnne Hardy, Representative from Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention, Central Office Staff and student groups in the schools to address these issues.

- The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors approved the Stop Arm/Dash Cam Ordinance. The Pupil Transportation Department will install and implement this camera system to video motor vehicles that fail to stop when approaching a stopped school bus when it is loading or unloading children.
- On December 4, 2017, a group of Superintendents met to discuss the issues that rural counties face. There were approximately 40 counties represented. The group, “Rural Schools Coalition,” will speak with legislators about concerns relating to rural schools. There are four (4) areas of concern at this time: funding for rural counties, teacher shortages, loss of enrollment and unfunded mandates.
- Virginia has received the 2016 Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) Differentiated Monitoring Determination Letter. Virginia was recognized for receiving the highest levels in all four areas: Results, Compliance, Fiscal and the State Systemic Improvement Plan. This recognition is earned because Virginia has very low levels of risk in special education and will not be required to develop any corrective actions/required technical assistance. Appreciation was expressed to the Support Services Department and the special educators for their hard work and assistance in accomplishing this recognition.
- Congratulations were expressed to the following individuals/schools:
 - The following cafeteria staff members were recognized for earning the ServSafe Credentials:
 - Brosville Elementary: Christine Anderson, Brenda Bartley, Shermaine Millner, Frances Craft
 - Chatham High: Amanda Doss, Christie Cahill, and Shamanda Anderson
 - Dan River Middle: Janice Ingram, Tina Johnson, and Rose Kirk
 - Dan River High: Penny Wilson
 - Gretna Elementary: Barbara Neal, and Tara Hunley
 - Gretna Middle: Mable Moore
 - John L. Hurt Elementary: Lisa Adkins and Camille Atkins
 - Kentuck Elementary: Shirley Gunn, Doris Ewell, Sheryl Vickers, Amy James, and Elsie Richardson
 - Southside Elementary: Brenda Saunders and Jane Mays
 - Stony Mill Elementary: Rosylind Fitz, Kelly Soyars, Donna Hawker, and Mary Beth Woods
 - Tunstall Middle: Joy Childress, Cindy Dixon, Diane Burke, and Misty Eaton
 - Union Hall Elementary: Janet Wood
 - Several schools were asked to paint the blades of the snow plows for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Board members were encouraged to watch for these plows during the coming months.
 - Ms. Angela Andrepont, Teacher at Dan River Middle School, for receiving the 2017 Southern Business Education Association Middle/Junior High

Teacher of the Year Award. Ms. Andrepont is the first teacher from Pittsylvania County Schools to receive this award.

- The Board members were reminded of the following upcoming VSBA conferences:
 - VSBA Capital Conference, January 22-23, 2018, Richmond Marriott, Richmond, Virginia
 - VSBA Orientation for New Board Members and Superintendents, January 23, 2018, Richmond Marriott, Richmond, Virginia
- 12. The Board granted approval not to participate in the Local Option Health Insurance Plan (SB 364) – COVA Local.
- 13. The Board approved the Minority Advisory Council Members for the Banister and Westover Districts as follows:
 - Banister District – Rev. James Perkins (term ending June 30, 2019)
 - Westover District – Ms. Latrese Fitzgerald (term ending June 30, 2018)
- 14. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar as presented. On a vote of 5-2, the 2018-2019 school calendar was approved as presented.
- 15. The Board scheduled the following meetings on January 4, 2018:
 - 4:50 pm. – Swearing in ceremony for newly elected Members
 - 5:00 pm – Reorganization Meeting to be immediately followed by a Budget Committee.
 - 6:00 pm – Disciplinary Committee Meeting
- 16. The Chairman appointed the following Members to serve on the Disciplinary Committee for a three-month period for January, February and March:
 - Mr. Moon, Chairman
 - Mr. Doss
 - Mr. Sanders
 - Alternate – Mr. Burton
- 17. The Board scheduled a School Board Retreat on Saturday, January 20, 2018, beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- 18. The Board approved the continuation of the current Mt. Airy Tower Lease Agreement with American Tower.
- 19. The Board approved the addition of the following course for the 2018-2019 school year:
 - Fusion Reading (Part 1 and Part 2)
Course Code – SCED Code 22999
For Grades 9-12
1 Unit of Credit