

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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May 9, 2022- Heathsville, VA The Northumberland County Public Schools' School Board met in-person and virtually for a regular monthly meeting. The meeting was open to the public through Zoom audio conference calling and in person.

Closed Meeting Action Items

- Approval of Ms. **Katie Wilkins** for the Coordinator/Teacher of Talented & Gifted Education for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Approval of the Out of State Field Trip Request for Jr. Beta to attend the National Junior Beta Convention in Nashville, TN.

Other Action Items

- Approval of Summer Hours beginning Monday, May 30, 2022 with work hours 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM.
- Approval of a donation for Northumberland Middle School Art program in the amount of \$5,000 from Alpha Delta Kappa Foundation
- Approval of meeting minutes for April 11, April 19, April 26, and May 2.

Presentations

- Recognizing Eighth Grade Student **Trey Felton**, winner of the Richmond Times-Dispatch's 47th Annual Regional Spelling Bee.
- Recognizing Senior Beta with NHS English Teacher & Sr. Beta Coach **Karen Baker**. **Mrs. Baker** stated Fifteen students qualified in the state national convention. Robotics placed first and **Chloe Brann's** painting placed first in show. Some of the highlights: Beta did a prom dress drive with dresses donated from the community, partnered it NAPS for community clean up, participated in Earth Day, students donated to the Haven and a car wash for the mennonite family that was injured in the buggy crash. We continue to recycle at the High School, volunteer in the concession stand and help coaches paint lines on the fields.
- Recognizing Junior Beta students with NMS School Counselor & Junior Beta Coach **Krista Sisk**. The Northumberland County School Board recognized the Junior Beta winners who will be traveling to Nashville, TN, this June to compete at the National Jr.

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Beta Convention. In attendance, and listed as they introduced themselves: **Trey Felton (3rd place, Language Arts 8th grade); Ann Rice (3rd place, Mixed Media); Ally Biddlecomb (1st place, Fiber Arts)**; the engineering team, consisting of five individuals; however, two could not join us due to other commitments. Present: **Isaac Faulkner, Landon Shirilla, and Luke Sisk (3rd place, Engineering); Absent: Braylin Beauchamp and Eliza Leo.** In addition to being an integral part of the Engineering team, **Braylin Beauchamp** demonstrated her academic prowess and placed 2nd for the academic test in 7th grade Language Arts. **Olivia Metsala** also placed with her creation of this year's club trading pin. Olivia was unable to be with us due to a family emergency.

We are so proud of these young people and the many others that worked hard to create and/or prepare their entries for competition at the Virginia State Beta Convention! All competitions were VIRTUAL which is not easy for anyone!

- [2022 VDOE Innovation Grant - Mr. Gary Dickens](#)
- [School Board Signs Contract for New JROTC/STEM/Athletic Building with Connemara](#)

Financial Reports

Director of Finance Jason Bellows presented the following reports:

- [Approval of Check Numbers 75054-75174 =\\$583,548.26](#)
- [Director of Finance monthly report](#)
- [April Revenue](#) and [Expenditure Reports](#)

Public Comments

There was no request for public comment.

Superintendent Reports

- Principal Reports for [Northumberland High - Dr. Travis Burns](#); [Northumberland Middle - Mr. Patrick Simmons](#); [Northumberland Elementary - Mrs. Martha Williams](#).
- [Instruction Report](#)
- [Special Education Report](#)
- [Educational Technology](#)
- [Federal Programs & School Improvement](#)
- [Testing & Accountability](#)
- [Maintenance & Facilities](#)
- [Transportation](#)

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- [School Nutrition](#)
- [Out of State Field Trip Request](#)
- [Application for Use of School- Owned Facilities & Materials](#)

Board Comments

Board Chair **Betty Christophere** reported **Dr. Holly Wargo** received exceptional performance on the Superintendent Evaluation from all five board members. Mrs. Christopher congratulated Dr. Wargo.

Dr. Wargo commented, “Thank you to each of you as board members. I know it's not always easy, and we work hard. We usually agree and sometimes there are disagreements. It is that team approach that takes us where we need to go. I appreciate and value each of you so very much. It's always been an honor to serve each of you as well as our school division and community in this capacity. Thank you for your confidence, and I will work very hard to continue the good effort and hopefully take us to that next level.”

Vice Chair Gayle Sterrett stated, “I wanted to commend Dr. Wargo and Mr. Bellows for their presentation to the Board of Supervisors on May 2nd. They were well prepared and have gone above and beyond the effort that's been expected. Wonderful job.”

Dr. Wargo commented, “Thank you. That is a result of the whole team. Mr. Bellows put days into trying to gather all of the information. The principals definitely helped. I can't thank the high school enough: Dr. Burns, Mr. Dickens, Chief Vega, and Mrs. McCraine. Everybody jumped in to help with the five additional questions we received Wednesday morning.”

Board Member Dana O'Bier stated, “I would like to congratulate everyone that put on the art show last week. There was a tremendous amount of talent portrayed at the art show right on down to the Kindergarteners. I am very proud of the band and choir concerts. We have tons of talents within these schools. We might be a small school system but we are mighty when it comes to talent. That was showcased all last week with those three events. At the Tech (Northern Neck Technical) center, I would like to tell you about an important date. On Monday, May 16, at 6 PM, the Northern Neck Tech Center will hold the Completion Ceremony at the Richmond County Auditorium for everyone finishing up the Tech center and getting their Certificate of Completion. Our next board meeting for the Northern Neck Tech Center will be Tuesday, May 24, and we will be congratulating Mrs. Anne Douglas on her retirement. Mrs. Douglas has served many years as the Administrative Assistant and the Board Clerk for the Tech Center. If you see or know Mrs. Douglas, congratulate her on her retirement and many years of service.”

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Board Member Dr. Cherly Davis praised the leadership efforts of Mr. Bellows and Dr. Wargo by sharing part of a quote from Rev. Jeffrey Patnaude: “Few great leaders set out to be great. Instead, they set out to lead an authentic, vital life, expressing their own lives fully. This remarkable game of life between the goal posts is full of color, rules, and opposition. Dr. Davis thanked Mr. Bellows and Dr. Wargo for their leadership. Thank you to these two people, you are outstanding human beings.

Board Member Denise Mazyck commented, “I would like to add since this is our last board meeting while school is in session, kudos to everybody. It makes me proud to be a member of this school board. When I go out in public and people talk about wanting to send their child to Northumberland because of everything they heard or had seen. I would like to say kudos to everybody that makes this system work.”