

The Augusta County School Board met Thursday, February 7, 2019, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Augusta County Government Center, Verona, Virginia, for a public hearing on the budget and their regular monthly meeting.

The following members were present:

- Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Board Vice Chair
- Dr. John L. Ocheltree, Jr.
- Mr. Timothy R. Quillen
- Mr. David R. Shiflett
- Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, Board Chair
- Mr. John M. Ward
- Ms. Donna H. Wells

Dr. Douglas W. Shiflett, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Administration, sat in for Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, who could not attend due to illness.

Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, Board Chair, called the School Board meeting to order.

Members of the Augusta-Highland Future Farmers of America (FFA) Federation led the School Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following students were present:

- MacKenzie Blackwell - Buffalo Gap High School - FFA President
- Kelsi Puffenbarger - Buffalo Gap High School - FFA Vice-President
- Ellie Vance - Stuarts Draft High School - FFA Secretary
- Daniel Worrell - Stewart Middle School – FFA Sentinel
- Rachel Amirault - Highland High School - FFA Treasurer
- Dani Thompson – Riverheads High School - FFA Director
- Charleigh Wheeler –Riverheads High School - FFA Director
- Emily Klein - Wilson Middle School - Director

The following sponsors were present:

- Jennifer Neil and Shirley Kaufman - Buffalo Gap High School
- Steve Heavner - Highland County High School
- Kaitlyn Sonifrank and Elizabeth Eastep - Riverheads High School
- Christy Kerr and Elizabeth Williams - Fort Defiance High School
- Cindy Vance - Stuarts Draft Middle School
- Blair Long - Stewart Middle School

Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, Board Chair, thanked the Future Farmers of America Federation members and sponsors for attending and wished them luck with upcoming events.

Dr. Douglas W. Shiflett, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, asked the Board to agree to a change in the agenda in order to allow the student delegations to speak before opening the public hearing. This would allow those students to leave in a timely manner. The Board agreed.

Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, Board Chair, introduced the Delegations portion of the meeting. He called on Mr. Gregory Troxell, Director of Operations, Maintenance and Athletics to come forward. Mr. Troxell introduced and congratulated the following:

- Stuarts Draft High School’s Competition Cheer State Champions for the second time in a row. Those present were:
 - Ms. Tammy Carter, Cheerleading Head Coach and Class 2 State Coach of the Year
 - Ms. Ciara Shank, Assistant Coach
 - Ms. Kyndall Hartt, Assistant Coach

- Alexis Carr
- Raegan Coffey
- Eryn Fitzgerald
- Caeleigh Freeman
- Michaela Harbinson
- Kelsey Patterson
- Skylar Puckett
- Bailey Ross
- Bella Sterling
- Bethesda Stewart
- Alicia Wade
- Olivia Waggy
- Kari Williams
- Riverheads High School's Football Team State Champions for the third time in a row.
Those present were:
 - Mr. Max Lowe, Principal of Riverheads High School
 - Drew Bond
 - David Cogger
 - Jacob Greer
 - Ethan Hartless
 - Bryan Hostetler
 - Moose Lee
 - Zach McCall
 - Justin McWhorter
 - Devin Morris
 - Garrett Phifer
 - Jaden Phillips
 - Avery Schaefer
 - Forrest Shuey
 - Blake Smith
 - Andrew Wilson

Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, Board Chair, congratulated and thanked all for attending and presented each student with a challenge coin with Augusta County Public Schools' new logo.

Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, Board Chair, declared the Public Hearing on the Augusta County School Board's 2019-2020 budget open. The following individuals came forward to address the Board.

- Mr. Bill Piner spoke in favor of funding middle school athletics.
- Mr. Reuben Siskin, President of the Augusta County Education Association, thanked the School Board for supporting the Red 4Ed Resolution and to encourage them to support a salary increase.
- Mr. Tracy Pyles spoke in favor of advocating for fair funding with the Board of Supervisors at 50/50%.

There were no other speakers. Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, Board Chair, declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, Board Chair, asked that the items for the consent agenda be reviewed. There was one revision made to the Building Use Form.

- **On a motion by Mr. Timothy R. Quillen, seconded by Ms. Donna H. Wells, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the Consent Agenda items as revised:**

- a. Minutes
 - i. January 3, 2019 (meeting)
 - ii. January 17, 2019 (retreat)
- b. Claims
- c. Overnight Field Trip Summary
- d. Building Use Summary - Revised
- e. Special Permissions and Religious Exemptions →
- f. Head Start Director's Report. Please note that the Head Start Director's report was approved including Federal Poverty Guidelines for FY2019, the edited revised Mission Statement, the 2 screeners for the newly awarded HS grant, the Policy Council by-laws, and the Head Start COLA request.

Disclosure of student names is prohibited under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

There was no correspondence to present.

Mr. Mark E. Lotts, Director of Finance, reviewed the 2018-2019 Revised Budget information and asked for approval.

- **On a motion by Mr. John M. Ward, seconded by Mr. David R. Shiflett, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the 2018-2019 Revised Budget as presented by Mr. Mark E. Lotts, Director of Finance.**

Mr. Mark E. Lotts, Director of Finance, presented a draft of the 2019-2020 Budget Goals and asked that the Board give approval. The goals were:

To prepare a budget that is responsive to the current economic conditions and the corresponding available revenues from the local, state and federal governments. During the 2019-2020 budget development process, the Augusta County School Board will seek to:

- *Maintain and enhance instructional programs with an emphasis on STEM, authentic assessments, and Profile of an Augusta County Schools' graduate;*
 - *Continue the school division's conversion to a digital platform in Pre-K – 12 classrooms;*
 - *Continuous improvement of salary scales while maintaining/improving benefits for all employees;*
 - *Implement a 15-year strategic plan to address school bus replacements by purchasing 12 buses per year;*
 - *Address Priority I Maintenance projects and implement a strategic plan to address roof replacements.*
- **On a motion by Dr. John L. Ocheltree, Jr., seconded by Ms. Donna H. Wells, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the 2019-2020 Budget Goals as presented.**

The following staff reports were given:

1. Dr. Douglas W. Shiflett, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, standing in for Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent:
 - a. Dates of Interest for February and March, 2019.

2. Ms. Jill R. Martin, Director for Personnel:
 - a. Resignations/Retirements.
 - **On a motion by Ms. Donna H. Wells, seconded by Mr. David R. Shiflett, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the personnel action as presented.**
 - b. Teacher of the Year Brunch will be April 12, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Best Western in Waynesboro. All Board Members are invited.
 - c. Shenandoah Valley Regional Recruitment and Job Fair is February 16, 2019, at Harrisonburg High School. All Board Members are invited.
3. Dr. Douglas W. Shiflett, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Administration:
 - a. Regulation 7.130 regarding current special permission and tuition charges. No changes are anticipated.
 - **On a motion by Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Board Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Timothy R. Quillen, the Board voted 7-0 to accept Regulation 7.130 as presented.**
4. Ms. Tina Kiracofe, Director of Instruction and Technology:
 - a. Information and itinerary for a proposed Wilson Memorial High School Class Trip to Vienna and Salzburg. A parent spoke positively about this at a previous meeting. Several comments were made by Board Members including:
 - i. Mr. David R. Shiflett mentioned that the Board heard a previous request to travel abroad from the Shenandoah Valley Governor's School but they did not approve it. Instead, students conducted the tour on their own as a non-sanctioned trip. He does not want the School Board to assume responsibility should anything happen as a school-sanctioned trip. He has serious reservations.
 - ii. Ms. Donna H. Wells agreed that the risk is there.
 - iii. Mr. John M. Ward looked at the calendar and noticed that only one school day would be missed if the trip were to take place.
 - iv. Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Board Vice Chair, said that, although it would be a great opportunity, he still feels it is unsafe because of the unrest in the world.
 - **On a motion by Mr. David R. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Board Vice Chair, the Board voted 7-0 to deny permission for the Wilson Memorial High School Class Trip to Vienna and Salzburg as a school-sanctioned trip.**
 - b. Revised draft of the 2019-2020 calendar specifying different make-up days that do not include any of the spring break as requested by the School Board at a previous meeting.
 - **On a motion by Mr. David R. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. John M. Ward, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the presented draft of the 2019-2020 calendar.**
 - c. Updates on Family Life resources which have been used for the past ten or fifteen years and are most likely outdated in presentation. No changes have been made to the curriculum content; therefore no Board action is required. A committee including teachers, parents, counselors, Central Office Staff and Board Member, Ms. Donna H. Wells, approved the purchase of the Healthworld online resource for use in the Family Life curriculum for the 2019-2020 school year.

- d. Congratulations to the Augusta County Forensics winners. The meet was held January 23, 2019. Augusta County, Waynesboro and Staunton City Schools competed in ten Forensic events. A list of winners is available from the Instruction Department.
- e. Augusta County has received a two-year scholarship to the Amazon Future Engineering Program allowing all five high schools to have access to online curriculum for Introduction to Computer Science and two Advanced Placement Computer Science courses. This will be available for the 2019-2020 school year.
- f. Instruction is requesting \$10,000 from the Community Foundation to establish Little Libraries in impoverished areas.
- g. Opportunity to provide professional development and collaboration to guide our implementation of Profile of a Graduate by applying to participate in the Virginia is for Learners Innovation Network.
- h. Invitation to explore the Augusta County Public Schools' Solar Energy Web Page.
- i. A big thank you to Augusta County Schools' Counselors as this is National School Counselor Week.

The following School Board Members gave reports:

Dr. John L. Ocheltree, Jr., reported the following:

- Attended several boys and girls basketball games.
- Attended STEAM program at Craigsville Elementary. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.
- Attended youth wrestling program at Stuarts Draft High School.

Ms. Donna H. Wells reported the following:

- Looking forward to attending all the wonderful invitations for School Board Appreciation Month.

Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Board Vice Chair, reported the following:

- Thought it was a great idea to have the School Board Retreat at Valley Career and Technical Center. The meal was delicious and the tour gave a great behind-the-scenes look at both VCTC and Shenandoah Valley Governor's School. It is obvious we need the funds to make improvements to the facility and the programs.
- Accompanied Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, to Fort Defiance High School recently when he explained to Clymore Elementary, Stewart Middle and Fort Defiance High School employees how the five percent proposed salary increase would 'trickle down'. North River's employees turn will be rescheduled soon.
- Last Friday morning Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, and Mr. Timothy Z. Swartzel, Board Chair, met with the Board of Supervisors to discuss the needs of Augusta County Schools. Each Board Member should now reach out to his/her counterpart on the Board of Supervisors to help them stay on course to appropriately share the new revenue they are going to receive.
- Asked Mr. Mark E. Lotts, Director of Finance, when he might expect the templates on budget to be released in Richmond. Mr. Lotts reported that he has heard nothing definite.

Mr. David R. Shiflett reported the following:

- Has been on the Valley Career and Technical Center Board of Trustees for many years. The visit to that facility recently for the Board Retreat heightened his awareness of the substandard conditions and the need for additional funds. Our students must be ready for the workforce.
- Commented on the cramped conditions of the Shenandoah Valley Governor's School, especially the classes in the attic and cubbyhole upstairs.
- Attended the Valley Career and Technical Center's Board of Directors' meeting to discuss budget. Augusta County is the fiscal agent for VCTC.

- Thanked staff at Valley Career and Technical Center for hosting an inservice for ag teachers from across the state.
- Invited Board Members and all present to attend the third annual Market Animal Show banquet and fundraiser on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at the Expo in Fishersville. Building plans for the Market Animal Show will be unveiled. There are a tremendous number of students involved and this is for their benefit.

Mr. John M. Ward reported the following:

- Thought about providing similar classes like those at Valley Career and Technical Center at the high school and then provide higher-ranking, more advanced programs at the Center after expansion.

Mr. Timothy R. Quillen reported the following:

- Enjoyed the visit to Valley Career and Technical Center and the Shenandoah Valley Governor's School. It was the first time he had been in parts of that facility.
- Looking forward to the celebrations during School Board Appreciation Month.

Mr. Timothy Z. Swartzel, Board Chair, reported the following:

- Looking forward to the many meetings and celebrations coming up this month.
- Reported that the meeting between him, Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, and the Board of Supervisors went well and stated that joint board meetings might be beneficial.

There was no need for closed session.

- **On a motion by Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Board Vice Chair seconded by Mr. Timothy R. Quillen, the Board voted 7-0 to adjourn to meet Thursday, February 21, 2019, for a budget work session at 12:30 a.m., in the South Board Room, or subject to the call of the Chair.**

Mr. Timothy Z. Swartzel, Board Chair

Marsha K. Buehner, Clerk of the Board

ATTACHMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD