

**PETERSBURG SCHOOL BOARD
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA
ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Petersburg City Public Schools
School Administrative Office
January 11, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.
Jeanette P. Berrios, Board Clerk**

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:42 p.m., the Clerk of the Petersburg School Board called the organizational/regular meeting of the Petersburg School Board to order in the main Board Room of the School Administrative Office, 255 South Boulevard, East, Petersburg, VA.

The Board Clerk called the roll with the following members responding:

Ward One:	Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., Vice-Chairman
Ward Two:	Mr. Fred B. Wilson
Ward Three:	Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, Chairman
Ward Four:	Mrs. Mary Jane Hendricks
Ward Five:	Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis
Ward Six:	Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr.

The following school board member was absent: Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, Ward Seven

The following staff members were present:

Alvera J. Parrish, Ed.D.	Superintendent
Mr. John L. Mayo	Assistant Superintendent
JoAnn Crowell-Redd	Interim Director/Human Resources
Mrs. Tracie L. Coleman	Director of Budget and Finance
Dr. Shannon Smith	Director of Elementary Instruction
Mr. Willie J. Bell, Jr.	Director of Secondary Instruction
Dr. Danielle Belton	Supervisor/Federal Programs
Mr. William Rawles	Director/Technology
Ann M. Ford, Ed.D.	Student Services Coordinator/Conduct Officer
Mrs. Ahnjayla Hunter	Coordinator/Special Education
Mrs. Gwendolyn Price	Coordinator/Testing
Mrs. Sabrina Beamon	Coordinator/Gifted & Talented
Ms. Johna Vazquez	Interim Public Information Officer
Mr. Russell Lawrence	Supervisor/Buildings & Grounds
Mr. Johnny Fobbs	Supervisor/Warehousing
Mrs. Jeanette Berrios	Clerk of the Board

Nomination/Election of the School Board Chair – Clerk of the Board

The Clerk of the Board indicated that the first order of business was to elect a Board Chair. It was noted that according to Robert's Rules of Order, nominations for officers of the Board do not require a second, and the election is based on a simple majority. The floor was opened for nominations for Board Chair. Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., placed Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett in nomination as Board Chair. Mr. Lundy noted that *people don't really realize what it really takes to be the chair and how this chair has carried us, adding in some things we would have fallen apart if this chair had not been in place.*

On a motion by Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks, and a second by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, the Board unanimously elected Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett as Chairman of the Petersburg School Board by acclamation.

Mr. Pritchett expressed his appreciation for the nomination, and he indicated he will try as hard as he can to do what he needs to do. He added, *I'm getting to be like Mr. Wilson, and have been here going on six years.* Mr. Pritchett stated that he has two years remaining of his term on the board and will be making a decision in a couple of years.

Nomination/Election of the School Board Vice-Chair – Chairman of the Board

The floor was opened for nominations for Board Vice-Chair. Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis placed Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., in nomination as Board Vice-Chair.

Following a motion by Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., and a second by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, the Board, without dissent, elected Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., as Vice-Chair of the Petersburg School Board by acclamation.

Mr. Steven Pierce indicated he will continue to be a support noting, *Where the bridge is broken, I'll be right there.*

Approval of the Designee of the Division Superintendent and Appointment of the Clerk of the School Board

Mr. Pritchett asked Petersburg Superintendent of Schools, Alvera J. Parrish, Ed.D., for the name of her recommended agent, deputy agent (designee to attend meetings of the School Board in the absence or inability of the superintendent to attend), and her recommendation for appointment of the Clerk of the Board.

Dr. Parrish brought forward for the Board's consideration Mr. John L. Mayo, Assistant Superintendent, as her designee, Mrs. Jeanette P. Berrios as the Clerk of the Board, and herself as agent.

On a motion by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the Board unanimously approved the superintendent's recommendations to approve Dr. Alvera J. Parrish as agent, Mr. John L. Mayo, Assistant Superintendent, as the superintendent's deputy agent, and Mrs. Jeanette P. Berrios as the Clerk of the School Board.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The following were remembered during the moment of silence:

- The family of Mrs. Bessie Reid Jones, former Petersburg City Public Schools' educator, who passed away on Thursday, December 15, 2011.
- Mr. and Mrs. John A. Mayo and family in the passing of their granddaughter, Miss Johnaé Mayo.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Students, Zayhkeria Embery-Whitfield and Jessie royall, led meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Winners of the District Level Writing Prompt – Dr. Shannon Smith

Dr. Shannon Smith, Director of Elementary Instruction, presented certificates and accolades from the Petersburg School Board to the winners of the *District Level Writing Prompt*. Students read winning writing selections to meeting attendees.

Peabody Girls Basketball Team – Mr. William W. Lawson, III

Mr. William W. Lawson, III, Athletic Director for Petersburg City Public Schools, honored the 2010-2011 Lady Lions from Peabody Middle School. He noted the students have been champions for the fifth year in a row. Coach Lawson added that *it is a joy to have a team of student athletes you can coach and with whom you can work*. He commended Coach Carolyn Woodson and others who have worked diligently with the team, and noted the Lady Lions are leaving a legacy both in teamwork and academic achievement.

Ms. Vanita Miles, Assistant Principal, Peabody Middle School – Dr. Alvera J. Parrish

Dr. Alvera J. Parrish, Superintendent of Schools, introduced Ms. Vanita Miles, Assistant Principal of Peabody Middle School, to the school board and members of the community. Ms. Miles indicated she is excited about the opportunity to join Petersburg City Public Schools (PCPS).

Mrs. Tracie L. Coleman – Appreciation – Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett and Dr. Alvera J. Parrish

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, and school board members, along with Dr. Alvera J. Parrish presented Mrs. Tracie L. Coleman a plaque and bouquet of roses in appreciation for six years of service with Petersburg City Public Schools as Budget and Finance Director. Mrs. Coleman noted it has been a journey. She remembered the community members and parents, who she noted *cried a lot, fought a lot, focused a lot in trying to make a difference in Petersburg for so long*. Mrs. Coleman shared that making a job transition was not an easy decision. She added that Petersburg has come a long way, even though the work has been challenging, what is best for the children has always been at the forefront. Mrs. Coleman expressed that she *will miss each and every one . . . as she continues her career and journey in a different capacity*. Mrs. Coleman expressed her appreciation for the support she received and the confidence expressed in her.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Vernel Gannaway – 652 Old Wagner Road, Petersburg, VA

Mr. Gannaway noted that there are good people in Petersburg. He added that he wants the school board to know that there are those behind the scenes who are backing the school division. Mr. Gannaway noted, “*We can do this thing; we have to have parent involvement.*” Mr. Gannaway encouraged teachers to treat parents in a welcoming manner when they visit the schools.

Peabody Middle School PTA – Mrs. Gloria Brown

Mrs. Gloria Brown indicated that Mr. Gannaway is one of the *soldier parents*, along with others comprising a great parent base at Peabody Middle School. She added that parents want to be involved and want their children to be successful.

Mrs. Brown expressed appreciation to community members, who provided donations toward the delivery of 3,000 books awarded to Peabody Middle School, to include the Kiwanis Club of Petersburg, EdisonLearning, and Ms. Brenda Walton.

It was indicated that Peabody is planning a *Latin Express*, Spanish immersion cultural experience in partnership with the ESL team for parents and students on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, at Betto's Restaurant, on South Crater Road in Petersburg.

Additionally, Mrs. Brown shared the good news that students have received White House approval from the Secret Service for a visit to the White House. Inquiry was made regarding whether or not there is a way to link the Peabody PTA to the division web site. Mrs. Brown responded that the PTA is currently on Facebook.

Mrs. Gloria Brown – 1557 South Sycamore Street, Petersburg, VA

Mrs. Brown expressed appreciation to Mrs. Tracie L. Coleman, and noted she will be missed. Mrs. Brown shared that parents want to be involved and included. She added that *parents are stepping up to the plate to do a lot of things*. Mrs. Brown indicated that we need to value one another, and said those in the school division are *here for the reason, not just the season, and that reason is not just do your job, but to give back to the people in the community*.

Mr. Timothy Wilkins – 2235 Gordon Drive, Petersburg, VA

Mr. Wilkins indicated that he appreciated the writing prompt selection provided by one Peabody Middle School student, and noted *her writing style shows that she engages in introspection*. Mr. Wilkins stated, "*There is going to be a change in Petersburg; it is coming slowly. We need to be patient.*"

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board Clerk read thank you cards received from Ms. Cassandra Hines and Mr. Lonniel Edmunds for floral remembrances received.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., and a second by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, the school board unanimously approved the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Pritchett called for a motion to approve the consent agenda to include the personnel agenda dated January 11, 2012, and the School Board minutes of the December 7, 2011 (*Regular School Board Meeting*), the December 13, 2011 (*Special Meeting of the School Board/Personnel*), and December 21, 2011 (*Liaison Committee Meeting*).

Following a motion by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., and a second by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, the Board, without dissent, approved the consent agenda to include the personnel agenda dated January 11, 2012, and the School Board meeting minutes of the December 7, 2011 (*Regular School Board Meeting*), the December 13, 2011 (*Special Meeting of the School Board/Personnel*), and December 21, 2011 (*Liaison Committee Meeting*).

INFORMATION ITEMS

7.A. School Health Advisory Board – Dr. Ann M. Ford

Dr. Ann M. Ford, Student Services Coordinator/Conduct Officer, for PCPS, presented the persons recommended to serve on the *School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) for Petersburg City Public Schools*. She noted that members will serve a two year term, and noted, the school health advisory board (SHAB) is composed of individuals from broad-based segments of the community who are committed to creating healthy school environments so students may realize their learning potential. They act as advisors to the local school board and are appointed by the board for varying lengths of time.

The SHAB is charged to act collectively to advise the school division on broad topics or on specific aspects of the coordinated school health program. Areas of concern include, but are not limited to, mental health, school nutrition, health education, health services, physical education, staff wellness, school climate, dropout prevention, school safety, violence prevention, drug and alcohol prevention, and family life education.

On a motion by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., and a second by Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks, the school board unanimously approved the *School Health Advisory Board* as presented (noted below).

School Health Advisory Board Recommendations: 2011-2012

Member	Title	Agency
Robin Cox, RN	RN, Immunization Program Coordinator	Petersburg Health Dept
Elizabeth Johnson, RN	Teen Clinic Charge Nurse	Petersburg Health Dept
Annie Crawley	Senior Family Nutrition Program Assistant	Virginia Cooperative Extension Office
Peggy White	School Nurse	Petersburg City Public Schools
Donna Johnson	Food Services Supervisor	Petersburg City Public Schools
Russell Lawrence	Director of Operations	Petersburg City Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Duhart	Pediatrician	Sycamore Pediatrics
Gwen Ricks-Haskett	Parent	Social Worker, African American Adoptions
Celeste Alexander, RN	Health Specialist/CYSS Nurse	U.S. Army Child Youth and School Services, Fort Lee
Dr. Benita Brown	Associate Professor	Health and Physical Education, VSU
Dr. Beth Griswald	School Psychologist	Petersburg City Public Schools
Torrey Manson	Compliance Specialist	Special Education Department, PCPS

8.A. Financial Update: November 2011 – Mrs. Tracie L. Coleman

Mrs. Coleman indicated that the division is in the process of preparing a report that needs to go to the City of Petersburg due to the categorical funding requirement this year. She noted she will ensure the report is done and submitted upon the approval of the superintendent to the city administration to include all appropriations, all of the supplements approved by the school board, to go forward to the city council for appropriation to the school division for carryover grant funds, and any other small grants that have been received by the district, so that the division will be in compliance with the new code regulation for the current year.

The Financial Update as of November 30, 2011, was presented by Mrs. Coleman. She noted that school board action is required to approve budget supplements revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$818,116.80. The three programs impacted by these supplements are: 07-98000 – Algebra Project (funding for the ongoing project); 07-96174 – School Improvement 1003G ARRA Grant (the award notification was received and adjustments were made because the funding source changed between whether the funds were 1003G or ARRA funds being used). The reductions were the result of taking the funds out of one grant and moving them to another account code.

Mrs. Coleman presented a high level revenue summary review for the school board. The overview of the Revenue Summary Report as of November, 2011, was sorted by major revenue sources (i.e., SOQ/Sales Tax Revenue, State Incentive Revenue, and Federal Grants, etc.) included the following:

- Original revenue – Revenue budget approved by the school board in June
- Budget transfers/adjustments – Revenue adjustments as a result of additional revenue received or reductions in revenue
- Adjusted revenue – Original revenue plus or minus budget transfers/adjustments
- Year-to-Date Actual – Funds actually received thus far
- Remaining Balance – Funds the division anticipates receiving this school year
- Percent of Actual – Percentage of funds that the division has received when compared with the total anticipated to be received thus far in the district.

Mrs. Coleman indicated that state incentive funding has not as yet been received in the district. She added that the state does not submit those funds to the districts until February. Allocation submissions are broken up between February and the end of June.

As presented to the school board previously, the division did have more students on the September 30 Average Daily Membership (ADM) report that was reported by the division; another report is to be submitted in March.

Any revenue adjustments related to the increase in student enrollment at that time (approximately \$500,000 in additional revenue) will be made. Mrs. Coleman indicated that, assuming the enrollment numbers are maintained, this will be additional funding the division will receive. This number will not be known until the middle of April.

An overview of the Revenue Detail Report as of November, 2011, was provided. It was noted that the report includes the detail for all revenue received by revenue source through November 2011. Among the different types of revenue sources are:

- Sales Tax Revenue
- ISAEP
- SOL Algebra Readiness
- K-3 Class Size Reduction
- Rentals – Property

Mrs. Coleman indicated that the report also includes:

- ❖ Original Revenue – Revenue budget approved by the school board in June
- ❖ Budget transfers/adjustments - Revenue adjustments as a result of additional revenue received
- ❖ Adjusted Revenue – Original revenue plus or minus budget transfers/adjustments
- ❖ Year-to-Date Actual – Funds actually received thus far
- ❖ Remaining Balance – Funds the division anticipates receiving this school year
- ❖ Percent of Actual – Percentage of funds the division has received when compared with the total anticipated to be received

She also noted that the revenue detail section of the report contains a line-by-line notation of all of the revenue received through the month of November 2011. Mrs. Coleman indicated there are no concerns in the area of revenues at this time.

Mrs. Coleman provided a high level Expenditure Detail Summary Report by fund, major category and summarized by major object code (i.e., salaries, benefits, purchased service, etc.) as of November 2011. She indicated that this report gives the school board and community an idea of the percentage of spending, and added that the division is at approximately 40% through the school year, and about 38% expenditures year-to-date, which she noted is *pretty much on target*.

It was indicated by Mrs. Coleman that projections have been run through the end of December that will be provided and submitted. Based on preliminary information, the outlook for the current year is that we will remain within budget for the current school year, and have surplus funds at this point based on end-of-year and enrollment projections at this time.

Mrs. Coleman provided the detail revenue and noted that it indicates all of the revenue streams for the division, what the original budget was, any adjustments, as well as the remaining budget. As an example, if one wants to know how much is to be received from sales tax, the anticipated revenue is \$3.9 million; year-to-date is \$1.6 million as of November. She noted that program detail and funding streams for Petersburg City Public Schools can be reviewed.

Expenditures by major category were discussed by Mrs. Colman. A number of the various types of expenditure categories were noted as follow:

- Classroom instruction
- Co-curricular (athletics)
- Summer school
- Guidance services
- Social work services
- Board
- Fiscal services
- Transportation Management
- Vehicle operations
- Building services

Included in the report are original budget, budget transfers/adjustments, adjusted budget, year-to-date actual, remaining balance, and percent of actual. Mrs. Coleman indicated encumbrances and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$17,125,522.33 (i.e. 38.74%). She added that the year-to-date expenditures will be monitored throughout the school year, and areas of concern will be discussed with the school board. Mrs. Coleman indicated there are no areas of concern at this time.

On a motion by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the Board unanimously approved the movement of Information Item 8.A. to Action Item 7.B.

Following a motion by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the Board, without dissent, approved Action Item 7.B *budget supplements for revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$818,116.80.*

8.B Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Lead Turnaround Partner Update – Mr. John L. Mayo

Mr. John L. Mayo, Assistant Superintendent, representative progress made towards achievement of the objectives of the MOU, since the last report before the school board on December 7, 2011.

Student Leadership

- On January 18-23, 2012, the fall 2011 Non-Writing Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments will be administered at Petersburg High School (PHS) and Vernon Johns Junior High Schools (VJJH). On February 1-10, 2012, expedited retakes will be administered.
- The PCPS Division Spelling Bee was held on January 10, 2012, at the L. Douglas Wilder Auditorium of the Wilder Building, on the campus of Virginia State University.
- Four Blandford Academy students, who are enrolled in the Individual Student Alternative Education Plan (ISAEP) program successfully completed requirements to receive their General Educational Development (GED) certificate during the month of December.
- Twelve PHS ROTC students competed at the National Raider Competition in Georgia.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) students at PHS were featured in the Progress-Index, which showcased CTE opportunities for students, parents, and the community.

Leadership Capacity

- ✚ The Supervisor of PCPS Federal Programs attended the final School Improvement Webinar for Year I Schools (Robert E. Lee and Walnut Hill Elementary Schools) on December 12, 2011. The session focused on navigating Indistar to review school improvement plans, as well as procedures for monitoring the school improvement plan using Indistar.
- ✚ A meeting with members of the Algebra Project was held on December 8, 2011, and was attended by the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and division director of testing. Discussion was held related to dual enrollment, regional professional development, and the current status of work being offered to teachers in the area of mathematics through professional development.
- ✚ *Observation360* (a component of PD360) training was received by building administrators on December 6, 2011.
- ✚ The December 1 Child Count was submitted to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) by the coordinator of special education on December 3, 2011.

Teacher Quality

- All Career and Technical Education teachers at PHS are working towards being industry certified in their respective areas to ensure students leave high school with industry certification or licensure in a selected industry.

External Turnaround Partner

- Alternate Governance meetings were held on December 15, 2011, for A.P. Hill Elementary, J.E.B. Stuart Elementary, Peabody Middle, and Vernon Johns Junior High Schools.
- On January 11, 2012, a Technical Assistance Workshop was held by the VDOE, Office of School Improvement.
- On January 12, 2012, a Technical Assistance Workshop is planned by VDOE, Office of School Improvement.
- A meeting was held with representatives from the VDOE to discuss a scheduled Academic Review. Meeting attendees included the assistant superintendent, director of secondary instruction, and principals from PHS, VJJH, Peabody Middle School (PMS), and Blandford Academy.
- On December 5, 2011, a meeting was held between the superintendent, assistant superintendent, Chief Academic Officer, directors of elementary and secondary instruction, lead turnaround partner, and the external turnaround partners from Cambridge Education and EdisonLearning, to discuss progress being made at schools with external turnaround partners.

Mr. Pierce indicated that he would like to see results in report form that delineate results achieved by students who have been engaged in virtual studies through the e2020 program. Mr. John Mayo indicated that 26 students have recovered credits through the usage of the virtual program at PHS. He added that the program is utilized at PHS, and as a tool of the Blandford Academy Choices Program.

Mr. Mayo noted that he and Mr. Willie, J. Bell, Jr., Director of Secondary Instruction, met with e2020 representatives to address concerns they had regarding alignment with assessments that are in place. He added that when assessments are administered (according to our pacing guides) students progress based on how the children are moving along with the process. Students may not have covered actual material covered on an actual pacing guide, or on a benchmark assessment. Efforts are underway to streamline the online modules in order to get a better idea of how students are performing. This will enable us to get a better idea of how students are doing, as students transition from Blandford back to their home schools.

Mr. Mayo indicated that some conclusions were reached, but he added it is still a work in progress. Mr. Mayo shared that a meeting was also held with e2020 representatives in early January, 2012, to address curriculum alignment. He added that at the high school, students are recovering credits they need in order to graduate. Mr. Mayo noted he will be able to get a report on e2020 to the school board. Mr. Pierce asked if a report might be received perhaps at a work session or February meeting, if it is the will of the school board.

Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., also asked about the next report to be received from the division's external lead turnaround partners. Dr. Parrish responded that EdisonLearning representatives provided a report at the December 7, 2011, regular school board meeting. She indicated Cambridge Education will provide a report at either the January 18th work session, or at the will of school board, the next regular board meeting.

Mr. Pierce indicated timelines are very critical, noted his concerns regarding how quickly the nine months of instruction pass. He stated that the school board needs to receive information, adding that if adjustments are needed, *we need to do it now, as by April the school year is nearly over.*

Mr. Lundy encouraged the use of a testing calendar for those who desire to meet the requirements to receive GED's, stressing that a schedule is needed. He added that in the past, a calendar of testing times has not been followed, causing students who might have been eligible to meet GED requirements to be unable to do so.

It was noted by Mr. John Mayo, that there are 23 students from September – June in the cohort of ISAEF students, who are anticipated to meet GED requirements; the students may complete these requirements on a staggered schedule (i.e. March, April, or May). One student fulfilled GED requirements in November, and three met requirements in December. Further, a total of 16 remaining students are anticipated to complete requirements by the end of this school year.

Mr. Lundy asked if there is a program in place for Blandford Academy students who decide to get a GED to talk about a trade, and to work hand-in-hand so that as they go out in the world they have an opportunity to work at a trade. Mr. John Mayo responded that this piece is part of the GED completion process.

In response to a question from Mr. Lundy, Mr. Mayo clarified that the industry certification discussed in the MOU related to teacher certification for teachers who instruct any student enrolled in a CTE course at the high school, not just GED students. Mr. Lundy asked if GED students are provided an opportunity to engage in career experiences to allow them to transition to the community as productive citizens. Mr. Mayo noted that it should be in place, but he will look into this. Mr. Lundy indicated that if students are in the program, they will need this type of support as they transition. He added that over a period of time, we have not put this in place.

With regard to PD360, Mr. Lundy asked if there is a person designated to obtain training for observation to ensure success. Mr. Mayo responded that there have been ongoing opportunities. He noted that representatives visited Petersburg on December 6, 2011, for training related to the observation piece.

Mr. Lundy expressed his concerns with a lack of increase in reading proficiency, and noted he wondered if any of our turnaround partners were present, or if there was something that could be included in a report related to reading. He said he thinks that *something must be wrong with the Voyager program on the elementary level*. Mr. Lundy indicated the dilemma *has to be either the foundational part, or it has to be as students move on*. He noted that the students are starting off right in our pre-schools where the skills the students will need are provided (as division representatives visited daycares to share school division expectations) but when students get into the actual series, something is wrong.

Mr. Lundy added that *year-in and year-out we are getting more failures; we're not increasing reading proficiency*. In his opinion, Mr. Lundy noted he felt the reading program is not assisting or supporting us. He stated that he visits classrooms and sees the strengths and weaknesses of the program, noting *it may not be for Petersburg*. He asked for *the input of others to determine how the decrease is happening, as it is happening at crucial levels, and our students are not producing as they should*. Mr. Lundy added that he hopes feedback can be received from turnaround partners and teachers, as we need to help our children.

Mr. Fred B. Wilson asked to receive information related to the criteria required of the ISAEP program, at the will of the school board.

Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., indicated that initially the process for the children who are in the ISAP program who participated in the CTE component, required transport to PHS for completion of course requirements. He noted that he wants to ensure that this is the case. He asked for a report of the full piece related to the program between the work session and the regular meeting. The report should include whether this is taking place, and the number of children involved, if it is the will of the school board.

Mr. Pierce further noted that last year, it had been indicated that passwords would be provided to the school board members in order to access online data from the turnaround partners. Dr. Parrish indicated she was under the impression school board members had already received passwords to the Indistar program. She stated that she will ensure school board members receive the passwords by the end of the week, and she will touch base with Dr. Shannon Smith, and Mr. Willie J. Bell, Jr.

Dr. Parrish added that what the Indistar report will reflect is the work in the schools in school improvement; the work that is approved through the State Department and external partners. She noted that VDOE also checks the information and provides feedback.

Mr. Lundy clarified that, at the will of the school board, he asked that the board receive a report on the GED program, *because the program has experienced a lack of attention*. He added that he wants to ensure that students obtaining their GED have some sort of support system. Mr. Lundy stated that the school board needs to know about the program, noting *we need to give Blandford the attention that it deserves because non-traditional education is as important as traditional education*.

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett noted that it was brought to his attention and it is his understanding that the PSAT is administered only to eleventh graders and is completed in October. He added that in the governor's school, the PSAT is administered in both ninth and tenth grades. Mr. Pritchett asked that research be done to determine if the grade level for testing be moved back. He also indicated that in a report given by Governor McDonnell, money allocating money towards the tenth grade, so students provided to tenth graders to ensure students will be ready as they move forward. Mr. Lundy added that this matter was discussed last year.

Angela Williams – 2019 Windsor Road, Petersburg, VA

Ms. Angela Williams asked if it is possible for parents to have a true method of evaluating students when we have pacing guides in place, but children are evaluated on aspects of the pacing guide that have not been covered. Mr. John L. Mayo, Assistant Superintendent, responded that there is a process when pacing guides are put in place, and when tests are created. He added that teacher's are responsible for covering all components of the pacing guide to ensure that students have covered items that are being tested. A review process is in place with key personnel, who actually put the tests together. Mr. Mayo noted that he has been in discussion with the division's partner about working with the pacing guides to make sure that they are in alignment and that all components are covered before students are tested. Mr. Mayo added that if it is discovered that students have been tested on material that has not been covered, that portion of the test will be removed so the child will not be penalized.

Ms. Williams asked if there is conversation in place involving parent involvement in alternate governance. She noted that when one talks about alternate governance it is related to the development of schools and moving forward and how everyone is progressing throughout the year. Ms. Williams added that parents are not always involved in this aspect.

Mr. Mayo responded that as personnel discussions are held in the alternate governance meetings, there is not an option for parents to be involved in the meeting for reasons of confidentiality. He noted; however, that parents can be vocal at the school level, and their principal can be their voice at the alternate governance meetings.

Ms. Williams directed a request to Dr. Alvera J. Parrish, Superintendent, to see if this parental involvement can be reconsidered. She noted that there have been occasions when she and other parents have been involved in the interview process for teachers at the Head Start level. Ms. Williams reiterated that she feels parents should be granted an opportunity to participate in the alternate governance meetings. Dr. Parrish noted that as personnel performance is discussed at the meetings, this is not possible. She indicated; however, that parents can obtain a summary of information discussed in the meetings in terms of directions or instructional decisions that are made as a result of the alternate governance meetings. She added that this should be done through the principals. As a governance piece, discussions are held regarding the performance of staff and students, and specific data is revealed, thus confidentiality is required. The direction of the school division based on the data, school performance, strategies to be implemented, as well as engagement of internal and external partners, can be discussed in-depth with the principal of the school. This is where parents may connect and collaborate to build the capacity in the school.

Mrs. Gloria Brown – 1557 South Sycamore Street, Petersburg, VA

Mrs. Gloria Brown shared her thoughts on the Voyager and Accelerated Reader programs. She indicated that in her opinion, the programs are good supplements, but asked, “*Are we focusing on the love of learning?*” She encouraged a focus on students understanding and comprehending the books they read in their integrity, as well as a return to the use of book reports to check for comprehension. Mrs. Brown added, if one knows how to *work a test* one can pass it.

It was noted by Mrs. Brown that CTE has been a topic of discussion for a long time. She shared that in the demographics of our city, and the challenging economic times, having great technical educational opportunities is important, noting not everyone is bound for college.

Mrs. Brown also indicated that that the school year is 180 days, and stated that the community needs to hear what the external partners have done without, and she *does not want to hear any excuses* as the school year draws to a close. She stated that *parents do not want people inappropriately placed*. She encouraged the inclusion of parent teams in the hiring process.

Update – The Algebra Project – Mrs. Gwendolyn Price, Mr. Dave Dennis, and Dr. Doris Williams

Dr. Parrish introduced Mrs. Gwendolyn Price, PCPS Testing Coordinator, to present the Algebra Project team. Mrs. Price indicated that PCPS has had a great relationship with the Algebra Project for a number of years, noting the journey began in 2006. She noted that this is the end of our initial initiative with the Algebra Project. Members of the Algebra Project and teachers were introduced.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Price, introduced Algebra Project Evaluator, Dr. Shirley Turnage, who will work closely with Mrs. Price for the next nine months to complete the project evaluation.

Dr. Doris Williams provided program history and information related to the Algebra Project as follows:

❖ **Cameron Foundation**

- The Cameron Foundation awarded a \$202,260 Planning Grant in 2006
- A 5-year Implementation Grant in the amount of \$1.8 million was awarded in 2007

❖ **Design Team Process**

- Petersburg City Public Schools
- Local Government
- Faith-based Community
- Community-based Organizations
- Young People's Project (YPP)
- Virginia State University
- AP, Inc. (National Science Foundation)
- Parents and Other Interested Citizens

❖ **Project Goals**

- Improved teaching quality – pedagogy, content knowledge
- 75% of students passing Algebra I by the end of 9th grade
- 70% of students passing math SOL
- Students able to pass college level math without remediation
- School fully accredited

❖ **Multiple Levels of Support**

- Professional Development – intensive and sustained, to improve teaching quality
- Community and Site Development – to build a floor beneath every child and a structure within which to deliver and support high-quality teaching and learning in multiple venues
- University Partnership – to enhance teaching and expand learning opportunities for students

❖ Professional Development

- Two-week summer institute
- Bi-monthly classroom visitation
- Bi-monthly content and curriculum development workshops – aligned with VA Standards of Learning
- Capacity-building
- Sixty-four days of professional development institutes and workshops over 4.5 years
- 125 classroom visits per year, average
- 47 average teacher attendance at 19 institutes and workshops
- Four capacity-building workshops averaging 10 participants each

❖ Community and Site Development

- Design Team
 - Monthly meetings with multiple partners
 - Assess needs, plan implementation strategies
 - Facilitate conversations across organizations to build connections and fill gaps
 - Train community members in 3-day summer Community Leadership Institute
 - Resource identification and development

❖ The Higher Education Role

- Virginia State University provides . . .
 - Teacher certification opportunities
 - Teacher content knowledge
 - Research on teaching and learning
 - Enhanced academic experiences for K-12 students
 - Enhanced school curricula (dual enrollment, early college, etc.)

❖ Moving Forward

- Central Virginia Regional Network for Child Success
 - STEM-focused professional development
 - Youth mentoring and leadership development
 - Community and site development
 - Dual enrollment and other higher level mathematics offerings

❖ Potential Roles for PCPS in Regional Effort

- Help to convene and host regional superintendents for information and input
- Share teachers for on-line dual enrollment and other higher level math courses
- Assist in model expansion and adaptation
- Assist in regional trainings (teachers and youths)

It was noted that the Algebra Project sought to help teach teachers teach in a way that is more engaging to students, and also help students grasp the concept and getting a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. The aim to eliminate the need for college-bound students to avoid the need to receive math remediation upon entering college was reiterated.

In order for students to do well, they need a floor under them and walls around them, the speaker shared. Working to help parents realize that their students can do as well as any students is a goal of the project.

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett asked how Petersburg's students will be enabled to enroll in dual enrollment programs if they are not taking the PSAT until the eleventh. It was noted by the speaker, that some school divisions take PSAT tests as early as the eighth grade. Mrs. Gwendolyn Price, PCPS Testing Coordinator, indicated SOL scores have also been utilized, along with PSAT and SAT scores for dual enrollment.

The speaker indicated do to the higher pass rate of dual enrollment students in comparison to VSU students, Petersburg has garnered a lot of interest. It was noted that courses are not *watered down*, but dual enrollment students receive the same syllabus and take the same tests as other VSU students.

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett thanked presenters and those involved in the Algebra Project, and he noted that he looks forward to a regional focus for the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lundy asked, if it is the will of the school board, he would like a report provided on the Voyager reading program to allow other outside entities and teachers to express where our areas of strength and weakness are.

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett noted that there will be no school board work session on January 18, 2012. Student hearing are to be scheduled, and the school board will reconvene on February 1, 2012. He added that the staff and community are invited to attend the school board's first budget meeting, which was to be held on Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Bernard J. Lundy commended the group of winning students recognized during the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:46 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., and a second by Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks, the school board unanimously agreed to convene a closed session as permitted by Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, to discuss personnel matters related to appointments, resignations, and performance.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Following a motion by Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the Board, without dissent, agreed to return to open session at 10:45 p.m.

The Clerk of the Board then read the following statement:

As required by Section 2.2-3712.D of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, a roll call vote will be taken to certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Act and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed session by the Board.

Prior to the vote, any member of the Board who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of 1 and 2 as read shall so state the same, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place. Does any Board member wish to respond?

No member responded; therefore, a roll call vote was taken and all Board members responded affirmatively.

ACTIONS ON CLOSED SESSION MATTERS

On a motion by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., and a second by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, the School Board unanimously approved the following superintendent's recommendations:

- **It is the superintendent's recommendation that the School Board accept the settlement agreement for the employee in personnel case # 11-061 as submitted by Chioca and Reed-Smith.**

- It is the superintendent's recommendation that the School Board accept the resignation of the employee in personnel case # 11-062.
- It is the superintendent's recommendation that the School Board approve the two *Remediation and Response to Intervention Instructor* positions for A.P. Hill and J.E.B. Stuart Elementary Schools.
- It is the superintendent's recommendation that the School Board allow the superintendent to move forward for the sponsorship for the permanent residency immigrant visa of the employee in personnel case # 11-058 for Vernon Johns Junior High School.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., and a second by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, the school board, with no opposing vote, unanimously agreed to adjourn at 11:57 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

APPROVAL Approved:

Chairman of the Board

ADDENDUM

CONFIDENTIAL:

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SCHOOL BOARD/CLOSED SESSION: JANUARY 11, 2012

On a motion by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., and a second by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, the School Board unanimously approved the following superintendent's recommendations:

- **It is the superintendent's recommendation that the School Board accept the settlement agreement for the employee in personnel case # 11-061 as submitted by Chioca and Reed-Smith.**
- **It is the superintendent's recommendation that the School Board accept the resignation of the employee in personnel case # 11-027.**
- **It is the superintendent's recommendation that the School Board approve the two *Remediation and Response to Intervention Instructor* positions for A.P. Hill and J.E.B. Stuart Elementary Schools.**
- **It is the superintendent's recommendation that the School Board allow the superintendent to move forward for the sponsorship for the permanent residency immigrant visa of the employee in personnel case # 11-058 for Vernon Johns Junior High School.**

Jeanette P. Berrios, Clerk of the Board

Date