



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

Dr. Mark R. Jones
Division Superintendent

November 15, 2017

TO: Principals
FROM: Mark R. Jones, Ed.D., 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 – State Jr. Convention	Hampton, VA	February 12-14, 2018
Chatham High	FFA – State Convention	Blacksburg, VA	June 18-21, 2018
Dan River High	BETA – State Sr. Convention	Hampton, VA	February 14-16, 2018
Gretna Elem.	BETA – State Jr. Convention	Hampton, VA	February 12-14, 2018
Gretna High	Chorus – New York City	New York, NY	April 5-7, 2018
Tunstall High	Cross Country – State Meet	Great Plains, VA	November 10-11, 2017

2. The Board accepted the following donation as recorded in the Donations Book file at the School Board Office:
- Donation for the Dan River High School
 - Philip Daly and Frances Daly Charitable Unitrust - \$10,000.00 for the Dan River High School Football Program
3. There were no individuals to speak relative to the 2018-2019 budget proposal.
4. Ms. Kristina N. Silverman, Student Representative from Dan River High School, presented the Character Word of the Month for November which was “Respect.”
5. The Board adopted the Proclamation recognizing the week of November 13-17, 2017, as American Education Week.
6. Mr. Roger Maxfield, Teacher at Chatham High School and Representative of the Pittsylvania Education Association (PEA), addressed the Board. He expressed appreciation from the PEA to the schools for being fully accredited and to Union Hall Elementary School for being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. He also

expressed concerns relative to the costs of health insurance for the school system. Mr. Maxfield also provided a comparison of health insurance premiums for Pittsylvania County Schools and surrounding counties. He suggested that the school division meet with these surrounding counties to determine what they are doing to reduce health insurance costs.

7. The Chairman indicated that a Committee will be formed to review the rates for the Local Option Health Insurance Plan and submit information to the School Board at its December 12, 2017, meeting for consideration.
8. Ms. B. Teresa Petty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, provided a report from the Grading and Reporting Committee. The Committee reviewed information relative to absences because of suspensions. The recommendation from the Committee included the following:
 - Change in School Board Policy JED-PC, Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals, to allow elementary and middle school students who are suspended from school to make up their work within three (3) days of their return.
9. Mr. Kenyon G. Scott, Director of Pupil Transportation, provided information relative to the responsibilities of the department to keep buses running and transport students to and from school. There is a continuing need for bus drivers and substitute drivers. New recruitment methods and alternative training schedules are being developed to be able to attract more bus drivers.
10. The Board reviewed the following desk reports:
 - 2018-2019 School Calendar Proposal
 - SAT Test Data
 - Professional Development Training
 - Salary Taskforce Report
 - Report on Use of School Facilities
11. The Chairman noted that there have been many complaints about August 9 being too early to begin the school year. He requested that school begin for students on August 13. He also inquired about the teachers and students having a day off in October and on Election Day. It was indicated that these days have been requested by the teachers and staff and approved by the Calendar Committee.
12. The Superintendent reported on the following items:
 - Union Hall Elementary School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. The Board members were invited to a reception to be held on Monday, November 27, 2017, at 3:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria at Union Hall Elementary School.
 - A Super Saturday Event was held at the STEM Academy on October 28, 2017. There were 65 gifted students attending to learn about coding, robotics and water shedding.

- Information was provided relative to the requirements for being recognized on the Principal's List. An elementary student must achieve all A's and S's in all core subjects (excluding conduct/effort) for 6 out of 6 weeks. Core subject areas include: reading, mathematics, English, science, social studies, physical education and music.
 - Appreciation was expressed to the schools for hosting the flu clinics. There were 1,831 individuals vaccinated (338 adults and 1,493 students)
 - Congratulations were expressed to the following individuals/schools:
 - Ms. Adrian Nester, Teacher at Tunstall High School, presented two (2) sessions ("Avoiding a Teaching Slump" and "Write This! Not That!") at the Virginia Association of Teachers of English conference. She will also co-present a session at the National Council of Teachers of English in November titled "Free Range Poetry."
 - Gretna Middle School was recognized as a 2017 Virginia Naturally School by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
 - Tunstall High School Trojan Messenger was recognized by the Virginia High School League (VHSL) with a first class ranking for on-line publications.
 - Dr. Lillian Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, staff and retired personnel – Mr. Rickey Parker, Mr. Clarke Scott and Dr. Larry Aaron, were recognized for their work on the History of Education in Pittsylvania County video. A copy of the video has been provided to each school. It was noted that the Pittsylvania Historical Society will have the video available on its website. The Board members also requested a copy of the video.
 - The Board members were reminded of the following upcoming VSBA conferences:
 - VSBA Annual Convention, November 15-17, 2017, Williamsburg, Virginia
 - VSBA Capital Conference, January 22-23, 2018, Richmond Marriott, Richmond, Virginia
13. The Board waived the second reading and granted final approval of revisions for School Board Policy JED-PC, Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals.
 14. The Board waived the second reading and granted final approval of revisions for School Board Policy IICA, Field Trips, and IICA (Regulation), Field Trips.
 15. The Board authorized the extension of the EnerNOC contract for 2018-2023 as presented.
 16. Representatives for the Westover District and the Banister District were requested to serve on the Minority Advisory Council. Mr. Sanders and Dr. Miller were asked to provide the names of representatives at the December School Board meeting.
 17. Information to the Local Option Health Insurance Plan will be provided to all employees and a Committee will be developed to review this information. A presentation will be provided at the December School Board meeting.

18. The Board approved the following Family Life Education videos:
 - 9th grade – Stress: The Good, The Bad and the Healthy
 - 9th grade – The Nine Signs of Internet Addiction
19. The Board approved the formation of a Civil Air Patrol Club at Tunstall High School.
20. Mr. Oakes introduced Ms. Cassandra Crump, the Dan River District School Board Member-Elect.