

POQUOSON CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
March 20, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY OF POQUOSON COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Present: Garry Carter, Chairman
Gail Whittaker, Vice Chair
Jennifer Mosteller
Michelle Sheeler
Christy Helsel
Jeremy Jordan
Curtis Brown, Jr., Student Representative
Jennifer Parish, Ed.D., Superintendent
Antonia Fox, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Support Services
Lenna Reimers, Clerk of the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE TO THE FLAG. Chairman Carter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Nathan Barden, a Junior at Poquoson High School, led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag; and McKay Freeman, a Junior at PHS, read an Inspirational Reading.

II. STUDENT PRESENTATION. Poquoson High School students presented on their NASA HUNCH Partnership.

III. ADDITIONS AND/OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA. There were none.

IV. RECOGNITIONS.

A. Chairman Carter recognized Sabrina El Shanti as the Senior of the Month.

B. Chairman Carter recognized the PHS 2018 Wrestling Team for being the 2A State Champions. He also recognized Brett Poultney for 1st place in the 133 pound class; Cole McCormick for 1st place in the 120 pound class; Patrick McCormick for 1st place in the 126 pound class; Mason Fiscella for 1st place in the 195 class; Robert Henesey for 1st place in the 220 pound class; Colten Hicks 2nd place in the 170 pound class; and Ian Burress 3rd place in the 182 pound class.

C. Chairman Carter recognized the PHS Indoor State Track Winners. He recognized the 4x400 Relay Team for winning 2nd place; Jacob Gendron, Scott Duncan, Clint Gault, and Austin Gault. He recognized Clint Gault for winning 1st place in the 1600 Meter and 1000 Meter races.

D. Chairman Carter recognized the PHS Swimming Team State Winners. He recognized the 200 Yard Freestyle Relay team for winning 1st place; Zach Bennett, Jack Graham, Shane Scott, and Matthew Costa.

V. PRESENTATIONS.

A. Financial Update. Mrs. Tara Woodruff, Executive Director of Finance, updated the Board on the budget process. She stated that the General Assembly session ended without a completed budget and will begin a special session on April 11, 2018. She shared that there may be changes to

the budget once the State finalizes their budget. She stated that the budget will be available for review tomorrow on the PCPS website and at the Poquoson Library. She made the community aware that there will be a public hearing on the budget in Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 27, at 6:00 p.m.

B. Operations Update. Mr. Steve Pappas, Executive Director of Operations, presented an update on safety; security cameras and door access devices, purchased with the 2017 Security grant, have been installed. He shared that PCPS has spent a quarter of a million dollars on security upgrades to all schools since 2013. He also shared that today the annual tornado drill was held which is required by Virginia law. He gave an update in the area of Maintenance; staff will be working over spring break on the Primary School's heating, ventilation and air-conditioning control system. He also updated the Board on the area of Transportation and stated that the next bus evacuation drill which will be held on April 17th.

C. Instructional Update. Dr. Antonia Fox, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Support Services, presented information on what is taking place in PCPS' Library Media Centers and within our MakerSpaces. She shared that MakerSpace is a place that provides students the opportunity to explore personal interests, learn how to use various tools and materials, both physical and virtual; problem solve; think critically; and develop creative projects.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT. Kara Catlett addressed the Board regarding school safety and adopting a School Resource Officer (SRO) program in Poquoson Schools. Alison Fox addressed the Board in regards to adopting the SRO program in PCPS schools.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA.

- A. Approval of Financial Reports *(Enclosed)*
- B. Approval of Personnel Action *(Enclosed)*
- C. Approval of Minutes of February Regular Meeting and Work Session *(Enclosed)*
- D. Approval of Minutes of Closed Session on March 13, 2018 *(Enclosed)*
- E. Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Property *(Enclosed)*

Ms. Whittaker read the Consent Agenda above. Ms. Helsel made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Mr. Jordan seconded and a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6:0

Ms. Mosteller, Aye; Ms. Helsel, Aye; Ms. Sheeler, Aye; Mr. Jordan, Aye; Vice Chair Whittaker, Aye; Chairman Carter, Aye

VIII. OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.

A. Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Changes to Policy 6-1.2, Accreditation, *(Reading File Enclosed)*

Ms. Sheeler made a motion to approve the First Reading and move to Second Reading; Ms. Mosteller seconded and a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6:0

Ms. Mosteller, Aye; Ms. Helsel, Aye; Ms. Sheeler, Aye; Mr. Jordan, Aye; Vice Chair Whittaker, Aye; Chairman Carter, Aye

B. Consideration of Approval of the 2018-2019 Calendar *(Reading File Enclosed)*

Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 Calendar, Ms. Sheeler seconded, and a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6:0

Ms. Mosteller, Aye; Ms. Helsel, Aye; Ms. Sheeler, Aye; Mr. Jordan, Aye; Vice Chair Whittaker, Aye; Chairman Carter, Aye

C. Consideration of Approval of Letter in Support of the School Resource Officer Program *(Enclosed)*

Ms. Mosteller made a motion to approve the Letter in Support of the School Resource Officer Program; Ms. Helsel seconded, and a vote was taken.

VOTE: 6:0

Ms. Mosteller, Aye; Ms. Helsel, Aye; Ms. Sheeler, Aye; Mr. Jordan, Aye; Vice Chair Whittaker, Aye; Chairman Carter, Aye

IX. COMMUNICATIONS AND/OR OTHER MATTERS BY SCHOOL BOARD AND/OR SUPERINTENDENT.

- Dr. Parish: She thanked the speakers for coming out this evening and addressing the Board. She also thanked them for their continued support and shared that her door is always open for questions. She shared with the community that on our website under PCPS Announcements there is a safety presentation which provides an outline of our safety procedures used to assure the safety of students. She assured the Board and community that security procedures and steps are always being updated. She stated that she and Chief Bowen do work closely together on safety matters and are always looking to update security for the safety of our students. She stated that she will be presenting the budget for FY19 to the Board in the work session, and the presentation will be available for viewing on the PCPS website by the end of the week. She stated that she will be visiting all the schools tomorrow to present the proposed budget to teachers and staff. She gave a highlight stating that the Instructional Program night will be held this Thursday, March 22nd, at the high school. She encouraged community members to come out and enjoy all the events planned for that night. In reference to the impending weather, she did state that schools will be opening on time tomorrow, but she will be monitoring the weather closely on the chance of an early dismissal. She reminded everyone that Spring Break will be the first week of April and wished everyone safe travels.

- Mr. Brown: He presented an update on past and upcoming activities at each of the individual schools.

- Ms. Mosteller: She thanked all the students who presented and congratulated those who were

recognized this evening. She thanked Ms. Catlett and Ms. Fox for coming out and speaking this evening. She thanked those who spoke out on social media and those who contacted Board members regarding the School Resource Officer program. She assured the community that the safety of students and staff are one of our highest priorities. She shared that students should be able to come to school and learn and teachers should be able to teach in a safe and a nontoxic environment. She respectfully asked City Council members to consider hiring a School Resource Officer, the public overwhelming supports it and the School Board Supports it, and to please add it to the next Council work session.

- Ms. Helsel: She thanked Ms. Catlett and Ms. Fox for speaking this evening. She agrees with Ms. Mosteller, and informed City Council that everyone agrees in favor of a Security Resource Officer.

- Ms. Sheeler: She thanked Ms. Catlett and Ms. Fox for speaking, and they do have her support. She was very excited to hear about the opportunity for our students to participate in the NASA HUNCH project. She was very impressed with their presentation, along with the leadership of Ms. Fiscella and Mr. Diggs, and wished them good luck with developing that project. She shared that in reading the Board packet she had a bitter-sweet moment, and would like to say goodbye and best wishes to Bobby Pappas and Kim Pohto, who have announced their retirement.


- Mr. Jordan: He shared on how impressed he is with our student presentations and even more so with the NASA HUNCH project. He congratulated all the state champions and the top three placements in state competitions. He thanked Mr. Charlie French for organizing the Real Men Read initiative, as well as the Poquoson Education Foundation. He enjoyed being a part of that day and reading to the students.

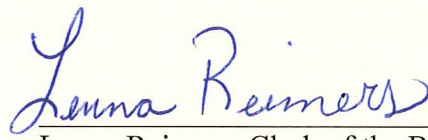
- Vice Chair Whittaker: She spoke on the dangers and benefits of Facebook remarks. She stated that she read most of the community Facebook comments over the weekend. She shared that generally the posts she read were wonderful and very informative, but a lot were assumptions, speculations and accusations that she did not think were appropriate. She shared that she has been on the Board since 2012 and has discussed the SRO program before with City Council. She shared that in hind sight, perhaps SROs should have been at the top of the list, but understood that the short coming was due to budget concerns. She thanked the community for bringing this discussion up again and bringing it forward. She thanked the speakers for speaking this evening and let them know the importance of their voice and the input that they have contributed for the Board and for City Council to hear. She also shared her concern of what she read on Facebook about the 20 million that City Council will be giving to the school division; funding is for the Capital Improvement Plan which is slated for big ticket items, such as roofs and school buses. She does believe, financially, that one time funding should not go towards a position but towards capital programs. She also responded to the comments on Facebook about Board/City Council members not responding to them. She recommended that if you do reach out to the Board, please use email, then you will have a verification of receipt, copy it to other members and to Dr. Parish, as she guarantees that Dr. Parish responds to email. She informed everyone that she has served her two terms and will be going off the Board in June. She encouraged anyone in the central district that is passionate and interested in serving on the Board to please apply, as City Council will appoint someone in May.

- Chairman Carter: He addressed the remark about the Board not responding to the public, as he felt those accusations needs to be taken with a “grain of salt.” He stated that a few years ago when having to cut back the budget the Board was soliciting help from the public with ideas on how and what to cut and balance the budget. He complimented Ms. Fox on her research, and that he loves doing research. He recommended Google scholar, which has good information, backed by research, on school safety. He referenced Mr. Pappas’ remarks on all the money that has been put into our school safety over the years. He stated that we are always looking for ways to keep our schools safe. He stated that he loves the “We Dine Together,” which is a fabulous idea and hope that it takes off.

X. MATERIAL FOR BOARD REVIEW. None

XI. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.


Garry Carter, Ed.D., Chairman


Lenna Reimers, Clerk of the Board

4/17/2018
Date