

Independent Hill, Virginia
PWCSB08-43/44
December 3, 2008
Closed Session/Regular Meeting

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

The Prince William County School Board met in the Board Room at Independent Hill, Virginia, on December 3, 2008. Present were Chairman Milton C. Johns; Vice-Chairman, Grant Lattin; Board Members, Betty D. Covington; Julie C. Lucas; Dr. Michael I. Otaigbe; Denita S. Ramirez; Don Richardson; and Gil Trenum; Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steven L. Walts; School Board Attorney, Mary McGowan, and Clerk to the School Board, Eva Thorpe. Chairman Johns called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Covington, that the Prince William County School Board approve the closed session agenda as recommended:

Meeting Called to Order
Approval of Closed Session Agenda
Motion to Enter Closed Session
Approval of Closed Session Consent Agenda
Appointments and Release of Specific Employees
Review of Request for Amendment of Educational Record of Student EXP06-541
Parent Appeal of OSMAP Recommendation for the Long-Term Suspension of Student LTS09-069
Parent Appeal of OSMAP Recommendation for the Long-Term Suspension of Student LTS09-058
Request for Religious Exemption from Compulsory School Attendance - RE08-14
Student Matters
Parent Appeal of OSMAP Recommendation for the Long-Term Suspension of Student LTS09-040
Legal Matters
Consultation with Legal Counsel and Staff Regarding the Scope of Authority of a Safety Audit Committee Under Virginia Code Section 22.1-179.8
Closed Session Certification
Adjourn

Recorded Vote: Yes: Unanimous

CLOSED SESSION MOTION

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Dr. Otaigbe, that, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711, the Prince William County School Board enter Closed Session for the following reasons:

- (1) To discuss and approve the appointments and release of specific employees under Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1);
- (2) To review the request of Student EXP06-541 for the amendment of her educational record as provided by the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act under Sections 2.2-3711 (A) (2) and (7);
- (3) To discuss and consider student disciplinary matters relating to long-term suspension appeals for specific students under Sections 2.2-3711 (A) (2) and (7);
- (4) To consult with legal counsel and take action upon requests for religious exemptions for specific students under Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711(A) (2) and (7); and
- (5) To consult with legal counsel and staff regarding the scope of authority of a safety audit committee under Virginia Code Section 22.1-279.8, pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711 (A) (7) and (19).

Recorded Vote: Yes: Unanimous

The Board entered closed session at 6:04 p.m., and returned to open session at 7:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Covington, that the Prince William County School Board approve the closed session consent agenda as recommended:

1. Appointments & Release of Specific Employees
That the Prince William County School Board receive information and approve the appointments and release of specific employees pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1). Employees are subject to a background check by the Office of Risk Management and Security, if necessary, and any other prerequisites to employment.
2. Review of Request for Amendment of Educational Record of Student EXP06-541 (Case #ERAR09-001)
That the Prince William County School Board confirm the decision of the Office of Student Management and Alternative Programs to deny the request for amendment of the educational records of Student EXP06-541 on the grounds that the information for

which the student seeks amendment does not meet the standard for such amendment under the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act.

3. Request for Religious Exemption from Compulsory School Attendance - RE08-14
That the Prince William County School Board exempt the students in case RE08-14 from compulsory school attendance under Section 22.1-254 (B) (1) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, with the proviso that the School Board retains its right to again review the request at a time when the children are of sufficient age to consider his/her beliefs separate from, and in conjunction with, the beliefs of his/her parents.
4. Parent Appeal of OSMAP Recommendation for the Long-Term Suspension of Student LTS09-069
That, for the reasons set forth in OSMAP's letter of October 31, 2008, the Prince William County School Board approve staff's recommendation for the long-term suspension of Student LTS09-069 for the remainder of the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year, and that the School Board also approve the conditions/recommendations for the student's return to school and alternative education eligibility determination contained in the OSMAP letter.
5. Parent Appeal of OSMAP Recommendation for the Long-Term Suspension of Student LTS09-058
That, for the reasons set forth in OSMAP's letter of November 3, 2008, the Prince William County School Board approve staff's recommendation for the long-term suspension of Student LTS09-058 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year, and that the School Board also approve the conditions/recommendations for the student's return to school and alternative education eligibility determination contained in the OSMAP letter.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

CLOSED SESSION ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Dr. Otaigbe, that, for the reasons set forth in OSMAP's letter of October 23, 2008, and subject to a Special Education eligibility assessment and manifestation determination review, if applicable, the Prince William County School Board approve staff's recommendation for the long-term suspension of student LTS09-040 for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year, and that the School Board also approve the conditions/recommendations for the student's return to school and alternative education eligibility determination contained in the OSMAP letter.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Covington, Johns, Lattin, Lucas, Otaigbe, Ramirez, Richardson
Abstain, Trenum

CLOSED SESSION CERTIFICATION

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trenum, that pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712, the Closed Session of the Prince William County School Board meeting of December 3, 2008, be certified by adopting the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each members knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard and discussed or considered by the School Board.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

PUBLIC MEETING

Chairman Johns called the public meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A moment of silence was observed at the request of Mr. Richardson, and a student in the audience led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Covington, that the Prince William County School Board approve the public meeting agenda as recommended:

Meeting Called to Order
Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Approval of Public Meeting Agenda
Adoption of Consent Agenda
School Board Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2008
Documents Necessary or Convenient for the Construction and/or Operation of the 11th High School and Elementary School
Sanitary Lateral Easement - Potomac High School
Holiday Boxes for Employees
Citizen Comments
Level Associates
Recommendation to Name the Playground at Leesylvania Elementary School in Honor of Parker Boyd and the Outdoor Courtyard at Leesylvania Elementary School in Honor of Theresa Manning-Brown
Student Learning and Accountability
2009-2010 School Calendar
Finance and Support Services
Increase the FY 2009 School Operating Fund
Superintendent's Time

Board Matters

New and Revised Commercial Advertising Policies

Revisions to Policy 295, Standards for Use of Telecommunications and Internet Technologies and Deletion of Policy 295.01, Internet Web Site Privacy

Inauguration Day Policy

Change Legislative Priorities to Add Legislative Amendment to Permit Decoupling of Residential and Commercial Real Property Tax Rates

Current Budget Situation Concerns

Teachers Using Personal Leave Preceding or Following School Holidays

Safe Schools Advisory Council Revised Charge

Adjourn

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

ADOPTION OF PUBLIC MEETING CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richardson, that the Prince William County School Board approve the public meeting consent agenda as recommended:

1. School Board Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2008
That the Prince William County School Board approve the School Board minutes for the November 18, 2008 meeting.
2. Documents Necessary or Convenient for the Construction and/or Operation of the 11th High School and Elementary School
That the Prince William County School Board authorize its Chairman to execute in the name of the School Board all documents necessary or convenient for the construction and/or operation of the 11th high school and elementary school, including road dedication, utility easements, and reservation of areas required by law.
3. Sanitary Lateral Easement - Potomac High School
That the Prince William County School Board hereby grant the requested private sanitary lateral easement at Potomac High School to WHI- Republic, LLC as outlined in the attached Deed of Easement. Further, the Chairman and Clerk are authorized to sign any necessary documents including any amendments to the attached document that do not substantially alter the agreement, subject to approval for form only by the School Board attorney.
4. Holiday Boxes for Employees
That the Prince William County School Board and Superintendent contract with the Department of School Food and Nutrition Services for Holiday Boxes for an approximate cost of \$24,990.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizens signed up to address the School Board.

LEVEL ASSOCIATES

Ms. Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Ms. Covington, that the Prince William County School Board approve the recommendation to name the playground at Leesylvania Elementary School in honor of Parker Boyd and the outdoor courtyard at Leesylvania Elementary School in honor of Theresa Manning-Brown.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

STUDENT LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Ms. Gauch, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability, provided information regarding the 2009-10 school calendar. Each year, the Prince William County School Board approves a school calendar for the next school year. Guidelines for the calendar are found in Regulation 261-1. These guidelines were used to develop the calendar. The calendar was reviewed by employee groups, organizations, and councils prior to being submitted for approval. The calendar will be voted on by the Board at the December 17 meeting.

FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Dave Cline, Associate Superintendent for Finance and Support Services, indicated that an adjustment is necessary due to the increase in enrollment, the carryover of FY 08 unencumbered bus replacement funds, new revenues and the increase in grant programs where notification to the School Division was after the approval of the budget. The increase in state basic aid revenue due to the increase in enrollment of 336 students over projection is an estimated \$3.7 million; however, the overall increase is reduced to \$102,186 due to the projected reductions in sales tax, VRS, and lottery revenues. These increases require Board of County Supervisors appropriation before the funds can be encumbered. A summary of the increases by source of revenue is as follows, and a detail list by individual revenue was shared with the Board: Federal \$2,415,256; Local \$1,799,360; State \$ 683,186; Total \$4,897,802.

Mr. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trenum, that the Prince William County School Board approve the request to increase the School Operating Fund budget by \$4,897,802 and direct staff to prepare the appropriate documents to be forwarded to the Board of County Supervisors.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

SUPERINTENDENT'S TIME

Dr. Walts shared that the office staff at Antietam Elementary School were featured on Channel 4's Morning Person spotlight on November 18. He shared the names of the schools in Prince William County that made the top 100 elementary schools of Northern Virginia by *The Washington Post*. He announced that he is reviewing position requests and all vacancies, and he shared the School Focus story on Math Investigations.

BOARD MATTERS

Ms. Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucas, that the Prince William County School Board approve revised Policy 273.01, Political Activities; new Policy 923, Commercial Advertising; and new Policy 951, Parental Involvement in the Schools.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

Proposed revisions to Policy 295, Standards for Use of Telecommunications and Internet Technologies and the proposed deletion of Policy 295.01, Internet Web Site Privacy were presented to the School Board for information.

Ms. Covington made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucas, that beginning in 2009 and every fourth year thereafter, Inauguration Day is a holiday for employees and students and President's Day is a school day in Prince William County Public Schools.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Covington, Lattin, Lucas, Otaigbe, Ramirez
No, Johns, Richardson, Trenum

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Covington, to maximize options for counties that the Prince William County School Board add a legislative amendment to permit decoupling of residential and commercial real property tax rates so long as the decoupling will not increase commercial tax rates.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Covington, Lattin, Lucas, Otaigbe, Ramirez, Richardson
No, Johns, Trenum

Mr. Trenum requested discussion of the following: decision points/drop dead dates on when we have to make a decision regarding the purchase of new textbooks and materials for curriculum changes (specifically the 5th grade Geography course and the Math Investigations roll out to grade 5); the impact of immediately freezing all new hire actions, with the possible exception of replacement teachers; and the pros/cons of raising the cap on the amount of budget a principal can roll over, and possibly removing the cap entirely.

Dr. Otaigbe requested that the Board discuss the roll out to the 5th grade Math Investigations program at an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Ramirez indicated that no discussion was necessary regarding teachers using personal leave preceding or following school holidays (specifically January 19, 2009) since the Board voted to make January 20 a holiday for employees.

Mr. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trenum, that the Prince William County School Board approve the revised Charge of Authority defining the nature and scope of the mission of the Safe Schools Advisory Council.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

Mr. Trenum attended the community meeting regarding the Yorkshire boundary changes. He thanked the boundary committee for the job they did. On December 8 there will be another community meeting at Signal Hill Elementary School for those who were unable to attend the first meeting.

Mr. Richardson was delighted to hear that out of the top 100 elementary schools in Northern Virginia nine schools were Prince William County schools. He congratulated Mountain View for earning the top rank in Prince William.

Ms. Covington congratulated Pam Gauch on her retirement; she attended the recent reception and enjoyed seeing many retirees. She thanked Food Services for an outstanding job. She thanked the students from Forest Park High School for emailing her about January 20 (Inauguration Day) being a holiday.

Mr. Lattin did not have any comments.


Ms. Lucas congratulated Ms. Gauch on her retirement and wished her the very best. Ms. Lucas shared that her schools are in need of Smart Boards. She would be interested in how we will be able to fund Smart Boards as well as technology in our schools. Ms. Lucas indicated there is a program offered through the Attorney General's office regarding Internet Safety Programs and Gang Prevention Programs. They offer resources and training for free. She appreciates Dr. Walts reaching out to see what we can do to partner with them. She thanked Mr. Cline for meeting with her and answering her questions. Ms. Lucas congratulated Ms. Covington for being asked to be the Grand Marshall for the Dumfries Christmas parade this year.

Dr. Otaigbe reminded parents and students that the middle school specialty schools are holding their information sessions. Middle schools focus on foreign language programs, International Baccalaureate programs and science and math. He highly recommends the traditional schools. The programs are challenging. The deadline for applying is February 13, 2009; information is available on the website at www.pwcs.edu.

Ms. Ramirez indicated there will be a financial aid night for those attending college on December 9, 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Forest Park High School.

Mr. Johns asked the status of the information on the traditional high school survey. Mr. Johns indicated that he did not want anyone to take his comments to imply that he thought Board members were acting in a partisan or political fashion regarding the Inauguration discussion. His concern was that the discussion in the community became politically motivated. Mr. Johns congratulated Ms. Gauch on her retirement and thanked her for all she has done. He indicated that we are facing serious budget times. Staff is working very hard on the situation and he indicated that we will all work together.

There being no other matters for Board consideration, Chairman Johns declared this meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.


Milton C. Johns, Chairman
Eva Thorpe, Clerk