

**POQUOSON CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**October 16, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**CITY OF POQUOSON COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present: Garry Carter, Chairman  
Robin Sydnor  
Steven Kast  
Allan Melton  
Gail Whittaker  
Beth Ann Wilson  
David Hux  
Jessy Spencer, Student Representative  
Jennifer Parish, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Amy Colley, Assistant Superintendent  
Patricia McDowell, Clerk of the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INSPIRATIONAL READING.  
Chairman Carter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Trenton Reagan, 8<sup>th</sup> Grader at Poquoson Middle School, led the Pledge and Anne Northrup, also an 8<sup>th</sup> Grader, gave the Inspirational Reading, consisting of excerpts from motivational publications.

II. STUDENT PRESENTATION – The Foreign Language Department at Poquoson Middle School presented introductions to World Cultures; Spanish I, Part I; Spanish II and Spanish III. Students included Rachel Erb, Josh Heldreth, Andrew McCracken, Preston Herb, and Holly Munns, 8<sup>th</sup> graders; Christy Audeh, Kaylie Crews, Chelsea Griffin and Michael Mettillie, 7<sup>th</sup> graders; Zachary Norton, Trevor Ellis, Allison Palmer, Morgan Fairbanks, Caiden Ferguson, McKenzie Price, and Jessica Buckner, 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Instructors who accompanied the students include Dr. Michele Martin, Mrs. Cathy Holland, and Ms. Sole Correa.

III. ADDITIONS AND/OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA. None

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. PHS National Merit Scholarship Commended Students. Chairman Carter presented certificates of recognition to Vivian Chan, Margaret Northrup, Benjamin Wiggins, Aidan Selmer, and Margaret McDevitt for being named as National Merit Commended Students.

V. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

A. Financial Update. Mr. Bill Bowen, Executive Director of Finance, presented an update on legislation passed by 2012 General Assembly regarding school divisions' needing to spend 65% of their state budget on instruction.

B. Operations Update. Mr. Steve Pappas, Executive Director of Operations, presented an update on transportation, safety, and food service.

C. Instructional Update. Ms. Amy Colley, Assistant Superintendent, presented an update on state accreditation and federal accountability. She also presented AP and SAT data.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Financial Reports (Enclosed)
- B. Approval of Personnel Action (Enclosed)
- C. Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Property (Enclosed)
- D. Authorization to Accept and Expend Funds in Accordance with Attached Requests (Enclosed)

Vice Chairman Sydnor read the Consent Agenda above. Mr. Hux made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melton, that the Consent Agenda be approved as read. Vote was taken.

VOTE: 7:0

Mr. Hux, Aye; Ms. Wilson, Aye; Ms. Whittaker, Aye; Mr. Melton, Aye; Mr. Kast, Aye; Ms. Sydnor, Aye; Chairman Carter, Aye.

VII. OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of September Regular Meeting (Enclosed). Mr. Melton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hux, that the minutes be approved. Vote was taken.

VOTE: 6:1 Abstain

Mr. Hux, Aye; Ms. Wilson, Aye; Ms. Whittaker, Aye; Mr. Melton, Aye; Mr. Kast, Abstain; Ms. Sydnor, Aye; Chairman Carter, Aye.

- B. Consideration of Approval of Proclamations for School Psychologists Week; American Education Week; and Bus Safety Week and Transportation Employee Appreciation Day (Enclosed). Mr. Kast made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wilson, that the proclamations be approved. Vote was taken.

VOTE: 7:0

Mr. Hux, Aye; Ms. Wilson, Aye; Ms. Whittaker, Aye; Mr. Melton, Aye; Mr. Kast, Aye; Ms. Sydnor, Aye; Chairman Carter, Aye.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

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

- Dr. Parish. She spent the last 2 days with at VASS with School Superintendents, legislators and others to review state budget updates. Consensus of opinion is that the Governor's focus will be on K-12 education in the upcoming year. It was wonderful to see our students tonight. She appreciates that teachers have been doing a wonderful job, as evidenced by the accomplishments of our students. She thanked all of them as well as the staff, though she wanted to remind everyone that "Our journey is far from done."
- Ms. Spencer. Gave an update on past and upcoming activities of the schools.

- Mr. Hux. Thanked Mrs. Colley for providing statistics. It's amazing to see the numbers on how far above the state and nation our students are. He recognized and thanked the PTO/PTA organizations at all of the schools for their support and successes. He also has the privilege of being liaison to PEF. The organization's support of Poquoson City Schools is immeasurable and their recent tailgate party at homecoming was wonderful. He also thanked the Poquoson Museum Board which donated their land for parking for the PEF homecoming BBQ.
- Ms. Wilson. She is hopeful for SOL math increases even in the face of new science and reading SOL tests. She thanked the foreign language department for what they are doing with students. You could see and feel their excitement for what they are learning. She ended with a "Quote for the Night."
- Ms. Whittaker. None
- Mr. Melton. He attended several back to school activities during the last month. He is amazed by the quality of the personal artwork on school walls. Poquoson has many talented students. He also appreciates our teachers, bus drivers and others for all their work.
- Mr. Kast. He commended the students from the Poquoson Middle School foreign language department and thanked the teachers. He congratulated the National Merit Scholarship Commended students from PHS. He also thanked the parents who called to thank the School Board for the wonderful transition to a new school year. He assured those parents that it was the combined efforts of all the staff – not the School Board – who made that happen.
- Ms. Sydnor. Thanked the School Board and Dr. Parish for allowing the Board to skip its scheduled work session after last month's meeting so the Board could attend "Rachel's Challenge." She attended WHRO's first Advisory Committee meeting of the school year and reviewed the impact statement on the services Poquoson uses. We can expect a visit from WHRO executives later this year to formally present the impact statement.
- Chairman Carter. The Poquoson High School Band Drum Line got 1<sup>st</sup> place this weekend in their competition. He recently had a discussion with Lisa Barton, a teacher at PPS, regarding the varsity and JV volleyball recent fundraising efforts in support of the Cancer Society, specifically for research for Breast Cancer. The teams made over \$800 to donate to this project. He gave his appreciation to all of the staff that makes the School Division run day to day; though we know there are still some obstacles in the future. Those obstacles will be met head on by the Board to give the staff what they need to meet those obstacles. We will cross those obstacles with grace. He is very proud of the school system.

X. MATERIAL FOR BOARD REVIEW. None

XI. ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Carter announced that a work session would follow the Board Meeting to discuss instructional data and the Board's goals and objectives. There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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Garry W. Carter, Jr., Chairman

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Patricia McDowell, Clerk of the Board

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Date