



PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

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

Dr. Mark R. Jones
Division Superintendent

January 10, 2018

TO: Principals

FROM: Mark R. Jones, Ed.D., Division Superintendent

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTION TAKEN AT JANUARY MEETING

1. Mr. Jordan Keatts, Student Representative from Tunstall High School, presented the Character Word of the Month for January which was "Responsibility."
2. The Chairman welcomed the new School Board Members: Mrs. Cassandra Crump, Dan River District, and Rev. Raymond C. Ramsey, Banister District.
3. The Superintendent presented a commendation for Tunstall High School from the Virginia House of Delegates sponsored by Delegate Danny Marshall, Delegate Les Adams, Senator Frank Ruff and Senator William Stanley. The resolution adopted by the Virginia House of Delegates recognized Tunstall High School for its distinction as a National Blue Ribbon School.
4. Rev. Joan Tarpley-Robinson, Education Chairperson for the Local Chapter of the NAACP, addressed the Board. She congratulated the school system for being fully accredited. She also indicated that the NAACP has partnered with the PEA for the Empowering African American Males Initiative (EAAMI). Ms. Anita Royston and Mr. Gerald Davis from the Education Committee were also recognized as members of the Education Committee that will be working with the PEA. The purpose of the project is to address a solution to the teacher shortage, achievement gap and empower African American males to achieve their maximum potential.

Dr. Willie Sherman, Executive Vice-President of Minority Concerns for the Pittsylvania Education Association (PEA) and teacher at Chatham High School, addressed the Board. He expressed excitement for the opportunity for PEA and NAACP to partner together to address these issues.

5. Mrs. Tracey Worley, Director of Finance, provided a brief report on the 2018-2019 budget requests. A listing of proposed budget requests for 2018-2019 was provided. These requests total \$15,126,040.00. This listing has been reviewed by the Budget Committee and staff. The listing has been prioritized for a total of approximately \$6.3

million. These requests will be discussed at the next Budget Committee meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

6. Mrs. Worley also provided a budget report. The September 30 ADM (average daily membership) was 8,640 students. The 2017-2018 school budget was based on an ADM of 8,780. The State is projecting a March 31 ADM of 8,614.85 students which will mean a loss of \$1.2 million in State funding. Currently, the total State funding for 2017-2018 is projected at \$60,649,590.00. The proposed Governor's budget for the 2018-2020 biennial budget reflects the same projected funding as FY 2018 with a lower ADM at 8,344.25 students. The school division would be held harmless with no loss of funding for fiscal year 2019 because of the projected loss in ADM. The Board of Supervisors provides \$17,237,709.00 from local funding. The composite index for Pittsylvania County was at .241 and now has increased to .2443. There are certain programs where the revenue has been reduced and the employer rate for the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) will be decreased. It is anticipated that the school system will have approximately \$449,000.00 in the budget to work with for the 2018-2019 school year. The Governor's proposed budget includes a 2% salary increase for Standards of Quality (SOQ) funded positions effective December, 2019. A one percent (1%) raise for Pittsylvania County Schools' employees would cost \$625,000.00. The proposed budget was prepared by Governor McAuliffe. It was noted that incoming Governor Northam may have adjustments.
7. The Board reviewed the following desk reports:
 - Blairs Middle School Property
 - Pupil/Teacher ratios
 - December 1 Child Count
 - 2017-2018 Safety Audit report / Review of Crisis Management Plan
 - Professional Development Activities for January 4-5, 2018
 - Monthly Report on Use of School Facilities
8. The Superintendent reported on the following items:
 - Information was provided relative to the Blairs Middle School property. The Board of Supervisors owns the property; however, they have asked the school system if there would be any need for the property prior to putting it on the market to sell. The school system does have an easement for the second entrance for access to the parking lot on the Southside Elementary School site. It was indicated that the school system does not have a need for this property.
 - Information was provided relative to the Go Virginia Initiative. This is a bi-partisan business-led initiative authorized by the General Assembly in 2016 to help diversify the Commonwealth's economy and reflect variations in regional economies. With public and private support, the initiative nine (9) defined regions develop a growth and diversification plan to show how it intends to invest State, regional and local resources to address three (3) critical areas: How the region will increase the number of higher paying jobs that will bring new investment; how the region will enhance its economic competitiveness; and how the region will diversify its economy to support the growth of the Commonwealth's overall economy. The initial plan for this

region's defined group includes funding for a Career Connections lab for grades 6-8 in Pittsylvania County Schools and Danville.

- A Talk Saves Lives program is being offered at Tunstall High School on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. This program is provided by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and funded through the Danville-Pittsylvania County Out of the Darkness Walk in partnership with Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services and Suicide Education Awareness Support. Two (2) additional dates have been scheduled for training for guidance counselors and staff on May 29, 2018, and August 7, 2018.
- An update was provided on the following legislative bills:
 - House Bill #2 – Teacher licensure; reciprocity; spouses of Armed Forces members – requires the Board of Education to provide for teacher licensure by reciprocity for a period of one year for any spouse of an active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States or the Commonwealth, provided that such spouse has obtained a valid out-of-state license, with full credentials and without deficiencies.
 - House Bill #3 – Dual enrolment courses; quality standards; universal transfer course credit – Ensures that any student earning dual enrollment credit would be granted transfer credit at any State university.
 - House Bill #38 – School calendar; opening day of the school year – eliminates the post-Labor Day opening requirement and “good cause” scenarios for which the Board of Education may grant waivers of the requirement.
 - House Bill #296 – Public schools; student discipline – prohibits students in pre-school through grade three from being suspended or expelled except for drug offenses, firearm offenses or certain criminal acts.
- Information relative to student attendance was provided. The membership for 2008-2009 was 9,030 students. For the 2017-2018 school year, the membership is predicted to be 8,707. The membership by school, grade level and by division for the school years 2008-2009 to present was presented.
- Congratulations were expressed to the schools and departments for their contributions to United Way. The total contribution for 2017 was \$13,772.58. The breakdown by school levels included the following:
 - Elementary schools - \$6,197.58
 - Middle schools - \$2,894.00
 - High schools - \$ 2,439.00
 - Other departments - \$2,242.00

Appreciation was expressed to Ms. B. Teresa Petty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, and Mr. Cedric Hairston, Supervisor of Specialty Curricula Areas, for their work with United Way.

- The number of days missed because of inclement weather was provided. The total number of hours missed is 20 hours and two (2) full days. There are currently 96 hours remaining that would be over and above the required 990 hours. The time missed included the following:
 - August 21, 2017 – Students dismissed at 12:00 Noon (Solar Eclipse)
 - December 8, 2017 – Students dismissed at 2:00 p.m. (Snow)
 - December 11, 2017 – Operated on a 2-hour delay (Ice and Snow)

- December 13, 2017 – Operated on a 2-hour delay (Cold Temperatures and Wind Chill)
 - January 8, 2018 – Schools closed (Inclement Weather Forecast)
 - January 9, 2018 – Schools closed (Ice)
 - 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
 - VSBA Hot Topic Conference, Wytheville Meeting Center, Wytheville, VA March 14, 2018
 - VSBA Hot Topic Conference, Charlottesville, VA (Location – TBA), April 17, 2018
 - VSBA Southern Regional Forum, Mecklenburg County (Location – TBA), April 23, 2018
9. The committee appointments/assignments for the School Board for 2018 were assigned by the Chairman and a copy provided to the members.
10. The consensus of the Board members was to move forward to pursue a carrier that offers voluntary insurance options for staff at no cost to the school system. Criteria will be established for the carrier, interviews will be conducted and information will be gathered to make the best choice for this service. A recommendation for the service carrier will be presented to the School Board. A request was made to obtain an opinion from the PEA because of the change this would have on employees.
11. The Board adopted a resolution to support the creation of a small and rural schools coalition.