

CULPEPER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Minutes
October 26, 2015

A meeting of the School Board of Culpeper County was held October 26, 2015 at the School Board Office (Colin Owens Conference Room) at 450 Radio Lane at 6 p.m. Present were Nathaniel “Nate” Clancy (Catalpa District); Robert A. Houck (West Fairfax District); Elizabeth Hutchins (Stevensburg District); Anne C. Luckinbill (Salem District); Michelle North (Jefferson District); Elizabeth “Betsy” Smith (Cedar Mountain District); Superintendent Dr. Anthony S. Brads; Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Rob Hauman; Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Russell Houck; Executive Director of Special Education Angela Neely; Executive Director of Business/Finance Jeffrey R. Shomo; Executive Director of Human Resources Dr. Stacey Timmons; and Deputy Clerk Pearl Jamison. Robert Beard (East Fairfax District) was absent.

At 6 p.m., Ms. Hutchins called the meeting to order.

A closed session was not deemed necessary prior to the meeting.

Those present observed a moment of silence. Ms. Hutchins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Hutchins noted that Yowell Elementary School would present their School Improvement Plan first.

On motion of Ms. North seconded by Ms. Luckinbill, the School Board approved the agenda. Motion carried 6-0 by voice vote. (Mr. Beard was absent.)

The board considered the following action item:

(a) Personnel Recommendations

On motion of Mr. Houck seconded by Ms. Luckinbill, the School Board approved the Personnel Recommendations. Motion carried 6-0 by voice vote. (Mr. Beard was absent.)

School Improvement Plan (SIP) Presentations

Susan Campbell, Yowell Elementary School Principal, and Anne Jewett, Yowell Elementary School Assistant Principal, briefly reviewed Yowell Elementary School’s Improvement Plan.

Ms. Smith asked if the family nights at Yowell are well attended. Ms. Richardson said there were approximately 100 individuals who attended the math night and sometimes the attendance is as many as 200.

Ms. North asked if the students with the greatest challenges are attending. Ms. Campbell said yes. She noted that a translator also attends the event.

Mr. Clancy commended the school for making math so fun. He said his daughter loves the mathematical games on the computer.

Andrea Kilby, Pearl Sample Elementary School Assistant Principal, briefly reviewed Pearl Sample Elementary School's Improvement Plan.

Ms. Luckinbill asked Ms. Kilby to describe what extended day remediation involves. Ms. Kilby said twice a week students stay after-school and receive intensive instruction on reading and math. She said the instruction focuses on the areas they need help with.

Ms. Smith asked if the school division provides busing for extended day students. Ms. Kilby said yes.

Mr. Clancy asked how close Pearl Sample is to obtaining the percentage goals referenced in the SIP. Ms. Kilby said the school was accredited last year; however, the school wants to improve in the GAP areas.

Dr. Brads said there is a difference between state accreditation and the new state models vs. the GAP group language in terms of what used to be AYP and is now AMO. He said with the reauthorization of ESEA we are not sure what that will look like. He said there is some discussion as to what the accountability system will look like and if it will be derived from the states.

Mr. Hauman noted the accreditation ratings will be released tomorrow.

Germanna Scholars Update

Mr. Hauman said the Germanna Scholars initiative grew from the General Assembly in 2012. He said it required local divisions to work with a community college to develop a program that would allow students to graduate from high school with an associate's degree.

Mr. Hauman said a typical student's course load could cost up to \$2,000 per semester plus books. He said due to the factors of cost and the number of four-year colleges that don't accept the program, fewer students have shown interest than initially thought.

Mr. Hauman said last year 24 (20-EVHS & 4-CCHS) students participated in the program and only 22 of the 24 students completed the entire year. He said this year 13 (9-EVHS & 4-CCHS) students are participating.

Mr. Hauman noted that Germanna President Dr. Sam is willing to attend graduations in Culpeper and will present the students with their two-year degree as they receive their high school diploma. He noted that Dr. Sam is confident that when parents and students see high school graduates receiving their associate's degree, more will want to participate.

Mr. Hauman noted that the college transition has been a difficult adjustment for parents because the parents are used to receiving more communication in high school and at the college level there isn't a lot of communication with the parent.

Dr. Brads said staff has also talked to Germanna about pursuing other pathways for students pursuing a higher education than a two-year associate's degree, such as trade classes or certificate programs.

Dr. Brads stated that the costs for dual enrollment decrease when you have a staff member on-site who can teach dual enrollment classes.

Dr. Brads noted that Dr. Sam realizes the cost is a big deterrent and he is willing to work on decreasing costs.

Mr. Hauman noted that UVA and Virginia Tech will not accept the program; however, Norfolk State, Old Dominion University, Radford, University of Mary Washington, UVa at Wise, VCU, VCU School of Engineering and Virginia State will accept the program.

Dr. Brads said we only have one CTE program that is dual enrolled and that is nursing and there's a plethora of CTE programs that could be due enrolled but the question is facility, cost, instructors, credentialing, etc.

Mr. Clancy shared with the Board that Germanna is going to offer a new non-credit drone class and he hopes that could be part of Culpeper's CTE program. Mr. Hauman said the class will be offered on Germanna's site with their instructors.

Mr. Houck asked how many of the 24 students that participated in the Germanna Scholars program had to pay the full amount. Mr. Hauman noted there was a small number of free/reduced students who received free tuition or a reduced rate.

Dr. Houck shared with the Board some lessons learned from the event on October 7th at CCHS. He noted that two debriefings were held with the Sheriff's Department after the incident.

➤ Draft language recommended:

1. Lockdown
2. Stay in Place
3. Remain indoors and secure entrances

Ms. Hutchins asked if all the schools have outside PA systems. Dr. Houck said all but two schools have outside PA's

Ms. North asked if all exterior doors have cameras. Dr. Houck said there are a few doors that do not have cameras.

Ms. Smith noted that some schools issue walkie-talkies to staff who are outside. She asked if that is a division-wide policy or by school. Dr. Houck responded by school.

Dr. Brads stated there is another debriefing scheduled. He noted that law enforcement (county and town) are totally in agreement with the new language. He said there has also been discussion about down-grading a situation.

Additional Actions to be Taken

1. Collect student cell phone numbers by school
2. Use text alert system to give students and staff updates as appropriate
3. Unified public information releases from CSSO and CCPS
4. Identify a closed radio frequency for school and CO administration to use
5. Encourage parents and students to sign-up for 911 alerts
6. Instruct students and staff on the new language and proper response
7. Instruct law enforcement, media, and public on new language and proper response

Ms. North asked if constituents can block calls or texts. Dr. Houck said yes.

Dr. Houck noted that the school division has a Division Safety Committee comprised of law enforcement and school personnel that review the crisis information.

Mr. Clancy asked if the Virginia State Police is part of the Division Safety Committee. Dr. Houck said no but he could reach out to them.

Dr. Houck noted that the Department of Criminal Justice manual is confusing because it provides the same description for two types of commands concerning a "lock down".

Ms. North shared with the Board that the hospital did not receive information relative to the event on October 7th. Dr. Brads stated that staff would share that information with the Sheriff's department. Dr. Houck noted the Sheriff's department makes those contacts.

Dr. Houck said we need to make sure our communication is clear and precise.

Review of Capital Improvement Plan for FY' 17

Ms. Hutchins noted the Capital Planning Committee reviewed the CIP plan on October 14th and made a few changes.

Mr. Shomo briefly explained the changes.

Mr. Clancy stated that the school division doesn't need a new combined middle/elementary school now with the current data supplied of no immediate growth shown in the Weldon Cooper study. He said he would prefer to see a CTE building. He noted the Board of Supervisors don't want to see a new school on the plan either because it impacts the county's ability to borrow and the growth data doesn't support new schools. He requested to push the project out further

Ms. North noted the Weldon-Cooper survey showed flat growth for the next five years. Ms. Hutchins noted they are not always correct.

Members discussed whether to keep the combined middle/elementary school in the five-year plan.

Dr. Brads said in the committee they also discussed possible renovations to some of the elementary schools.

Ms. Hutchins noted that in the past the Board fielded questions relative to why something wasn't listed on the CIP. She said she was hesitant to remove the item from the document.

Dr. Brads asked if the Board would like to include a CTE facility in the plan.

Mr. Clancy said he would like to see the division have a stand-alone CTE facility so we could grow our own.

Ms. Luckinbill asked how the CTE facility topic came up. Ms. Hutchins noted the topic was discussed at the Capital Planning Committee and she felt it needed to be discussed by the full Board prior to placing it on the CIP list.

Mr. Clancy said he would like to see a combined elementary/middle school replaced with a CTE facility. Ms. Hutchins expressed concern because we don't have the data, at this point, to support a CTE facility. She said if we include it in the plan we need to have the data to support the recommendation.

Dr. Brads said we are in the process of developing a student and business survey to see what the community would like to have included in a CTE program. Dr. Brads shared with the Board that the Daniel Technology Center only has nine instructional classrooms. He also reminded members that 2017 graduates with a standard diploma must have a CTE credential to graduate and we don't have the space in our high schools for additional programs.

Dr. Brads said graduates need to have multiple skill sets that can't be offered in our current facilities.

Members agreed to discuss the CTE stand-alone building at the Board retreat.

Mr. Shomo noted that a CTE building would be very versatile and high tech; he felt it makes a lot of sense.

Ms. Hutchins stated she was not opposed to a CTE building but said the Board needs to be prepared to answer questions and show the need is there.

Topics of Joint Meeting

Ms. Hutchins reminded members that the joint meeting is Thursday, October 29th at 6 p.m. at CCHS. She asked members what they would like to discuss. She noted that the county would like to discuss planning for the budget and looking at facility updates.

Ms. Smith said she would like to have a discussion about a CTE facility.

On motion of Mr. Houck seconded by Ms. Smith, the School Board voted to adjourn at 8 p.m. Motion carried 6-0 by voice vote. (Mr. Beard was absent.)

JEFFREY R. SHOMO, CLERK

ELIZABETH S. HUTCHINS, CHAIR