

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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January 10, 2022- Heathsville, VA The Northumberland County Public Schools' School Board met in person for a regular meeting. The meeting was open to the public through Zoom audio conference calling as a result of COVID-19 guidelines and in-person.

Closed Meeting Action Items

- Approval of coaches: Trinity Bea, Varsity Track Coach; Morgan Wilson, Assistant Softball Coach; Holly Swann, Dance Coach

Temporary Policy for Emergency Paid Leave

The Board approved to update the Emergency Paid Leave policy which states the following:

“Employees, whether vaccinated or not, will have access to emergency paid leave if they provide a letter from the Virginia Department of Health and/or the Three Rivers Health District requiring that they quarantine for specific dates, not to exceed 5 days beginning January 10, 2022, through the end of the school year. The Emergency Paid Leave policy only applies for exposures that have occurred during their duties at Northumberland County Schools. It is required that quarantined employees telework during this time.”

Reorganization of the Board:

The Board approved **Mrs. Betty Christopher** as Board Chair; **Mrs. Gayle Sterret** as Vice Chair; **Mrs. Shelley Vanlandingham** as Clerk of the Board and **Mr. Adam Letizia** as Deputy Clerk. The Board approved the meeting date and time to remain the second Monday of each month at 6PM, with a closed meeting, if needed, at 5PM. The meeting location will be in the NMS/NHS Auditorium.

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The Board appointed **Mrs. Dana O’Bier** as representative on the Northern Neck Technical and Northern Neck Alternative Education Boards; Mrs. Gayle Sterret as representative on the Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School Board; **Dr. Cheryl Davis** as Virginia School Board Association Delegate; and **Ms. Denise Mazyck** as liaison to the Northumberland County Education Association.

The Board approved the adoption of the Virginia School Board Code of Conduct. [Click Here to View Code of Conduct.](#)

Other Action by the Board:

The 2022-2023 Budget Calendar was amended to approve dates for the January and February work sessions. The 2022-2023 Budget WorkSession #1 will be held Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 10:30 AM. The 2022-2023 Budget Work Session #2 will be held Monday, February 14, 2022, at 3 PM. The meetings will be open to the public. The 2022-2023 Budget Calendar is posted on www.nucps.net

Presentations/ Reports

Fall Standards of Learning Test Administration

Mrs. Virginia Booth reported that a total of 94 Middle School students and 243 High School students completed SOL testing before winter break. There is a small number of students who will take retakes and makeups this week and next.

NCPS Stem Enrichment 2022-2023

Mr. Gary Dickens, STEM Coordinator, provided the Board an update on the upcoming STEM events. STEM Saturdays will be held on Saturday January 29 at NMS. The second STEM Saturday will be in May at NMS. The Physics Olympics will be held on March 11, 2022. Mr. Dickens reported in 2022-2023 he plans to continue the same activities and broaden the STEM program with summer camps for middle and high school students.

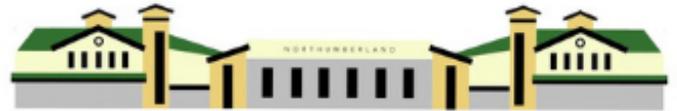
Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Dr. Holly Wargo provided an update on [new guidelines](#) from the Centers on Disease Control & Prevention for COVID-19, an overview of procedures related to inclement weather and school closings, and shared the [January 2022 Next Steps newsletter](#) from the Northumberland High School Counseling Office.

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Mr. Adam Letizia reviewed calendar adjustments for the [2021-2022 school calendar](#) by the addition of January 11 and 12, 2022, to the first semester and shared with the board [budget recommendations](#) from the Community Advisory Committee for Educational Equity.

Board Comments

Mrs. Dana O'bier gave thanks to Mrs. Sandra Green for the gift. Each board member received a keychain with a light and wanted to remind us that we are a light in the world not only to students but to many others. Without teachers there wouldn't be any doctors, lawyers, engineers, police officers or nurses.

Other Action Items

The board approved the revised 2021-2022 School Calendar and Budget Calendar.