

**UNOFFICIAL SYNOPSIS**  
**PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA**  
September 15, 2021

The regular meeting of the Prince George County School Board was held at the County Administration Building, Third Floor Board Room, Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

A closed meeting was held at 5:30 p.m.

Board Members and staff present:

Mrs. Jill A. Andrews, Board Member

Mr. Robert E. L. Eley, III, Chairman

Mr. Christopher A. Johnson, Vice Chairman

Mr. Cecil M. Smith, Board Member

Ms. Sherry D. Taylor, Board Member [Arrived at approximately 5:40 p.m.]

Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Superintendent

Mr. William Barnes, Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Rebecca Kirk, Clerk of the Board

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Eley, Chairman, called the Prince George County regular school board meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated School Board members present:

Present: Andrews, Eley, Johnson, Smith

Absent: Taylor

**III. MOTION TO GO INTO A CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PERSONNEL MATTERS RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT, ASSIGNMENT, APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, PERFORMANCE, SALARIES, OR RESIGNATION OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES, SPECIFIC LEGAL MATTERS RELATING TO LEGAL CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, CONTRACTS, LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, OR STATE MANDATES AND EXCEPTIONS, PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS RELATING TO STUDENT SAFETY, AND STUDENT MATTER RELATING TO PLACEMENT (pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia)**

- A. Personnel Matters – Section 2.2-3711A.1
  - 1. P16/21-22
  - 2. **P17/21-22**
  - 3. **P03/21-22**
  - 4. **P18/21-22 [added to agenda]**
- B. Legal Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.7
  - 1. L02/21-22
  - 2. **L03/21-22**
- C. Public Safety Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.19
  - 1. PS04/21-22
  - 2. **PS05/21-22**
  - 3. **PS06/21-22**
  - 4. **PS07/21-22 [added to agenda]**
  - 5. **PS08/21-22 [added to agenda]**
- D. **Student Matter – Section 2.2-3711.A.2**
  - 1. **SM10/21-22**

Motion and second to go into a closed meeting for the purpose to discuss specific personnel matters relating to employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, performance, salaries, or resignation of district employees, specific legal matters relating to legal claims, complaints, contracts, legislative proposals, or state mandates and exceptions, Public Safety matters relating to student safety and a student matter relating to placement pursuant to the personnel, legal, student, and public safety exemptions of the VA Code §§2.2-3711.A.1, 2.2-3711.A.7, 2.2-3711.A.2, and 2.2-3711.A.19.

VOTE:       Ayes: Andrews, Eley, Johnson, Smith  
              Absent: Taylor

#### **IV. CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING AND ACTIONS**

Motion and second to return to an open meeting and certified that nothing was disclosed other than what was stated in the original motion.

VOTE:       Ayes: Unanimous

[For the record, Ms. Taylor arrived at approximately 5:40 p.m.]

Motion and second that in Personnel Matter P16/21-22, to accept the recommendation to upgrade the Copy Aide position to a Para-educator position to support Alternative to Suspension at Prince George High School.

Vote:       Ayes: Unanimous

No action was taken on Personnel Matter P17/21-22; information only.

Motion and second that in Personnel Matter P03/21-22 to approve to expand the search to include candidates for a Coordinator of Gifted Education and a Coordinator of Federal Programs. When the successful candidate(s) are found, either one Director or two Coordinators will be recommended for hire to fill vacancy.

VOTE: Ayes: Eley, Johnson, Smith, Taylor  
Abstain: Andrews

By a 4:1 vote, the motion passed.

No action was taken on Personnel Matter P18/21-22; information only.

No action was taken on Legal Matters L02/21-22 or L03/21-22; information only.

Mr. Eley stated that the School Board would return to closed session at the end of the meeting to continue with Public Safety and Student Matters.

**V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – led by Mrs. Jill Andrews

**VI. SCHOOL BOARD INVOCATION** - led by Mr. Chris Johnson

**VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A request was made to add two new Public Safety Matters and one personnel matter to the revised agenda.

Motion and second to approve the revised meeting agenda as amended.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

**VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. August 2, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting
- B. August 19, 2021 Special School Board Meeting

Motion and second to collectively approve the School Board minutes presented.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

## **IX. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

- A. Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics (VCTM) Math Beauty Contest
- Keira Temple (J.E.J. Moore Middle School)

Mr. Ligatti recognized Keira Temple as the VCTM Math Beauty Contest first place recipient. The VCTM gives students an opportunity to show off their problem-solving skills in beautiful and engaging ways. They solve problems in a logical and sequential solution and write out their thought process with a full explanation of strategies used. There were over 1300 entries and as a seventh grader, Keira Temple was named the winner of the Algebra I Division. Mr. Ligatti and staff at Moore Middle School are proud of Keira's representation and accomplishment.

- B. Pastor Chris Jenkins – Unity Baptist Church

Pastor Jenkins and several of his church associates were present to be recognized for the many blessings that Unity Baptist Church bestows on the school division. Dr. Pennycuff explained the church's past donations of distributing food and EBT cards to students, but this year the church donated \$1,000 to the elementary and secondary schools in the division for uses needed by the schools. Pastor Jenkins and Unity Baptist Church are constant supporters of the Prince George School Division, and we appreciate their continued support.

- C. Retirement

- Jamie Gilliam – Library Media Specialist, Clements  
(15 years of service)

Ms. Gilliam was unavailable to attend the meeting. Mr. Sebera will see that she receives her retirement gift for her years of service with the school division.

## **X. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Rowanty Technical School Report – Cheryl Simmers

Ms. Simmers provided an overview from the 2020-21 school year. Student enrollment was down slightly for the school year, but students worked hard during the 4-day school week and grades were not really impacted. Even with the loss of time, Nurse Aides had over a 90% pass rate on the State Board Certification Exams and 75% of the Auto Technology students were awarded state certifications. AWS Welding certifications were on target. Registration for 2021-22 is on target and above totals for the last two years. Some courses have reached the maximum load of 20 students per section (Cosmetology I, Welding I & II, Electricity I). The Nurse Aide program has increased to 50 due to enrollment requests. Staff is working with counselors to provide opportunities for students who request the Rowanty programs. Pre-testing for Workplace Readiness

Skills and NOCTI has been scheduled and staff is working with counselors to ensure all students understand the value of certifications. The Rowanty Open House is scheduled for October 13, 2021 (5:00 – 7:00) and the Rowanty Job Fair is March 29, 2022.

- B. 2016-2021 Comprehensive Plan Review of Progress – William Barnes
- Elementary Update – Robin Germanos
  - Secondary Update – Jason Chandler
  - SPED Update – Kae Partin
  - Career & Technical Education – Matt Weston

Mr. Barnes stated that staff would provide an update on evaluation of goals and objectives and accomplishments for the final year of the 2016-2021 Comprehensive Plan.

Mrs. Germanos spoke about the elementary and secondary factors that were added for consideration: Continuum of Instruction (virtual and in-person), navigating new learning management systems (Google Classroom and Canvas), multiple methods of state assessments (SOL Assessments and Virginia Remote Progress Test) and gathering restrictions (gathering limits impacted family engagement). She provided overall test scores in the areas of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics by schools for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and averages. She provided the objectives and accomplishments for elementary and secondary schools. The division met the challenges the last year to provide quality education for all students whether in-person or virtual.

Mrs. Partin reviewed the Special Education objectives to include 1) Improve Academic Achievement for Students with Disabilities by 10% - When compared to Virginia academic achievement scores for students with disabilities, Prince George is at or above the state ratings; 2) Improve Transition Programs for Students with Disabilities by 10% - Provided professional development opportunities for secondary teachers planning for students 14 years and older through annual IEPs, increased partnerships with local agencies and businesses for job opportunities, provided job site coordination, observations and job coaching, and investigated any unmet needs; and 3) Improve graduation rate of students with disabilities by 10% - Improved graduation ratings of 42.55% in 2015-16 to 68.42% in 2020-21.

Mr. Weston explained the CTE objectives and accomplishments. He indicated that there had been some setbacks due to COVID, but they have worked to fix any issues to offer programs to all schools. 1) increase the number of students earning CTE credits and credentials – Expand CTE Concentrations and Credentials, expand CTE dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment and AP course offerings, facilitate teacher credentialing, and provide counseling for careers; 2) Increase the number of students participating in work-based learning and enrichment experiences, expand CTE student organizations, expand work-based learning opportunities, expand CTE Enrichment Opportunities and foster workplace readiness skills. Mr. Weston expanded upon reenergizing our group competitions (DECA, SkillsUSA, FBLA, etc.) and the school-based enterprises (i.e., Royal Entertainment, PG Printshop, etc.) and work-based learning opportunities for students working in part-time jobs at various locations.

(See attached PowerPoint presentation for additional information and explanation of objectives/accomplishments for all programs above).

C. Return to Learn – Continuum of Instruction – Robin Germanos/Jason Chandler

Mrs. Germanos stated Virtual Virginia is the approved provided for students who requested and were approved to attend virtually. All students were required to enroll by July 15, 2021 and their first day of school was August 24, 2021. Forty-eight elementary students were enrolled at the start of the year and as of September 9, forty-four continue to be enrolled. Secondary student enrollment started with 62 students, and they now have fifty students enrolled. Students enrolled in virtual are permitted to return to in-person instruction at any time. She provided a breakdown of students by grade and gave an example of a student's schedule in elementary and secondary classes. She discussed Remote Learning for Inclement Weather Days. This will ensure every PGCPs student be provided access to timely and relevant instruction during inclement weather days when school buildings are closed, and a virtual inclement weather day is declared. She explained the state guidelines for remote learning during inclement weather days. In addition, she spoke about remote learning guidelines when students have been placed on quarantine due to exposure to Covid-19. (Please see the attached PowerPoint presentation with full descriptions and explanations).

## **XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL**

The following citizens spoke during the Public Comment period:

Keri Jernigan, 15145 S. Crater Road, South Prince George – discussed her concerns over parents having the option to make decisions to have students wear masks, the school board's decision to change from optional mask wearing, and medical exemptions for masks. She provided statistics from studies relating to health issues and complications of wearing masks and mandating vaccinations in children.

Jason Chimera, 22150 Rowanty Road, Carson – thankful for the last presentation slide relating to guidelines and procedures for remote instruction of quarantined students. He spoke about the segregation and discrimination of quarantining students regardless of their vaccinated/unvaccinated status and when another student has been exposed to another student who does have Covid. It has been determined that Covid can be transmitted regardless of your vaccinated status. He wondered if the board would be addressing this issue or the issue of natural immunity for children with antibodies in the future. This is pertinent information when a child is sent home for 10 days. In person learning is better than virtual and he would appreciate follow up to this question.

Mr. Eley acknowledged two emails received from Stephanie Sims, 267 Anzio Street B, and Christina Cibik, 249 Anzio Road A, both from Fort Lee, relating to transportation department busing issues and tardiness of late buses to/from schools.

## **XII. INFORMATION ITEMS/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Current enrollment as of August 26, 2021 / **September 15, 2021**
- B. Facility Use Requests for August 2021
- C. Monthly Athletic Events for September 2021
- D. Thank you notes from Jeff Stoke re: Dixie Softball World Series
- E. DOE – Local Determinations for FY2019 email dated August 17, 2021
- F. VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference – Richmond Hilton – September 23, 2021
- G. VSBA Bullying Prevention Month - October
- H. VSBA 2021 Fall Superintendent Evaluation Workshop – Charlottesville – October 6, 2021
- I. PGAEF Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser:  
Thank you to those who volunteered and attended the PGAEF Pancake Fundraiser.  
Special thanks to Cecil Smith for his leadership in planning and leading the implementation of our First Annual PGAEF Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.
- J. *Storybook Character Parade, Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the PGHS Bus Loop***
- K. *Prince George Journal: Census Data Shows Prince George is the 5<sup>th</sup> Fastest Growing Locality in Virginia – September 10, 2021***
- L. PGCPS Superintendent Messages
  1. Return to Learn Update on the Use of Masks for PGCPS
  2. SOL message – August 26, 2021
  3. Religious and Medical Exemptions – August 30, 2021
  4. Pastor Chris Jenkins email dated August 30, 2021
  5. VDH to hold COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on September 9, 2021 @ J.E.J. Moore

Dr. Pennycuff spoke on several items from her report. She commented that the budget had been based on 5,906, and we have 218 more students than the district had budgeted. We are thankful that our children have returned to in-person learning. The first annual Prince George Alliance for Education Foundation Pancake Breakfast was a success and she thanked all involved in making the event a success, especially Cecil Smith for his leadership in planning the event. She announced that the James River Woman's Club would partner again with the school division for the Storybook Character Parade, and it will be on Thursday, October 28 at 6:00 at the high school bus loop. She also shared a recent article from *The Prince George Journal* showing census data that Prince George is the fifth fastest growing locality in Virginia, behind Loudoun, New Kent, Stafford Counties and City of Manassas Park. We are growing and proud to be the educational provider for our families. She thanked the staff, students, and parents for a good, safe start to the new school year.

## **XIII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

Mr. Smith appreciated the information provided and comments made during public comment period. He commented on the first annual Prince George Alliance Education Foundation breakfast and thanked everyone for their support. The PGAEF has been dormant for a few years, and we are up and running again and hope to have many fundraisers to raise funds for teachers. He also thanked folks for helping to get the word out about the new PGAEF efforts in the county.

Ms. Taylor welcomed all school staff, students, and families back for a new year. She congratulated Keira Temple for placing first in the VCTM Math Beauty Contest, thanked Chris Jenkins and Unity Baptist Church for their generous donations to help benefit each student and school, and she envied Mrs. Gilliam on her retirement. She also welcomed students back and repeated we will get through another year and stated she recently changed jobs and must wear face masks throughout the day, and she certainly empathizes with students wearing masks in school daily.

Mrs. Andrews thanked custodians, bus drivers, office staff, teachers, principals, and administrators for their hard work getting the schools ready for opening day and for welcoming our students back. She congratulated Rowanty for all they do. They are continuing to strive high for our students. Lastly, she addressed the parents who spoke thanking them for their comments saying that the School Board hears their concerns and she thanked staff for coming out tonight.

Mr. Johnson echoed the other Board members' comments. He commented on the PGAEF breakfast and the great opportunity to serve for this event. Having a full school opening is very exciting. He reflected on the school over the last year and one-half, the challenges, how we conducted ourselves, students haven't really socialized with one another for some time. We are grateful for the teachers and professionals who can help our children with the effects of learning during Covid. He appreciates those working behind the scenes reporting cases and we are doing a good job in communicating this information to the community. Being in person is the best way for learning. He commented on phone calls he has received about the egress around the schools, traffic and safety issues, late buses, but he wants all to know this is being worked on with staff. We hear you and understand you, and we are taking every opportunity to work with the professionals in those areas to identify problems and resolve the issues for improvement in those areas. Mr. Johnson stated his son has the same concerns that the Jernigan's have relating to your issues. If his son was living here, he would tell his son the same thing, that we want what is best for his children and learning in person in school is the best education they can receive, even with masks. They will be treated with compassionate, tolerant, and wonderful teachers and staff we have in our schools. Mr. Johnson appreciates Mrs. Jernigan for being so outspoken about the topic. Parents make their decisions for their children and the school board gives parents choices. We appreciate everyone involved in educating our children.

Mr. Eley commented on events over the weekend: Fellowship of Christian Athletes dedication of the new pavilion and the PGAEF Annual Breakfast. He also reminded folks of the first Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Event/Dinner on October 15 and 16. He



indicated our staff from top to bottom are facing adversary and our children are dealing with this again. It is unfortunate that we are in this situation again this year, but he has no doubt that our children will prevail, as our test scores show. Our children and staff will continue to put their best foot forward for success. He thanked parents for their questions and concerns and the School Board hears your comments. We gave parents options for their children to wear masks or not, and this was taken away from us by Government mandates. Some things we can't control or are out of our control.

#### **XIV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Personnel Report**
- B. Board Requests
- C. Warrants
  - 1. General
  - 2. Title I
  - 3. Food and Nutrition Services
- D. Project Updates
  - 1. Support Services
  - 2. Technology

Ms. Taylor made a motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

Dr. Pennycuff asked Mr. Patrick Barnes to give a Transportation Department update. Mr. Barnes reported that they are in the process of upgrading the Geotab GPS units in all vehicles to 4G technology. He reported on the driver situation relating to new full-time bus drivers, parttime drivers, drivers out due to FMLA or quarantine, and resignations. Interviews are scheduled to fill resignations. He also gave a routing and traffic update by school, citing improvement over the last two weeks. Some reasons cited for late buses and delays include driver absences, delay in release time from Middle School, abundance of traffic around the school areas, increased enrollment, and a considerable increase in the number of parents dropping off students instead of using buses. Staff is working to adjust drop off/pickup times, parent pick-up lines, etc. He gave a huge thank you to Lt. Burroughs, Prince George Police Department, school resource officers, and administrators helping with the situation around school areas.

#### **XV. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. VSBA May Policy Revisions (Part 2) – Lisa Pennycuff

Motion and second to approve the May Policy Revisions (Part 2) as presented.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

## **XVI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. VSBA May Policy Revisions (Part 3) – Lisa Pennycuff**

VSBA May policy revisions were made available to the Board for review. These policies will be presented at the October 4, 2021 meeting for approval.

### **B. Financial Report for August 2021**

Mrs. Barnes provided a pre-recorded overview of the August 2021 Financial Report to the School Board.

## **XVII. MOTION TO RETURN TO A CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS RELATING TO STUDENT SAFETY AND STUDENT MATTER RELATING TO PLACEMENT (pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia)**

### **C. Public Safety Matters – Section 2.2-3711.A.19**

1. PS04/21-22
2. **PS05/21-22**
3. **PS06/21-22**
4. **PS07/21-22**
5. **PS08/21-22**

### **D. Student Matter – Section 2.2-3711.A.2**

1. **SM10/21-22**

Motion and second to go back into a closed meeting for the purpose to discuss specific public safety matters relating to student safety and student matter relating to placement pursuant to the public safety and student exemptions of the VA Code §§2.2-3711.A.19 and 2.2-3711.A.2.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

## **XVIII. CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING AND ACTIONS**

Motion and second to return to an open meeting and certified nothing was disclosed other than what was stated in the original motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

No action was taken on Public Safety Matters PS04/21-22; PS05/21-22; PS06/21-22; PS07/21-22; and PS08/21-22; information only.

No action was taken on Student Matter SM10/21-22; information only.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Clerk of the Board