

**PETERSBURG SCHOOL BOARD  
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA  
SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING – 5:30 p.m.  
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION – 6:30 p.m.  
Petersburg City Public Schools  
Administrative Building  
October 17, 2012  
Jeanette P. Berrios, Board Clerk**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 5:37 p.m., Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, Chairman of the Petersburg School Board, convened a special 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:

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

The following Petersburg City Public Schools' (PCPS) staff members were in attendance:

Acting Superintendent:	Stanley O. Jones
Director/Human Resources:	Gianna Grier

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Following a motion by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., and a second by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, a closed session was convened at 5:37 p.m., pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss personnel matters.**

**OPEN SESSION**

**On a motion by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the school board returned to an open session at 6:50 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**

**There were no actions on closed session matters.**

## **ROLL CALL:**

At 6:52 p.m., Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, Chairman of the Petersburg School Board, called the work session of the Petersburg School Board to order in the main Board Room of the School Administrative Office Building, 255 South Boulevard, East, Petersburg, VA.

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

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

The following Petersburg City Public Schools' staff members were in attendance:

Acting Superintendent:	Mr. Stanley O. Jones
Director/Human Resources:	Ms. Gianna Grier
Director/Budget & Finance:	Ms. Denise Sandlin
Director/Elementary Instruction:	Dr. Shannon Smith

Director/Technology:	Mr. Charles Ponton
Student Services Coordinator/Conduct Officer:	Dr. Ann M. Ford
Coordinator/Testing:	Mrs. Gwendolyn Price
Coordinator/Special Education:	Mrs. Ahnjayla Hunter
GATE Coordinator:	Mrs. Stephanie Harvell
Interim Public Information Officer/Federal Programs:	Ms. Johna Vazquez
Supervisor/Buildings & Grounds:	Mr. Russell Lawrence
Supervisor/Warehousing:	Mr. Johnny Fobbs
Clerk of the Board:	Mrs. Jeanette P. Berrios

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Ms. Linda Mickens, English teacher at Vernon Johns Junior High School and family were remembered in the loss of her aunt, Ms. Irene Winston, on October 13, 2012.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting attendees were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Miss Leilia Magee.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**Hispanic Heritage Month – Ms. Johna Vazquez**

Mr. Stanley O. Jones, Acting Superintendent, noted that Governor Robert F. McDonnell has recognized September 15 through October 15, 2012, as *Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month* in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Jones introduced Ms. Johna Vazquez, Interim Public Information Officer/Federal Programs Specialist, who shared the upcoming *Carnival* to be held on Thursday, October 18, 2012, at the Old Train Station in Petersburg, from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., which is free to the public. Ms. Vazquez noted the activity was organized by the English as a Second Language (ESL) Department.

Mr. Stanley O. Jones, Acting Superintendent, indicated the culminating activity will be the crowning of a *Carnival queen*. Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon asked how the queens will be selected. Mr. Jones responded that ESL teacher, Ms. Janett Duhart, will make the selection.

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett indicated he has attended the event several years, and he and other school board members will be on hand at the event to crown the selected queen.

Discussion followed during which Mr. Pritchett asked what emphasis is planned for Black History Month. Ms. Johna Vazquez indicated that a plethora of activities are incorporated in the division schools during Black History Month.

Mr. Pritchett noted that the division needs to do more with Black History Month, and Ms. Vazquez responded that perhaps more advertisement is needed. Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., encouraged the provision of books within learning centers to help students *know who they are*. Ms. Vazquez added that *Carnival is a culminating activity*, and noted activities, materials, and displays have been provided throughout the month to bring cultural awareness to students and parents.

### **Careers in Energy Week (October 15-21, 2012) – Mr. Stanley O. Jones**

Mr. Stanley O. Jones indicated that Governor McDonnell has designated October 15-21, 2012, as *Careers in Energy Week*. He stated that he would like to use this as a kick-off point to look at what the division is offering related to career opportunities in Petersburg. Mr. Jones suggested that perhaps at the second November school board meeting the director could set out a course of some things that should be considered in the future (i.e. welding, HVAC, electricity, and plumbing). He noted that if one has the building trades of masonry, and adds plumbing, electricity, and HVAC, one can build a house. He added that if one becomes a plumber or welder, a job can be secured anywhere.

Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., noted that *this is not a new invention*. The previous suggestions have not been brought forward. He added that recently a CTE billboard was displayed, and a conversation was held with the mayor related to purchasing homes across the street from the billboard for \$1. Mr. Lundy stated that funds are available from work that was done previously, from homes that were built. He added; however, that *we cannot make people do things, we ask them to do it. If it doesn't get done, and we bring it up, people give us the stigma of micro-managing*. Mr. Lundy stated that *this is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* and added that our economies, cities, and nations grow by creativity. Mr. Lundy reiterated that this area has not been overlooked, but stated that *no one has been in the position at the helm of the ship to carry it out*, and he added that *Petersburg was known for vocational education*.

### **School Bus Safety Week (October 22-26, 2012) – Mr. Stanley O. Jones**

Mr. Stanley O. Jones shared that Governor McDonnell has recognized October 22-26, 2012, as *School Bus Safety Week*. Mr. Jones stated that we in Petersburg *should be proud of our bus drivers and the wonderful job they are doing*. Mr. Jones expressed appreciation to bus drivers and those in leadership for what they are doing at the bus barn, and to the *great City of Petersburg for watching out for our children*.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Following a motion by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, and a second by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, the school board approved the agenda of the October 17, 2012, school board work session. (A copy is included as an addendum to these minutes.)

On a motion by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the school board unanimously approved the October 17, 2012, consent agenda to include the personnel agenda, and the minutes of the September 19, 2012, (*School Board Special Meeting/Work Session*). (Copies are included as an addendum to these minutes.)

## ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Head Start Program Governance – Ms. Carolyn Tyler

Dr. Shannon Smith, PCPS Director of Elementary Instruction, introduced Ms. Carolyn Tyler, the school division grantee for Petersburg's Head Start Program, who provided *School Board Program Governance Training*. Ms. Tyler indicated that she is providing Head Start training for the school board this year, but next year the PCPS Head Start Supervisor, Ms. Penny Brooks, will conduct the federally mandated training.

Ms. Tyler provided an overview of the Head Start Program noting the following:

- Head Start is a federal program that began in 1965
- The program is for low-income preschool children and their families
- Head Start promotes the school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development
- Head Start is a comprehensive child development program designed to include
  - Early Childhood Development & Health Services (i.e. the educational piece). Ms. Tyler noted the health services piece is just as important as the academic piece of the program.
  - Family & Community Partnerships
  - Program Design and Management (i.e. program governance piece)

It was indicated by Ms. Tyler that community support and funding are needed to help make Head Start a great program. She added that regulations strictly guide how Head Start should be managed.

Ms. Tyler noted that Head Start funding begins with Head Start legislation, all of which are approved by Congress (i.e. there are over 1,700 regulations). She stated that regulations *constantly come and constantly change*. The funding goes through Health and Human Services (HHS), and then to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Ms. Tyler shared that there are ten regions in Head Start (i.e. our divisions are designated as Region III). The funds are provided to the grantee, Richmond Public Schools, directly from the federal government. Richmond Public Schools then delegates a portion of the funds to Petersburg City Public Schools to run its Head Start program for 136 children.

Richmond Public Schools (RPS) not only serves as a grantee, but runs its own Head Start program for 846 children with funding in the amount of \$6,246,160. Richmond Public Schools has Early Head Start (for infants and toddlers), and Head Start programs. The programs partner with RPS locations, child care centers, and Powhatan County.

It was indicated that RPS delegates \$967,068 to Petersburg to provide Head Start services to 136 children (i.e. Head Start at Westview Early Childhood Education Center). Ms. Tyler noted that all preschool children are located at one location in Petersburg.

The combined funded enrollment of RPS and Petersburg is 982 (i.e. 60 RPS Early Head Start children; 786 RPS Head Start children; 136 Head Start children in Petersburg). In addition, Ms. Tyler noted that there are a total of 59 classes, 21 locations, and 180 personnel (i.e. total grantee and delegate agencies).

Ms. Tyler shared the differences between the Head Start Program and other early childhood programs (i.e. Virginia Pre-School Initiative). One distinction is that Head Start is federally funded, and the Virginia Pre-School Initiative (VPI) is funded by the state. In addition, in the Head Start program parents are able to participate in the *shared decision-making process about all aspects of their child's program through a formal structure of shared governance*. She noted that the formal structure comes directly from the Head Start regulations, and enables parents and other community representatives the opportunity to participate in shared decision-making concerning program design and implementation.

It was noted by Ms. Tyler that key individuals and groups are responsible for Head Start decision-making as follow:

- ✓ Governing Body – RPS School Board/PCPS School Board
- ✓ Agency Director – Superintendent
- ✓ Program Director – Head Start Director (EHS/Head Start Manager or Supervisor)

- ✓ Policy Council/Committee – Must be comprised of at least 51% of parent of children currently enrolled in the program

Ms. Tyler stated that this shared decision-making is what makes the Head Start program so unique; decisions are not made by one body.

Head Start Performance Standards are mandatory regulations, which must be implemented in order to operate a Head Start program. RPS has a contract with PCPS, which states that PCPS will meet the required standards. Ms. Tyler indicated the standards define the objectives and features of a quality Head Start program. She added that if, of the over 1,700 regulations, Head Start is meeting all requirements, *we know we are providing high quality services.*

Ms. Tyler indicated that regulation *Subpart D – Program Design & Management 45 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1304.50* is a regulation *to ensure that each grantee has an established policy group and well functioning governing body that share responsibility for overseeing the delivery of high quality services to children and families in accordance with Head Start legislation, regulations, and policies.*

The *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-134)* became law in December of 2012. Ms. Tyler stated that some of the regulations are in conflict with the Performance Standards. Ms. Tyler noted that she and Ms. Brooks have the responsibility to ensure that the standards of the last act are met. She added that some of the major regulations affect program governance (i.e. board composition/elected boards are exempt; roles and responsibilities of the board; and information sharing). As Petersburg's school board is elected, it is exempt from this particular regulation. She added that this law was put into effect because for years some boards were not involved in Head Start, or did not know what was going on in Head Start.

Ms. Tyler shared that the Head Start Act mandated many changes to the governance structure, particularly in the approval process. In the regulations, there are certain policies and procedures that must be approved by the school board, and policy council. Ms Tyler noted that in 2007, information was received that indicated the Performance Standards would be revised; however, the revisions have not been forthcoming.

The Head Start Act governing body responsibilities was highlighted by Ms. Tyler and includes the following:

- Legal and fiscal responsibility (the RPS has the ultimate legal and fiscal responsibility, as the grantee signs the contract with, and receives funds directly from the federal government). PCPS is responsible to RPS.

- Assure active, independent, informed governance; select independent auditors
- Fully participate in development, planning, and evaluation of EHS/HS program

In addition, the school board must assure compliance with the federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Ms. Brooks is the individual for PCPS who is knowledgeable of the regulations, and ensures they are met. School Boards must review and approve all major policies, which are listed in the regulations, in addition to other responsibilities.

Ms. Tyler indicated that under the Head Start Act, a Policy Council (RPS as grantee) and Policy Committee (PCPS as delegate) is required. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., who attends the Policy Committee meetings as a representative of the Petersburg School Board.

The Policy Councils and Policy Committees are very special groups, which are elected by parents. The majority of members must be parents of Head Start children. Past parents may serve as *members at large (community representatives)*; *there should be no conflict of interest and no compensation is paid.*

Policy Council is responsible for the direction of the program to include:

- ❖ Program design and operation
- ❖ Long/short term planning goals
- ❖ Community strategic planning and needs assessment
- ❖ Self-Assessment
- ❖ Development and approval of a variety of program policies
- ❖ Approval and submission of decisions to boards prior to board action

Ms. Tyler noted that grantees must ensure that accurate and regular information is shared for the board and Policy Council (i.e. planning, policies, and Head Start operations). She provided some of the information sharing items.

Examples of decisions that *must* receive Policy Council/Committee approval prior to board action include:

- ❖ Hiring of staff
- ❖ Termination of staff

Ms. Tyler noted that a key focus of the Head Start Act relates to information sharing. She added that grantees must ensure sharing of regular and accurate information with the Board and Policy Council (i.e. planning, policies, and Head Start operation).

Ms. Tyler indicated that on a regular basis the school board should receive the following:

- Monthly financial statements
- Monthly program information summaries
- Program enrollment reports (i.e. *one of the key pieces in Head Start is that you must stay fully enrolled, because that is how the money is given to stay at the funded enrollment*)
- Financial audits
- Annual Self-Assessment (*RPS visits Petersburg to participate jointly in the self-assessment*)
- Community-wide strategic planning and needs assessment
- Communications from the Health and Human Services Secretary
- Program information reports

It was noted that this should be happening, and if not, a system needs to be put in place to ensure that the school board is receiving information on a regular basis. Ms. Tyler shared points of the RPS model, which Petersburg may follow.

Ms. Tyler stated that school board member, Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., attends the Head Start Policy Committee meetings. At the meeting, Ms. Brooks gives the monthly information reports to include the previously noted points followed by RPS. Additionally, it was indicated that the RPS school board representative, who attends the council meeting, shares with the board at every meeting anything he wishes to report to the school board. The Head Start agenda is noted on the school board agenda. Ms. Tyler added that when a review of Head Start is conducted by the federal government, the meeting minutes will be reviewed to ensure the school board has been involved and informed of what is taking place in the Head Start program.

In summary, Ms. Tyler noted that the purpose of program governance is to ensure that the school board and Policy Council/Committee are well-informed. She added that when everyone is informed and shares in the decision-making, the Head Start program serving children and families is stronger.

**Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon** expressed her appreciation for an excellent presentation. She asked if there is a formula used to determine how many children are served by the Head Start Program (as RPS funds 846 children and Petersburg City Public Schools funds 136). Ms. Tyler responded that the determination is not based on a formula, but originated when the grant was written over 20 years ago. Dr. Jarmon asked for clarification that the grant funded number has its origin in a grant written 20 years ago. Ms. Tyler answered affirmatively. She noted that if there are ever *expansion grant dollars* Petersburg schools may write to the grantee for an increase in funding.

She noted that through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) some expansion funds were available, but the proven need had to be great.

Dr. Jarmon responded that she did not think it would be hard for Petersburg schools to prove that the need is great. Ms. Tyler indicated that as the grantee, RPS selected Petersburg as a delegate; this could change as the selection is made yearly.

Dr. Jarmon asked if Petersburg City Public School (PCPS) is able to apply for funds through another open grant process. Ms. Tyler stated that PCPS could do so if open grant funds were available. Dr. Jarmon expressed interest in PCPS having the program as RPS has for infants and toddlers. Ms. Tyler reiterated that PCPS could apply for funds if they become available; however, in light of economic challenges, federal funding is actually shrinking rather than growing.

**Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr.**, thanked Ms. Tyler for the Head Start training. He noted that he *loves working with the very interesting Head Start group*. Mr. Lundy added that expansion funding has been discussed in previous meetings a number of times, but available campus size is limited.

Mr. Lundy indicated that PCPS Head Start Supervisor, Ms. Penny Brooks, is a very good worker. He shared Ms. Brooks' introduction at the first committee meeting as a former Petersburg resident and student. Mr. Lundy asked Ms. Brooks to share how she utilized funding to ensure that our children keep pace with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Ms. Brooks recapped that she was born in Petersburg and graduated from Virginia State University (one of five children and a first generation college graduate). She noted that she chose to return to Petersburg where she started her career as a kindergarten teacher at Robert E. Lee Elementary School twenty-two years ago. Ms. Brooks indicated that when she saw the Head Start Supervisor position available in Petersburg, she was very excited to apply, as she stated she is *very passionate about early childhood education and at-risk youth*. Ms. Brooks expressed appreciation to Mr. Lundy for his support in welcoming her to the program.

Due to the fact that Head Start had a teacher vacancy, and did not have a full-time, permanent supervisor last year, additional funds were available. Ms. Brooks indicated that curriculum materials for the classrooms were purchased with the funds (i.e. math, science, and language arts kits, as well as monies for the library to benefit Head Start and VPI students). In addition, physical education equipment was purchased (i.e. balls, *Hoola Hoops*®, etc.); the program worked with technology so that students at Westview Early Childhood Education Center will be exposed to iPads®. She added that three operating computers are in all of the Head Start classrooms with a goal to provide for VPI and everyone in the building. In partnership with VPI, Ms. Brooks noted that the Westview Early Childhood Education Center is now wireless capable.

Mr. Lundy expressed appreciation to Ms. Brooks for the excitement she brings to the position, for the things she has done, and the things yet to be done.

**Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon** asked Ms. Brooks to share about the current community partnerships, and those that are being developed. Ms. Brooks responded that she has met with a representative from the Virginia Cooperative Extension with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), who works in family counseling and services. Ms. Brooks indicated that four or five programs are planned on various topics (i.e. child abuse and neglect, nutrition, and budgeting). She added that the program staff have partnered with a nurse, who is coming into the schools to work with Head Start on the topic of childhood obesity. Ms. Brooks noted that she has reached out to Dr. Alton Hart, Jr., Director, Crater Health District, Virginia Health Department. Also, the policy committee chairperson is working with teenage mothers at the Department of Health. Ms. Brooks indicated that when the policy committee meets again, an inquiry will be made to determine the types of program partnerships parents would like to develop.

Dr. Jarmon responded that this is very beneficial, and noted that Head Start does recognize *that in order to help the children, you have to work with the parents.*

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** expressed appreciation for a *wonderful presentation.* He asked which nearby communities have Head Start programs. Ms. Brooks responded that Chesterfield County, Hopewell City, and Henrico County also have Head Start programs.

**Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr.,** indicated that he shared with Mr. Stanley Jones, and wished to share with the school board that *Head Start is suffering financially* with regard to field trips. Mr. Lundy noted that *we need to work on that,* and added that *the cost is extremely high.* Mr. Lundy shared that he hopes *this is one of our target areas.* He stated that the students are making the trips, but that the cost of the trips is too expensive for students to *get the social exposure that they need to get on a continuous basis.* He indicated that he hopes this is something the school board will discuss to make this better for everyone.

Mr. Lundy stated that the group of parents on the policy committee *is the most exciting groups he has ever seen; they came in ready and want to take advantage of the things offered by the program.*

Mr. Stanley Jones expressed how much he enjoyed visiting Westview Early Childhood Education Center during its scheduled *picture day.* He indicated that, hopefully, a conversation will be able to be held about concerns Mr. Lundy expressed related to field trip expenses in November, prior to Mr. Jones's departure.

## MOU/LTP Update – Dr. Shannon Smith

Dr. Shannon Smith, PCPS Director of Elementary Instruction, presented the MOU/LTP update. A number of noted monthly activities follow:

### Student Achievement

- On October 1, 2012, Petersburg High School (PHS) cosmetology students placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 19 participating schools at the Skills USA Competition at the State Fair of Virginia.
- A webinar for school counselors was hosted by the Office of Student Services on October 4, 2012, on the topic, “Bullying Prevention Lessons Learned.”
- Vernon Johns Junior High School (VJJHS) students viewed exhibits and received information from representatives of the Petersburg 4-H and the Science Museum of Virginia.
- PHS plans to host the *Virginia College Application Week Site Application Process for Seniors*, in partnership with the *State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)* and an increase in the number of college applications is anticipated.
- A presentation of \$1,500 was made to the Petersburg Public Library to be utilized in its construction project. The monies were provided by students at A.P. Hill, J.E.B. Stuart, Walnut Hill, and Robert E. Lee Elementary School, as well as students from Vernon Johns Junior High School.
- On October 22-26, 2012, the *Fall 2012 EOC Writing Standards of Learning Assessments* will be administered.
- Administration of the first nine weeks Benchmark Assessments are planned on October 29-November 2, 2012.

### Leadership Capacity

- A Medicaid Coordinators’ Meeting was attended by the PCPS Special Education Coordinator, as well as Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and other Medicaid Coordinators to review changes and updates regarding Medicaid reimbursements.
- A *December 1 Child Count Webinar* provided by VDOE was attended by the PCPS Special Education Coordinator to review the changes pertaining to this year’s *December 1 Child Count Data Collection* and reporting.
- The *Region I Autism Consortium Board Meetings* and *Directors’ Meeting* were attended by the PCPS Special Education Coordinator.

- The PCPS Supervisor of Career and Technical Education (CTE) has been named the Regional Director for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) VSU region. A total of 43 schools are under the supervisor's leadership to include: 23 Chesterfield County Schools, three Petersburg City schools, two Powhatan County Schools, three Prince George County schools, two Surry County schools, two Sussex County schools, and one Regional Technical Center.
- The *Implementing Virginia Landmark Top Jobs Meeting* held on September 10, was attended by PCPS directors. Governor Robert McDonnell was the keynote speaker, and he presented a message that focused on preparing students for 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs related to Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Health Care (STEM-H).
- The *Maggie L. Walker Governor's School's Planning Committee Meeting*, which was held on September 18, 2012, was attended by the PCPS Gifted Coordinator.
- The *State School Counseling Supervisor Meeting* held on September 21, 2012, was attended by the PCPS Student Services Coordinator.

### Teacher Quality

- ❖ IEP Online usage training for new and returning teachers, and V-Assessment staff training was provided by the PCPS Special Education Coordinator.
- ❖ The PCPS Practical Nursing Program received good marks from the representatives of the Board of Nursing during a recent visit.
- ❖ Kindergarten- Second Grade PALS administration refresher training was held at A.P. Hill Elementary School on September 6, 2012.
- ❖ The *Virginia Commonwealth Coffee* with Senator Warner was attended by the Lead ESL teacher on September 11, 2012. Senator Warner honored the contributions of the Hispanic community to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation.
- ❖ The *TEDU 561-Reading Foundations: Sociological and Psychological Perspectives* reading course, led by Mrs. McFarlane through Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) began on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The course provides teachers with reading strategies, and serves as a prerequisite for teachers who wish to pursue a Reading Specialist Endorsement. It was noted that *teachers who complete the course will receive graduate level course credit.*

## Communication with Stakeholders

- The ESL Department organized a *Multicultural Parent Council* to provide a forum for ESL parents on September 7. In addition, the ESL Department in collaboration with the First Baptist Church at 235 Washington Street started an ESL class for adults. The ESL Department also sponsored a variety of activities to promote cultural awareness and parent involvement as part of *Hispanic Heritage Month*.
- Throughout the month of September, 2012, Open House activities were held by: Westview Early Childhood Education Center, J.E.B. Stuart, A.P. Hill, Robert E. Lee, and Walnut Hill Elementary Schools.
- The *VDOE Education Subcommittee Meeting* was held at VSU on September 18, 2012. The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the PCPS School Board, and the PCPS Acting Superintendent of Schools, along with division directors. PCPS accreditation status and the division's work with the Lead Turnaround Partners (LTP's) were highlighted.
- The *SAVVY Education* and *SAVVY City-wide meetings* were attended by the Student Services Coordinator during the month of September, 2012. The coordinator also attended the *Truancy Sweep Planning Meeting* with Juvenile Court Services and the Police Department on September 12.
- The *Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting* was held by the Special Education Department.
- On September 26, 2012, the *Operation Shoulder to Shoulder Meeting* was facilitated by the Program Specialist. The focus of the meeting was fostering valuable partnerships.
- The VJJHS principal and team visited and shared a spaghetti dinner with the Pecan Acres' community.
- The Program Specialist, Directors of Instruction, and faculty representatives of VSU met on September 7, 2012, to discuss the division's and university's partnership and future collaborative opportunities.
- PHS ran a successful Voter Registration Campaign from October 4-15, 2012.
- The Program Specialist and the Director of Elementary Instruction met with the Director of Library Services from the Petersburg City Public Library on September 24 to discuss reading initiatives.

## External Turnaround Partners

- ✓ EdisonLearning provided staff development to the faculty and staff of Walnut Hill Elementary School on September 11. Training on the eEvaluate system was provided to third through fifth grade teachers.

- ✓ The Director of Elementary Instruction met with EdisonLearning on September 25, 2012, to discuss expectations and goals for J.E.B. Stuart and A.P. Hill Elementary Schools.
- ✓ On October 10 and 11, 2012, the *Executive Alliance Meeting* was held with Turnaround Partners. Representatives from Cambridge Education, EdisonLearning, the Acting Superintendent of Schools, a representative of the VDOE's *Office of School Improvement*, and the Directors of Instruction for PCPS were in attendance.
- ✓ On October 15, 2012, the *Alternate Governance Meetings* were held. Principals of A.P. Hill and J.E.B. Stuart Elementary Schools were in attendance, along with principals of Peabody Middle and Vernon Johns Junior High Schools, a representative from the VDOE's *Office of School Improvement*, the Lead Turnaround Partners, and the PCPS' Directors of Instruction.

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** referenced information noted in the MOU/LTP update related to staff development provided by EdisonLearning. He asked if Cambridge Education was involved in this initiative. In response, Dr. Shannon Smith, PCPS Director of Elementary Instruction indicated Cambridge Education did not play a roll in the training noted as EdisonLearning is the LTP which partners with elementary schools. She added that as the division wishes to streamline all of the elementary schools, and A.P. Hill and J.E.B. Stuart Elementary Schools already utilize EdisonLearning's eEvaluate system, this was expanded for replication at Robert E. Lee and Walnut Hill Elementary Schools.

In response to an inquiry by Dr. Lewis related to the Executive Alliance meeting attended by Cambridge Education representatives, Dr. Smith elaborated that the meeting is held on a monthly basis as required; the superintendent meets with the Lead Turnaround Partners (LTP's), the directors and the SIG principals. Dr. Smith noted that the superintendent meets with the secondary LTP, Cambridge Education.

Dr. Lewis asked Mr. Stanley O. Jones if Cambridge Education will present its quarterly report to the school board. Mr. Jones responded that the school board may receive a report at such as time as a report is desired. Dr. Lewis noted that it is a requirement that a quarterly report be provided to the school board. He asked the time period in which the school board may expect the report.

In reference to the administration of the first nine weeks Benchmark Assessments October 29 – November 2, 2012, and the results thereof, Dr. Lewis asked, that if it is the will of the board, he would like to know when reports might be made available.

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett asked the school board if the work session for the month of November, 2012, may be canceled due to the attendance of the board at the *VSBA Annual Conference* in Williamsburg, followed by the closure of the school division for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 22-23, 2012. He added that the Cambridge Education LTP will be brought back for a presentation in December for a presentation before the board, as the LTP will have time to prepare its report.

### **Financial Report (September, 2012) – Ms. Denise Sandlin**

Ms. Denise Sandlin, PCPS Budget and Finance Director, presented the financial update as of September 30, 2012. She asked the school board to keep in mind as percentages were discussed, that typically in the month of September the division would *be at an average of 25% of expenditures and revenue*. Ms. Sandlin presented revenue detail to the school board.

It was noted by Ms. Sandlin that the division's revenue percent of actual is 16.50%. She added that as previously stated, the division does not usually begin receiving state funding until August or the first part of September. Ms. Sandlin indicated that some state funding is not received until January – June (revenues contributed through the lottery system; i.e. textbooks).

The division has spent 20.55% of the adjusted budget (\$8,020,308.79) inclusive of the month of September. Ms. Sandlin provided the expenditure detail and noted that *Classroom Instruction* has spent (or committed to spend) 16.44%; *Administration/Att. & Health* has expended 25.72%; *Transportation* – 23.56%; *Operations and Maintenance* – 29.59%; *Food Service* – 47.04% (somewhat higher due to summer school); *Capital* – 30.64%; *Debt Service* – 9.00% (most of which is due in December, which accounts for the low percentage of expenditure); and *Technology* – 22.89%. Ms. Sandlin highlighted the fact that a substantial amount of money has been encumbered, and this accounts for higher percentages.

**Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon** asked for clarification of *Item 57 – Encumbrance Carryover-Prior Yr.* noted on the Revenue Summary. Ms. Sandlin responded that these are funds that were encumbered on June 30, 2012, but have not been paid as yet (reflected in the 0.00 percent actual). The funds are, therefore, carried forward into the new fiscal year in order to pay the expenses that have been encumbered for payments. Ms. Sandlin indicated that the encumbrance is simply a place holder for the payment to balance revenues and expenses. She added that one will never see the actual \$330,318.27 *coming through* on the report, *but it will be income that comes forward through the city transfers (and will be seen in line item 56-Transfer from City)*.

Ms. Sandlin noted the detail of the revenue summary to include: Percent of actual *Sales Tax/SEQ. – 24.70%; State Incentive – 0.02% (i.e. Epi Pens); State Categorical – 10.21% (some will come through in January, and some will come through as reimbursables).*

It was noted in the report that the division has collected 22.16% of the total *01 - Operating Fund; 0.77% of the 02 – Food Service Fund; and 7.06% of the 05 – Capital Projects Fund (based on how the division is spending versus construction).* Ms. Sandlin indicated the district took out a bond in November, 2011, to fund various construction projects (i.e. windows at Peabody Middle School, bleachers, etc.). She added that the \$1.4 million indicated on the revenue summary is for the Walnut Hill Elementary School multi-purpose gymnasium. Ms. Sandlin noted that the district is in the process of awaiting a *final letter ruling*, which should take place by November 13, at which time construction will begin. It was indicated that the district has spent *1.12% of the 07 – Special Revenue Fund* (federal grants) and have different times associated with the various grants. The Revenue Report total was noted as 16.50% of actual.

**Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett** asked what property the district is renting as noted on page 9 of the Revenue Summary Report (at 4.77% actual). Ms. Sandlin indicated the \$30,000 noted in the report is the district's anticipated budget amount comprised of revenue from various rentals (i.e. the Boys and Girls Clubs, revenue from facility rentals). Ms. Sandlin stated that the year to date actual revenue received is noted in the report as \$1,430.00, and the district anticipates additional receipts in the amount of \$28,570.00. Mr. Stanley O. Jones interjected that the figure is a place holder for monies the district expects to receive from property rentals based on the historical figures for the year. Ms. Sandlin reiterated that revenue has been budgeted in the amount of \$30,000; if additional funds are received, this would be a plus as it would be unexpected revenue.

**Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon** noted additional revenues received as indicated in the summer school categories (i.e. 107.80% and 162.70% actual). Ms. Sandlin concurred. In addition, Ms. Sandlin indicated there was nothing budgeted for *Other Fees – Miscellaneous*; however, \$55.00 was received.

**Dr. Jarmon** inquired about the *Adult Education* budgeted amount of \$90,000.00. Ms. Sandlin clarified that the budgeted amount for *Adult Education* is \$90,000.00; *there were no budget adjustments made, and the district has yet to receive the funds from the state.* Ms. Sandlin added that monies are received at various times throughout the year (i.e. textbooks are purchased in July; however, textbook monies are received January – June). She noted that programs must be operated even if monies are being received at various times, and this is a *balancing act.*

Dr. Jarmon added that most grants are reimbursable, and programs must be operated until the monies are received. Ms. Sandlin indicated that all revenues are being carefully analyzed and coordinated with the city in order to match the cash flow. She stated that various state-funded programs require the city's matching funds.

Ms. Sandlin noted that she extends an open offer to meet with anyone regarding the financials as desired.

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** inquired about item *Donations – Fie*. Ms. Sandlin responded that this item denotes the PHS Field House. Ms. Sandlin indicated she has spoken with Mr. Russell Lawrence and Mr. William Lawson, III, related to the field house construction costs. She noted that it is her intent to put together a *pay as you go capital project plan for our budget this year*. Ms. Sandlin indicated a revenue code has been set up specifically for donations should anyone wish to contribute. She added payroll deduction arrangement may be made through Ms. Sandlin or Ms. Jane O'Donnell.

**Mr. Fred Wilson** asked Ms. Sandlin if she is aware of funds in the city's coffers, which have been set aside for the field house. Ms. Sandlin answered affirmatively, noting she is unsure of the exact amount, but believed there was approximately \$90,000 in the Stadium Fund. She also indicated she is familiar with the vocational educational funds, which were set aside from the building of homes. She added that she has checked, and the funds can be put to use in a vocational educational program. The cosmetology program is being expanded, along with other initiatives being considered. Ms. Sandlin reiterated the funds are available to be utilized.

Mr. Jones shared that a CTE report will be forthcoming. He also reminded attendees that a field house committee was established, and reiterated the need for the construction of the field house.

**Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks** suggested that the CTE students be considered in the construction of the field house. She noted this would enable to students to receive the experience, and the high school would benefit from the field house. It was noted that the division would need to determine the legal issues related to this.

Ms. Sandlin provided an overview of the Expenditure Detail Report, and noted the following *percent of actual* figures: 61 – *Classroom Instruction (15.44% of actual)*; *Co-curricular (49.41% of actual; as sporting equipment has been ordered but not yet received)*; 62 – *Administration/Att. & Health – 26.18% of actual*; *Reprographics – 49.66% of actual (due to encumbrances on the purchase of copier machines)*; *Vehicle Maintenance – 51.10% of actual (based on encumbrances for vehicle parts, etc.)*.

**Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett** asked Mr. Russell Lawrence what is being done with the old driver's education vehicles. Mr. Lawrence responded that an auction is planned for the two vehicles. He confirmed that a new vehicle will be purchased if enough money is raised from the auction.

Ms. Sandlin noted that the *Equipment Service percent of actual is 93.04%, with the largest funding amount being designated for the HVAC system at \$113,000 (as it is a large expense the district is looking to go out on a RFP for the system).*

**Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon** noted that the expenditure detail summary for the transportation management department indicates that the supply percentage of actual is 93.72%, and thus, nearly depleted. She added that this is true of the administrative supply percentage as well at nearly 78.89%. Ms. Sandlin indicated that the transportation department figure includes \$128,000.00 for parts, and the monies are reserved to prevent overspending, and this is why percentages are high. Also, \$30,000.00 was moved to vehicle maintenance. She added that Food Service supplies were encumbered, and were thus at 90% of actual (the Food Service overall percent of actual is at 47% also due to encumbrances).

Ms. Sandlin noted that *Capital Projects is at 30% of actual (due to encumbrances and expenditures).* The grant funds were indicated to be at 18.93% *(some of the grants came to an end at the end of September, and the district had a great deal of encumbrances in order to spend the grant monies down to prevent loss of funds.* Ms. Sandlin stated that the ARRA JOBS grant will come to an end on June 30<sup>th</sup>. \$199,000.00 was carried forward and has been completely expended *(most of which was spent in salaries).* Dr. Jarmon added that this is good that grant monies are being expended as we do not want to turn in unexpended grant monies.

Ms. Sandlin indicated that the district was able to take some of the salaries from the General Fund to federal funding, which increased our General Fund. She also noted that there was some Title I SES *spend down, to which a 99.66% of actual is attributed.*

In summary, Ms. Sandlin stated that the overall *01 – Operating Fund is at 18.73% of actual, which was much lower than the average of 25% of actual.*

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** asked if there is a tuition charge should someone from another school division wish to enroll in a Petersburg school.

Ms. Sandlin indicated she has not completed research regarding this. Mr. Stanley O. Jones noted that a policy should be in place with Petersburg City Public Schools.

**Dr. Lewis** also asked about the monies received from payments due to loss of textbooks. Ms. Sandlin indicated a small amount of *textbook assessment revenue* is collected.

An inquiry was made by **Dr. Lewis** for the status of cost savings related to the determination of unused telephone lines. Mr. Charles Ponton, PCPS Director of Technology, indicated this is being assessed through Verizon. Ms. Sandlin added that inter-department coordination is underway, and Mr. Ponton is assessing technology purchases as well.

**Dr. Lewis** inquired about the district's bandwidth sufficiency. Mr. Ponton responded that the district will be doubling its Internet bandwidth from 50 megabits to 100 megabits to prepare for building infrastructure upgrades, installation of wireless in the schools, and installation of computers in the schools. He added that this will happen over the next 60 days. Dr. Lewis asked if computers are being replaced or if the number of computers in schools is being increased. Mr. Ponton noted the number of computers in schools is being increased to provide more wireless flexibility within the buildings so instruction will not be confined to a computer lab. Mr. Ponton added that principals have shared that logistically, they do not have a lot of room space. With greater wireless capability and more computers in the classrooms, students may be tested without having to move to other locations in the building. Dr. Lewis noted that the technology initiatives will impact staffing, security, and policy issues, etc.

**Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett** asked if Mr. Ponton anticipates that one classroom of students will be able to utilize iPads® in the classroom. Mr. Ponton responded that this may be possible. He added that other tablets are being considered that may be better suited. Mr. Ponton noted that the biggest requirement is online SOL testing, and the iPad® is not currently able to provide that testing capability. He shared that VPSA states that capability for online testing is a requirement for funding.

Mr. Pritchett indicated that he has read that other school divisions are moving in the direction of tablet usage in the classrooms, and he wondered what they are doing.

**Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon** noted that she is glad this discussion is being held as Petersburg has some catching up to do in this area. It was indicated that neighboring school divisions are increasing student usage of computers. Dr. Jarmon indicated that Henrico and Hanover Counties already have programs in place.

Mr. Ponton responded that he has been speaking with other school divisions regarding one-to-one program, but policies need to be in place before devices are issued.

**Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks** shared that Petersburg is spending enormous amounts of money on textbooks that are basically obsolete after two years.

This gives us six to seven years of students using obsolete textbooks as the division cannot afford to purchase new textbooks every two years. She added that if the students could utilize tablets, noting this *is where their real world is right now*, the division can download the textbooks every two years at less than it costs to buy bound books.

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** said that *there is a loss of some other reality when one goes completely digital*. Issues will have to be dealt with, i.e. reconfiguration of the classroom electrical outlets, discharge of tablet batteries, household connectivity issues, and/or malfunction of machines. He said we need to be aware of all of the specifics of the logistical support system required for electronic mechanisms.

Ms. Hendricks said that over time the logistical glitches are worked out in the process. Dr. Lewis reiterated that in his opinion all aspects need to be considered.

Mr. Stanley O. Jones noted that Mr. Ponton is moving in the right direction. He added *we are not going to jump the mountain overnight, but if it can be done North, South, East, and West of Petersburg, it can be done in Petersburg. We need to take deliberate steps to get to the top of the mountain. Our children need to experience that which is being experienced all around us.*

Dr. Lewis noted he is *in favor of all of this, but it is necessary to cover every possible part of the logistical support system. If research is being done on the bus, students will need to have some type of WiFi capability on the bus.* He added that every aspect needs to be researched so that no child is put at a disadvantage.

**Federal Annual Measurable Objectives (FAMO) – Mrs. Gwendolyn Price**

Mrs. Gwendolyn Price, PCPS Testing Coordinator, presented information on the Federal Annual Measurable Objectives. Mrs. Price indicated that FAMO have replaced the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). She highlighted a comparison between the previous AYP requirements and the AMO requirements.

AYP	Federal AMO
Total	All Students
Black	Gap Group 1 (students with disabilities, English Language Learners, Econ. Disadvantaged)
White	Gap Group 2 (Black students, not of Hispanic origin*)
Hispanic	Gap Group 3 (Hispanic students, of one or more races*)
Economically Disadvantaged	Students with Disabilities
Limited English Proficiency	English Language Learners
Students with Disabilities	Economically Disadvantaged students
OAI (Science)	White Students
	Asian Students
*To include students with disabilities, English language learners, and economically disadvantaged students	

Mrs. Price noted that basically the same subgroups exist; the addition is that there are gap groups 1, 2, and 3 (as noted in the table above). In addition, the subgroups will still be looked at separately as well.

It was indicated by Mrs. Price that part of the waiver that the state received with the new objectives was to set up *Reward, Priority, and Focus Schools*.

❖ **Reward Schools:**

High performing and high progress schools will be identified and recognized under the:

- Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) Incentives
- National and State Title I Distinguished Schools
- The Blue Ribbon Schools Program

❖ **Priority Schools:**

Five percent of the state's Title I Schools (36 schools):

- Low reading and mathematics performance of "all students" group
- Federal graduation rates

❖ **Focus Schools:**

Ten percent of the state's Title I Schools (72 schools):

- Low proficiency gap group performance in reading or mathematics

Mrs. Price provided the following related to identification of *priority schools*:

- All schools currently identified as a Tier I or II school under the School Improvement Grant
- Title I High Schools with a Federal Graduation Indicator (FGI) of 60% or less for two or more consecutive years
- Title I schools with the lowest performance of all students in reading and/or mathematics on federal AMOs
- Title I schools failing to meet the 95% participation rate in reading and/or mathematics for three consecutive years

The PCPS priority schools are: Peabody Middle School, Vernon Johns Junior High School, A.P. Hill and J.E.B. Stuart Elementary Schools. They were classified as such as they fall in the categories of Tier I, II, and III schools, and already having turnaround partners.

The priority schools' *exit criteria* follow:

- ✓ Complete the implementation of the chosen three-year intervention model (i.e. both Peabody Middle School and Vernon Johns Junior High School are in their third year). A.P. Hill and J.E.B. Stuart Elementary Schools are in year two of the plan.
- ✓ Meet the federal AMOs for "all students" for two consecutive years
- ✓ Meet the 95% participation rate for "all students" for two consecutive years
- ✓ Title I high school must sustain a 10% reduction in the percentage of students not earning a standard or advanced diploma within a 4-year period for two consecutive years.

Mrs. Price stated that focus schools are identified by the following:

- Exclude any schools identified as priority schools
- 10% of other Title I schools identified as having the highest proficiency gap points or not meeting participation rate of 95%

Focus schools' *exit criterion* follows:

- The proficiency gap groups meet the AMOs for two consecutive years

*There are currently no Petersburg schools designated as focus schools.*

It was noted that there are three ways for elementary and middle schools to meet Annual Measurable Objectives: all students, proficiency gap groups, and individual subgroups must meet a test participation rate of 95% for reading and mathematics, and meet AMO targets in reading and mathematics, or reduce the failure rate by 10%, or meet it using the "three year average."

The ways high schools are able to meet Annual Measurable Objectives are the same with the addition of meeting the federal graduation indicator.

Mrs. Price indicated that for the 2011-2012 school year, the following reading AMOs were used to calculate Annual Measurable Objectives:

Accountability Year	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Assessment Year	2011-2012	2012-203	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
All Students	85	Reading AMOs for accountability years 2013-2014 through 2017-2018 will be determined based on subgroup pass rates on revised Reading SOL tests administered during 2012-2013.				
Proficiency Gap Group 1	76					
Proficiency Gap Group 2	76					
Proficiency Gap Group 3	80					
Students with Disabilities	59					
LEP Students	76					
Economically Disadvantaged Students	76					
White Students	90					
Asian Students	92					

Mrs. Price added that the Reading AMOs are going to be recalculated at the end of the 2012-2013 school year based on the new reading assessments that are being administered this year.

It was noted that the Math AMOs have been set based on the new math assessments that were administered during the 2011-2012 school year. She added that information was provided in the news recently indicating that the state was to reevaluate its AMOs. What the state did was to make sure that by the 2017-2018 school year, everybody will be expected to meet the same benchmark of 73% for all students and the subgroups.

Highlights of the overall status of Petersburg schools follow:

- **A.P. Hill Elementary School:** Did not meet all federal AMOs  
Required Intervention: Priority School
- **J.E.B. Stuart Elementary School:** Met all federal AMOs  
Required Intervention: Priority School
- **Robert E. Lee Elementary School:** Met all federal AMOs  
Required Intervention: None
- **Walnut Hill Elementary School:** Met all federal AMOs  
Required Intervention: None

- **Peabody Middle School:** Did not meet all federal AMOs  
Required Intervention: Priority School (the school is in year three; however, if the school is able to meet the AMOs next year, for two consecutive years, it can come out of priority status).
- **Vernon Johns Junior High School:** Met all federal AMOs  
Required Intervention: Priority School (if VJJHS meets federal AMOs next year, it can exit out of priority status).
- **Petersburg High School:** Did not meet all federal AMOs (*English and Math Performance*)  
Required Intervention: Improvement Plan Required
- **Petersburg High School:** Did not meet all federal AMOs (*Federal Graduation Indicator – FGI*)  
Required Intervention: Improvement Plan Required

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** asked if J.E.B. Stuart Elementary School continues its academic processes they have will the school be allowed to get out of the priority school category (as the school is in year two of its School Improvement Plan). Mrs. Price responded that the school will have one more year, as it must complete the three-year cycle of the grant. If the school's state of performance continues, it will meet the criteria to exit out of the priority school status.

Mrs. Price noted that the federal indicator is based on 2011 not 2012, as the federal is always a year behind. The Federal Graduation Rate for 2012 is at 74.57%. She added that *given that the 2012 graduation is around 75%*, if the high school meets all of the standards academically, next year they will be all right as the graduation rate will be reduced.

**Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett** asked for confirmation that the high is not a priority school, and the focus next year will be on implementation of the improvement plan and graduation. Mrs. Price answered affirmatively.

**Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks** asked if any of the schools are close to meeting the criteria for reward school status. Mrs. Price responded not at this time. Ms. Hendricks indicated *we will get there*.

## **NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** indicated that he hope by the fall of 2013, the district will have at least begun construction on the field house. He suggested that perhaps a wall of bricks with the names of those who donated to the construction might be considered.

**Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon** asked if the school district is participating at 10:18 a.m. on Thursday, in the *Great Southeast Shake Out*. Mr. Jones answered affirmatively. Mr. Russell Lawrence played a broadcast that will be played during the shake out earthquake drill. (Additional information is available at [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org) pertaining to earthquake safety.) Mr. Lawrence indicated this is the first time the shake out is being conducted in the southeast portion of the country.

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** indicated he and Mr. Stanley O. Jones will be visiting the MathScience Innovation Center on Thursday, for an evening dinner event, and noted that a Petersburg City Public Schools' student is being recognized.

**Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett** noted that he will be attending the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies regional board meeting on Thursday as well.

**Mr. Pritchett** also indicated the Ward 3 meeting will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup>, with Councilman Ken Pritchett, and Mr. Russell Lawrence will share information on the capital projects completed and anticipated within the school district. This will enable citizens to see where their dollars are being spent.

Mr. Stanley O. Jones shared that on October 28<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Ann M. Ford, PCPS Student Services Coordinator/Conduct Officer, and Mr. Jones will meet with the city manager and city council representatives on ways the city can help the school system related to truancy.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Following a motion by Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks, and a second by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, the school board, with no opposing vote, unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.**

**APPROVAL**

**Approved:**

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairman of the Board

# ADDENDUM