

REGULAR MEETING of the NOTTOWAY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**January 14, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Bill Outlaw, Jamie Higgins, Jimmy Fowlkes and Shelli Hinton**Board Members Present Electronically:** Clive Pettis

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Tameshia V. Grimes, Superintendent; Dr. Joan Dooley, Direction of Exceptional Education; Marcia Martin, Director of Instruction, Grants, Technology and acting Director of Finance; Dr. R. J. Greger, Director of H.R.; Charlotte Wood, Clerk; Donna Wade, Deputy Clerk; Jane Geyer, NMS Principal; Reggie Wilson, NHS Principal; Dr. Chandra Lewis, NIS Principal; Dr. Carrie Gravely, BPS Principal; Lloyd Page, CPS Principal; Charlyn Pierce, Food Service Supervisor; Robbie Templeton, Maintenance Supervisor; Jay Strawser, Transportation Supervisor.

Agenda Item #1A – CALL TO ORDER / MOMENT OF SILENCE / PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Grimes opened the Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM.

Agenda Item #1B – ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION. Dr. Grimes asked for a motion to approve Clive Pettis to participate electronically due to the pandemic. Fowlkes made the motion. Hinton seconded. All in favor.

Agenda Item #2 – REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL BOARD

- A. Election of Board Chairman. Dr. Grimes opened the floor for nominations.
 - i. Nomination was made by Outlaw for Shelli Hinton to preside as chairperson. Second was made by Higgins.
 - ii. No other nominations.
 - iii. Dr. Grimes closed the floor for nominations
 - iv. Dr. Grimes asked for the vote on the motion for Shelli Hinton to preside as chair. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote. (Nay: Fowlkes)
- B. Election of Vice-Chairman. Chair Hinton opened the floor for nominations.
 - i. Nomination was made by Fowlkes for Clive Pettis to preside as vice-chairman. No second. Motion failed.
 - ii. Nomination was made by Higgins for Jimmy Fowlkes to preside as vice-chairman. No second. Motion failed.
 - iii. Nomination was made by Outlaw for Jamie Higgins to preside as vice-chair. Second was made by Hinton.
 - iv. No other nominations
 - v. Chair Hinton closed the floor for nominations
 - vi. Chair Hinton asked for the vote on the motion for Jamie Higgins to preside as vice-chair. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote. (Nay: Fowlkes)

(Pettis connected to Zoom.)

- C. Appointment of Clerk, Charlotte Wood, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Fowlkes made the motion. Outlaw made the second, all in favor.
- D. Appointment of Deputy Clerk, Donna Wade, Accounts Payable Manager. Outlaw made the motion. Higgins made the second, all in favor.
- E. Set School Board Meetings of 2021. Higgins made the motion. Fowlkes made the second. Discussion: Outlaw has a conflict with April 1st and would suggest to keep it the 2nd Thursday or 3rd Thursday of that month. Dr. Grimes stated that the 12-month holiday is April 8th during Spring Break. After discussion, Higgins amended his motion for the meetings to be the 2nd Thursday of each month with the exception of April's meeting set for the 3rd Thursday (April 15th). Outlaw seconded the amended motion. All in favor.

- F. Authorization of the Superintendent and Designee to take certain actions during the 2021 year. Outlaw made the motion to approve. Higgins made the second. Discussion: Fowlkes and Pettis do not agree with the line item transfer. They request that the board be made aware of line item transfers prior to acting. Fowlkes requests that the motion be amended. After discussion, Outlaw did not amend his motion. Vote: Motion passed with 3-2 vote. (Nay: Fowlkes and Pettis)
- G. Bonding of the Superintendent, Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Payroll Clerk. Fowlkes made the motion. Pettis made the second, all in favor.

Agenda Item #3 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Hinton asked if there was a motion to approve the January 14, 2021 agenda. Higgins made a motion. Outlaw seconded the motion, all in favor.

Agenda Item #4a - AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. School Highlights – NMS – “Go Tech Lab.” Mrs. Martin introduced Mrs. Geyer who discussed the program.
- B. Virginia School Principals’ Appreciation Week – January 24-30, 2021 by Dr. Grimes.

Agenda Item #4b – PUBIC HEARING – Chairman

Budget Hearing

Input for the 2021-22 Budget – Dr. Grimes. A PowerPoint was shown. Dr. Grimes summarized budget updates: Areas of Focus, Fall Membership, Declining ADM, Student Demographics, Race and Ethnicity, Students with Disabilities, Free/Reduced Lunch Status, Governor’s Proposed Budget, Proposed Special Programs and Grants, Anticipated Revenue Sources, Composite Index, and Considerations.

Open Public Hearing: None; Close Pubic Hearing

Agenda Item #5 - DELEGATIONS / PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Sonny Abbott – spoke regarding ANTC contractual updating and the NCPS Finance Director position.
- 2. David Dalton – spoke regarding students returning to school. Suggests staying virtual.

Agenda Item #6 - CONSENT AGENDA:

Fowlkes offered a motion to approve the consent agenda. Higgins seconded the motion, all in favor.

- A. Approval of Minutes: December 10, 2020, December 14, 2020 and January 9, 2021
- B. Financial Report: December 31, 2020
- C. Payrolls: December 15 & 31, 2020
- D. Monthly Warrants
- E. Budget Adjustments: None

Agenda Item #7 ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Appointment of a School Board Member to the Governor’s School Joint Board. Outlaw made the motion that Shelli Hinton be appointed to serve. Higgins seconded, all in favor.
- B. Appointment of two School Board Members to the Amelia Nottoway Technical Center Joint Board to serve a 2- year term each January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Higgins made the motion that Outlaw to serve. Outlaw seconded. All in favor. Outlaw made the motion for Higgins to serve. Hinton seconded. All in favor.
- C. Appointment of a School Board Member to serve as VSBA Delegate. Hinton made the motion that Bill Outlaw appointed to serve. Higgins seconded, all in favor.
- D. Appointment of a School Board Member as VSBA Alternate Delegate. Hinton made the motion that Jamie Higgins be appointed to serve. Outlaw seconded, all in favor.

- E. Appointment of a School Board Members to serve as NCPS Representatives on the Joint Budget Committee. Hinton made the motion Jimmy Fowlkes to serve. Higgins seconded. All in favor. Hinton made the motion that Jamie Higgins to serve. Outlaw seconded. Motion passed with a 4:1 vote (Nay: Pettis).
- F. Adoption of the VSBA Code of Conduct for School Board Members. Higgins made the motion to adopt. Outlaw seconded. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote. (Nay: Pettis)
- G. Renewal of the VSBA Policy Contract. Outlaw made the motion to approve. Higgins seconded. Motion passed with a 4:1 vote (Nay: Fowlkes).
- H. Approval of the NCPS Procurement Plan Child Nutrition Programs. Discussion: Do we buy overseas? Answer: No. Outlaw made the motion to approve. Higgins seconded. All in favor.
- I. Approval of a Comprehensive Facility Study. Outlaw made a motion to approve. Higgins seconded. Discussion: Fowlkes is concerned about the cost for someone to tell us what to do with our facilities. Dr. Grimes explained what the study would include. Fowlkes does not agree with spending that amount of funds. Pettis does not agree with the cost factor and feels it is a waste of money when it could be placed in the ANTC programs. Outlaw asked if this is a common practice in other school divisions to use a comprehensive study. Answer: yes. Dr. Grimes had a conversation with John Prosize, the Deputy County Administrator and learned that the county conducted a comprehensive study as well. The cost would be determined by the bids received. Suggests that the board have a work session to reflect the needs to write out the proposal. Higgins would like the motion to be retracted until more information can be obtained. Outlaw withdrew his motion. The item is tabled.
- J. Approval of the Nottoway County School Board Governance Norms and Protocols. Higgins made the motion to approve. Outlaw seconded. Discussion: Outlaw would like to propose a change in participation in local School Board meetings. Attendance at local school board meetings and work sessions is mandatory, barring extenuating circumstances, for the entire duration of the meeting / work session. If there is any departure prior to the end of the meeting / work session, it is to be noted in the minutes. Higgins withdrew his motion. Outlaw made the motion to approve with the amendment. Higgins seconded. Motion passed with a 4:1 vote (Nay: Pettis).
- K. Approval to give permission to host a Luther H. Foster High School (1950-70) State Historical Marker on the property of Nottoway Intermediate School and to pay for costs associated with the application (if any). Mayor Billy Coleburn has agreed to write the application. Higgins made a motion to accept. Fowlkes seconded. Discussion: Outlaw did research on Dr. Foster and found he was very accomplished. Outlaw shared his research. There is a monument in front of NIS, at the Civic League and a Library. He has been widely recognized. Feels the school board should not be paying for the marker.
Mayor Coleburn discussed his intentions. Monuments are nice, but the public cannot see them unless you know they are there. His goal would have the state pay for it. Hinton asked if we will be approved since the county was given one last year. Answer: The cost comes when it is awarded. Pettis stated that he and his wife agreed to personally pay for the marker. Fowlkes made the motion to place the marker on the property of Nottoway County Public Schools (in front of Nottoway Intermediate School) with the donation of payment from Mr. and Mrs. Pettis. Outlaw seconded. All in favor.

Agenda Item #8 NON-ACTION ITEMS:

- A. First Reading of the 2021-22 School Calendar by Dr. Greger. No questions.

Agenda Items #9 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Lead Teacher Report. An update was presented to the board by Marcia Martin and lead teachers.
- B. PD and Instructional Updates by Marcia Martin.

- C. School Resource Officers. Dr. Grimes introduced Sheriff Jones who introduced School Resource Officers Deputy Becky LeSueur with NMS and Deputy Robert Sawyer with NHS.
- D. Superintendent's Report by Dr. Grimes. Focus on a COVID update and a recommendation to return students to school. Data: Nottoway's numbers are on a downward trend. There are still a lot of positive cases (active). VDH is working with DOE guidelines to have students return to school. Vaccines: We are working with the health dept. to have our educators vaccinated. A survey was sent to all employees to see who would be interested in receiving. Phase 1B can start on Jan. 19th. We will work with the health department to schedule appointments. NCPS employees will receive an email from Dr. Grimes to see who wants the vaccine. Will receive at the health dept. with 10 people at a time.
 - i. Return students to school. All students have been in a virtually learning environment due to Winter Break. We have to continue with the hybrid model.
 - ii. Dr. Grimes recommends that we bring back our 5th-12th grade students to a hybrid schedule Thursday, February 4th – the start of the new semester. The schedule for the complex would be an hour behind the elementary students.
 - iii. Discussion: Feb. 3rd is a work day. Mitigation practices are being followed. Concerns with students contracting Covid. All teachers are expected to be back Tuesday.
 - iv. Continue to have primary and others on hybrid.
 - v. Recommendation is for 5th-12th grade students to return to a hybrid schedule. Outlaw made the motion. Hinton seconded. Discussion: Higgins is concerned about the numbers have not declined enough. Would like more information by Feb. 4th. Fowlkes referenced the numbers posted in the local newspaper. Pettis does not feel we are receiving all the information correctly. Dr. Grimes discussed the mitigation strategies in place and assured all that we are doing our part to keep everyone safe. Hinton shared the parents that want their students back in the building are getting frustrated. Does not feel it's right to take the parent's choice away. Motion passed with a 3:2 vote (Nay: Fowlkes and Pettis)

Agenda Item #10 MATTERS OF SCHOOL BOARD INTEREST

- A. School Board Budget Work Session – Wednesday, January 27, 2021
- B. VSBA Capital Conference – Virtual – January 25-26, 2021
- C. Joint Board meeting with School Board and Board of Supervisors – February or March, 2021 (TBD)
- D. VSBA New Chair / Vice Chair Orientation – Virtual – February 2, 2021
- E. School Board Member BoardDocs Training – February (TBD)
- F. Second Public Hearing on Budget at the regular SB meeting – February 11, 2021
- G. School Board Work Session – February or March, 2021 (TBD)
- H. VSBA Hot Topic Conference, Virtually – March 17, 2021
- I. Future Agenda Item
- J. Other – Pettis commented on the norms and protocols. Pettis will not participate in meetings when there have been meetings before meetings. Points of personal preference by Outlaw declared these subjects have been discussed. Dr. Grimes asked Mr. Pettis – is there a different way you want to receive information? (Information was given when the board packet was given on Monday.) Hinton asked that he not assume what she is doing during a meeting or if morals and ethics were discussed Saturday during training.

Agenda Item #11 CLOSED MEETING RESOLUTION

Higgins offered a motion pursuant to section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia that the Board convene a “Closed Meeting” for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters:

Meeting for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters:

A.1. The consideration of personnel for:

- Three (3) appointments (2 car drivers and 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator)
- Two (2) resignations (1 secretary/bookkeeper and 1 bus driver)
- One (1) reclassification (1 payroll manager)
- One (1) Stipend (1 Acting Finance Director)

as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1)

Outlaw seconded. All in favor.

B. Higgins made a motion that for the current calendar year, 2021, the clerk of the board be permitted to attend closed sessions of the board for the purpose of taking minutes. The invitation may be suspended for any part of any closed session meeting where the board wishes to have a board-only executive session. Fowlkes seconded. All in favor.

Agenda Item #12 RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Higgins offered a motion that the Board return to “Open Meeting” and certify by recorded vote, that to the best of each Board Member’s knowledge, only public matters lawfully exempted from “Open Meeting” requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and identified in the motion authorizing the “Closed Meeting” were heard, discussed, or considered in the “Closed Meeting”. Fowlkes seconded the motion and the motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Outlaw, Higgins, Pettis, Fowlkes, Hinton

NAYS: None

Motion passed by a 5:0 vote

Agenda Item #13 ACTION FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

Superintendent’s Personnel Agenda.

Higgins offered motion to approve the Superintendent’s Personnel Agenda 13A.1-3 and 13B.1-2.

Fowlkes seconded the motion and the motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Outlaw, Higgins, Pettis, Fowlkes, Hinton

NAYS: None

Motion passed by a 5:0 vote

Higgins offered motion to approve the Superintendent’s Personnel Agenda 13C.1 and 13D.1. Outlaw seconded the motion and the motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Outlaw, Higgins, Pettis, Fowlkes, Hinton

NAYS: Pettis, Fowlkes

Motion passed by a 3:2 vote

Agenda Item #14 ADJOURNMENT

Fowlkes offered motion to adjourn at 10:09 p.m. Outlaw seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Shelli Hinton, Chairperson

Date

Charlotte D. Wood, Clerk