

**PETERSBURG SCHOOL BOARD  
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA  
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:30 p.m.  
REGULAR MEETING  
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING  
OCTOBER 3, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.  
Jeanette P. Berrios, Board Clerk**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, Chairman, called the special meeting of the Petersburg School Board to order in the main Board Room, of the School Administrative Office, at 255 South Boulevard, East, Petersburg, VA.

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

<b>Ward One:</b>	<b>Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr.</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 (arrived at 5:39 p.m.)</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 staff members were present: Mr. Stanley O. Jones, Acting Superintendent; and Ms. Gianna Grier, Human Resources Director.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Following a motion by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, and a second by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, the school board convened a closed session at 5:31 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 Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., and a second by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, 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.

## **ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION MATTERS**

**On a motion by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the school board unanimously approved the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent to employ the individual in personnel case # 11-094 as the Supervisor of Nursing Services at a salary of \$58,000.00 per year.**

**Following a motion by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the school board, without dissent, approved the Acting Superintendent's recommendation to employ the individual in personnel case # 11-095 as the Public Information Officer at a salary of \$69,930.00.**

**A motion was made by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis to accept the Acting Superintendent's recommendation that the individual in personnel case # 11-096 assume the department chair duties and move from 9.5 months to 11 months per year, and receive a supplement of \$1,321.00, a temporary increase in salary from \$38,304.00 to \$44,050.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, and approved by the school board with no opposing vote.**

**On a motion by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and a second by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, the school board unanimously approved the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent to move the individual in personnel case # 11-097 from a 9.5 month Title I Math Teacher position to an eleven month Instructional Specialist position with an increase in salary from \$41,164.00 to \$47,325.00.**

**Following a motion by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and a second by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, the school board, without dissent, approved the Acting Superintendent's recommendation to change the title of the employee in personnel case # 11-092 from Senior Secretary I to Bookkeeper.**

**On a motion by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the school board unanimously approved the Acting Superintendent's recommendation to pay the employee in personnel case 11-054 \$32.61 per day to assume the additional duties of the public information officer until the public information officer approved by the school board comes onboard.**

**ROLL CALL:**

At 6:56 p.m., Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, Chairman of the Petersburg School Board, called the 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:

<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:

Mr. Stanley O. Jones	Acting Superintendent
Ms. Gianna Grier	Director/Human Resources
Ms. Denise Sandlin	Director/Budget & Finance
Mr. Charles Ponton	Director/Technology
Dr. Shannon Smith	Director/Elementary Instruction
Mr. Willie J. Bell, Jr.	Director/Secondary Instruction
Dr. Danielle T. Belton	Supervisor/Federal Programs
Mrs. Ahnjayla Hunter	Coordinator/Special Education
Mrs. Gwendolyn Price	Coordinator/Testing
Ms. Stephanie Harvell	Coordinator/Gifted & Talented
Ms. Johna Vazquez	Federal Programs
Mrs. Jeanette Berrios	Clerk of the Board

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was observed.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting attendees were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Timothy Brown of the Appomattox Regional Governor’s School for the Arts and Technology.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

There were no recognitions.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### **Mr. Linwood Christian – 410 Mistletoe Street, Petersburg, VA**

Mr. Christian expressed appreciation to Mr. Stanley O. Jones, PCPS Acting Superintendent, and stated *that Mr. Jones has started a movement afoot*, and added, *“If you were running for office locally, you would win hands down.”*

As president of the Vernon Johns Junior High School PTA, Mr. Christian invited all school board members to Vernon Johns at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 4, 2012 (particularly the school board member assigned to the school). He noted that much has been said on the board about our schools, and Mr. Christian said he would like board members to *talk with us, meet with us, and give us some suggestions on improvements* and where things can be better.

Mr. Christian encouraged school board members *to do what you need to do to keep our principals and teachers*. He also said the board needs to inform principals that are not here yet *what we are not going to do to keep you*.

In addition, Mr. Christian stated that he hopes the Petersburg School Board will work with our Police Department, especially on the corner of Harding Street and St. Matthews. Mr. Christian said our children should not have to see gambling, drug dealing, etc. when they get off of the school bus. He added that their neighborhood association is there ready, willing, and able to work with the division. Mr. Christian said, *“We have hit the ball in your court. Are you going to return it?”*

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, School Board Chairman, expressed appreciation for the invitation to the Vernon Johns Junior High School PTA meeting, but noted that he has a prior engagement to attend a Pre-K Summit to be held at Tabernacle Baptist Church on that evening.

### **Mr. Sherman Cross – 860 Winfield Road, Petersburg, VA**

Mr. Sherman Cross, Founder, of the *Functional Human Development Institute*, provided an overview of the *Educational Enhancement Program*. Mr. Cross noted that the *Educational Enhancement Program* causes the student’s retention to double. He added that the program targets the lower third of students. Mr. Cross also indicated he would like for the school board to provide him an opportunity to provide teachers with program information should they wish to participate.

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett asked Mr. Cross if he has had an opportunity to meet with Acting Superintendent, Mr. Stanley O. Jones. Mr. Pritchett recommended that Mr. Cross meet with Mr. Jones, and perhaps Dr. Danielle Belton, Supervisor of Federal Programs related to supplemental services.

## CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**A motion was made by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and a second was provided by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, to approve the agenda of the October 3, 2012, regular school board meeting. The motion carried without dissent.**

**On a motion by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the school board unanimously approved the October 3, 2012, consent agenda** (to include the personnel agenda, and minutes of *August 1, 2012, Regular School Board Meeting, and May 23, 2012, Public Hearing/Superintendent Search*).

## ACTION ITEMS

### **2012-2013 Local Consolidated Application – Dr. Danielle Belton**

Mr. Stanley O. Jones introduced Dr. Danielle Belton, Petersburg City Public Schools (PCPS) Supervisor of Federal Programs to present the *2012-2013 Local Consolidated* grant application to the school board.

Dr. Belton indicated that she was pleased to have the opportunity to present the summary of the *2012-2013 Local Consolidated Application*, a copy of which school board members had received. Dr. Belton noted the grant is in the amount of \$2,919,230.50, and includes the following:

- **Title I, Part A**, Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged (\$2,515,322.52) – Funds provided to ensure that students meet challenging state academic achievement standards.
- **Title III, Part A**, Preparing Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals (\$387,694.00) – Funds provided to strengthen teacher quality and instructional leadership, which includes professional development opportunities and support for Class Size Reduction Teachers.
- **Title III, Part A**, Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient Students (\$16,213.98) – Funds provided to support the improvement of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students by helping them to learn English and meet state content and achievement standards in core academic content areas.

Following the presentation, **Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** asked if there should be any issue in the division receiving the noted funding. Dr. Belton indicated the division anticipates receipt of the funds. She noted it is the same amount as requested previously.

This may be increased, but they were asked to start with level funding. In addition, Dr. Lewis asked which individuals will receive the \$2.5 million under the Title I, Part A, funding to improve the academic achievement of the disadvantaged. Dr. Belton responded that the funding includes personnel to include instructional specialists, paraprofessionals, office of federal programs employees (supervisor and secretary), and the parent involvement facilitator. Dr. Lewis asked if the monies are above and beyond the monies received, or are the funds typically those received for personnel salaries. Dr. Belton responded salaries are paid from the amount received.

Dr. Lewis asked if there is an evaluation tool or method in place to determine the effectiveness of *Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, Preparing Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals, and Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient Students*.

Dr. Belton indicated that basically for Title I, Part A, many of our schools are impacted by the personnel. Each school is supported by instructional specialists, paraprofessionals, and math and reading resource teachers; however, the high school is not a Title I school. She added that by those personnel supporting our academic programs, the overall impact is seen at the end of the year in our SOL assessments and our various standardized measures.

For Title II, Part A, Dr. Belton stated that basically the school division is designated at 94% highly qualified. She said this is the measurement which is monitored, and these are the types of numbers that go in the consolidated grant. In addition, for Title III, Part A, Dr. Belton indicated that the English Language Learners (ELL's) are monitored by the Annual Measureable Objectives for that population. She noted that students are also tested with SOL's and *World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA)* Standards and Measurements.

In response to Dr. Lewis's request for the names of schools that will benefit from Title I, Part A funds, Dr. Belton provided the following:

- A.P. Hill Elementary School
- J.E.B. Stuart Elementary School
- Robert E. Lee Elementary School
- Walnut Hill Elementary School
- Vernon Johns Junior High School
- Peabody Middle School
- Westview Early Childhood Education Center has one Title I classroom

Dr. Lewis asked which school will benefit from the Title II, Part A funding. Dr. Belton responded that due to large populations there are Class Size Reduction Teachers in A.P. Hill Elementary School, as well as J.E.B. Stuart Elementary School.

Dr. Belton noted there is very little of the funding remaining once expenditures for personnel are removed (the amount includes eight personnel and allowance for FICA). The remaining funds are utilized for professional development as requested, visa support for our international teachers, and stipends.

Dr. Lewis asked which schools/employees benefit from the Title III, Part A funds. Dr. Belton said that basically the funds are not employee based. All of the division's schools are expected to support the English language students, and Dr. Belton added, *we do not supplant the funds*. The extra funds (\$16,213.98) help support after-school programs that are over and beyond those that are school based. Dr. Belton indicated that the schools previously mentioned, with the exception of the high school (which is not a Title I School) have the opportunity, with our lead ELL teacher and other supporting staff, to receive tutoring services after school, help with community initiatives, and support for parents.

Dr. Lewis stated that every year he asks about the effectiveness of support programs, not to be critical, but to note that the effectiveness measurement is the SOL testing. He noted that taxpayers may want to see what is received for the tax dollars expended. Dr. Lewis said that while \$2.5 million is being utilized for Title I schools, the Petersburg school division has one Title I school that still has issues; *Peabody Middle School is still not doing okay*.

Dr. Belton indicated that this year, Title I is not expected to have the SES set aside. She added that we are expected to set aside at least 20% of the grant for VDOE state contracts. She was notified on 10/3/12 that VDOE has assigned a vendor to work with our four priority schools. The other distribution will be in conclusion or working collaboratively with our directors of instruction, who will work with our principals to determine how best to service those schools.

Dr. Lewis said the division has its great motto, *"Going from Effectiveness to Greatness," and we haven't even gotten to effectiveness.* He reiterated that he is not saying this in a negative or critical manner, but so we can be proactive to pinpoint issues when they arise, and to do what we can do. Dr. Lewis added this is a leadership, competence, tutorial, and instructor issue that would ultimately get that school from where it is to where it needs to be.

**Mrs. Mary Jane Hendricks** expressed appreciation to Dr. Belton for the report. She added that she imagines that the federal government expects the division to provide explanation related to the funds received and how those funds are expended. Mrs. Hendricks asked if this would also go along with evaluating our program's effective usage of the funds.

Mrs. Hendricks said that *as tight as the government has been with cash*, she would think if the programs were not effective, the government would not continue to give the funds to the division; this would also be a way the division evaluates the programs. Dr. Belton answered affirmatively.

Dr. Belton added that monies are allocated based upon the free and reduced meal numbers as well.

**Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett** asked Dr. Belton to explain about the vendor again, which was approved through the state. Dr. Belton responded that in the past for many years school divisions had been required to set aside (depending upon their improvement status) a percentage of the grant up to 20%. She noted that as an example, the division had to set aside 20% of our grant, which was approximately \$503,000. Dr. Belton stated that the waiver was signed by our superintendent with the intent to apply for the funds this year. She added that SES is no longer being provided throughout the whole state of Virginia; it is not a Petersburg initiative.

Dr. Belton stated that this year due to whether or not school districts have priority or focus schools, we are expected to set aside an amount, and VDOE is monitoring the priority and focus status and recommending a certain coach or vendor to work primarily with our four focus schools first. Mr. Pritchett asked if we know who the vendor will be. Dr. Belton responded that we do not know as yet. She was contacted by the VDOE's School Improvement primary contact, Ms. Janice Gardner. Dr. Belton noted that working collaboratively with school improvement, Title I will support school improvement by putting monies aside to support the schools.

**Mr. Pritchett** indicated that he wonders how the vendors will work with the turnaround partners in the four schools. Dr. Belton noted that it is her understanding that there will not be several vendors but one consultant working with the principals. Working with the principals will trickle down to instructional staff and the students. Dr. Belton said there will be additional trainings in October for principals and directors to attend through VDOE.

Mr. Stanley O. Jones indicated this is new and training will be provided, and he indicated that *we will find out exactly what we will be asked to do*. He added that it appears that someone will come in as a coach and work with each of our priority schools to get them moving up in the right direction based on whatever it is that they are missing.

**Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett** noted that we have EdisonLearning and Cambridge Education. Mr. Pritchett asked, *"How much more work are they going to do? When will the administrators have time to do what they need to do, and when will teachers teach with everyone in and out of the classroom?"*

**Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr.**, concurred, stating, *"We are disturbing the instructional time."* He said the division has gone far and beyond accepting assistance.

Mr. Jones reiterated that we do not know the total outcome, but will find out what the expectations are at a meeting at 5:00 p.m. on October 17, 2012.

**Mr. Lundy** noted that *it would be nice if they gave us some money to pay the teachers, to give people raises.*

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** stated that *we are told not to look a gift horse in the mouth, but sometimes we have to wonder about the strategy good or bad behind these gifts that come forth.*

**Mr. Lundy** indicated that we need to share something with them regarding the division's concerns.

**Mr. Pritchett** stated that it just seems that there is a lot on our administrators in the schools. He added that we are talking about a new evaluation process, turnaround partners, and now we are talking about a coach or vendor coming.

Dr. Belton noted that the Office of School Improvement, headed by Dr. Kathleen Smith, does anticipate mailings to go out to our division to explain the whole process.

**Following a motion by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and a second by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, the school board, without dissent, authorized the School Board Chairman to sign the 2012-2013 Local Consolidated Application.**

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **SOL Accreditation – Mrs. Gwendolyn Price**

Mrs. Gwendolyn Price, PCPS Testing Coordinator, provided an overview of the school division's 2012-2013 accreditation status. As a reminder, Mrs. Price indicated there are six benchmarks that need to be met by elementary schools for the 2011-2012 school year. The required benchmarks follow:

<b>Elementary Schools Are Required to Meet 6 Benchmarks</b>	
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Required Benchmark</b>
Grade 3-5 English	75%
Grade 3-5 Math	70%
Grade 3 History	50%
Grade 5 History	70%
Alternate History Benchmark (aggregate of 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> grade History)	70%
Grade 3 Science	50%
Grade 5 Science	70%
Alternate Science Benchmark (aggregate of 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Science)	70%



**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** asked Mrs. Price if she can specifically attribute the down trend and up trend of scores to any particular area (i.e. teachers and the usage of old or new strategies; staff development to make teachers more effective; hiring of effective teachers, etc.). Mr. Stanley O. Jones responded that this is a question that troubles many people. He added that firstly, no amount of outside influence is going to change what is happening on the inside. Mr. Jones stated that *we are going to make it one teacher, one classroom, one school, and one community at a time; here and everywhere else*. He noted that staff development will help, adding *also, it will help when people who are not doing what they are supposed to be doing are called on it*. Mr. Jones stated that, *“People who are ineffective should not be in our classrooms making our children ineffective.”* He indicated that *a combination of things has occurred in Petersburg; training and putting the right leaders in the proper places will always help*. He added, *“If you know how to lead, people will follow you. If you do not know how to lead, they will start doing their own thing.”* Mr. Jones shared that he truly believes Petersburg is on the right track, and he noted that in the area of mathematics, Petersburg has some of the highest scores in this region, though one never hears about that; adding we are doing wonderful things in Petersburg.

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** stated that he likes to make sure that *we improve in effectiveness, or we remove it; we enhance effectiveness, or we at least sustain it, but we don’t do things like maintaining ineffectiveness, or getting rid of effectiveness*. Dr. Lewis concurred with Mr. Jones that this goes back to *good leadership, good competence, and good “follow ship.”* Dr. Lewis asked Mrs. Price to indicate the *good scores* in green on the next report.

Mr. Stanley Jones asked Mrs. Gwendolyn Price to introduce presenter, Dr. Shirley M. Turnage, President of *Dominion Consulting & Grant-Writing, LLC*. Mrs. Price noted that she initially met Dr. Turnage in January, and she indicated that the Petersburg school system contracted with Dr. Turnage to conduct the external evaluation of the *Algebra Project*, a five-year project that was funded by *The Cameron Foundation* in the amount of \$1.8 million.

Mrs. Price stated that Dr. Turnage came to us with a vast amount of experience and holds numerous certificates and certifications. She served as a Curriculum Instructional Specialist, Counselor, Principal, Special Education Program Administrator, and a Special Assistant to the Superintendent of Pasquotank County. In addition, Dr. Turnage has spent a great deal of time with grant writing, evaluating grant programs, program standards and review for special education, comprehensive partnership for math/science achievement, pre-college outreach higher education/public school initiatives, and comprehensive school reform.

Mrs. Price noted that Dr. Turnage has assisted in the writing of grants, which total over \$20 million. She added that Dr. Turnage was the right person to be given the task of evaluating the Algebra Project.

Dr. Turnage expressed appreciation to Mrs. Price and noted that the endeavor would not have been possible without her assistance with the provision of data. Dr. Turnage indicated she once lived in Petersburg and graduated from Virginia State University.

Dr. Turnage thanked parents and those present at the meeting. She also expressed appreciation to principals and teachers for allowing her to visit schools with a positive environment. Dr. Turnage added that those involved in capacity building helped her learn to navigate throughout the schools. She noted that there are things that were started in Petersburg and nowhere else.

Dr. Turnage asked the question, "Why algebra?" It was indicated that algebra is the gateway to learning. She added that it has been proven that algebra II will help individuals perform better in school, and also when they become employed, make more money. Children's goals and how they deal with their studies and things in life are connected to mathematics. Dr. Turnage indicated that it has also been proven that if teachers do not know content, they cannot teach it. These facts have been proven by the *National Mathematics Advisory Panel (U.S. Department of Education, 2008)* appointed by President Barack Obama to look at things in the schools.

It was indicated by Dr. Turnage that the Algebra Project has been a partnership with Petersburg schools in charge. She added there were four claim types as noted below:

- Claim Type 1: Academic Initiative Students (College and Career Ready)
- Claim Type 2: Professional Development (Highly Qualified Educators)
- Claim Type 3: Capacity Building Team (Sustainability)
- Claim Type 4: Community and Site Development (Success for All Children Partnerships)

The goals set for the partnership included improvement of teaching quality-pedagogy, content knowledge; 75% of students passing Algebra I by the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade; 70% of students passing the math SOL; schools fully accredited; and students able to pass college level math without remediation. Dr. Turnage added that these goals could not be accomplished *just with the Algebra Project*. She noted collaborative efforts were already underway in the PCPS; not just with academics and the curriculum, but PCPS had already started with teachers becoming highly qualified, and teachers becoming certified, if they were teaching *out of field*. Dr. Turnage stated that when she attended the *state of the schools* address in May, division staff spoke of the division ensuring that all students at all schools being exposed to the same materials in order to make progress in the classroom.

Dr. Turnage delineated the specific academic achievement goals set and which goals were met as follow:

### **Claim Type I. Academic Initiative**

- **75% of students passing Algebra I before end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade (*achieved*).** *Dr. Turnage indicated that this happened with principal's leadership, teachers in the classroom, content, and staff development with the Algebra Project.*

- **70% of students passing math SOL's in grades 3-8 inclusive of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II** (2010-2011 data) grades 3 (96%); 4 (70%); 5, (77%); 6 (33%); 7 (49%); 8 (74%) (*achieved*). Dr. Turnage indicated PCPS had over 70% of students who achieved the 70% goals.
- **Students able to pass college level math without remediation** (i.e. dual enrollment calculus, 100% passing rate, etc.). Dr. Turnage stated that it is her understanding from conversations with individuals at Virginia State University, that **PCPS's dual enrollment students did better in the calculus class at the high school than those on campus.**
- **Schools fully accredited.** Dr. Turnage indicated that according to 2011-2012 data, **six schools were accredited (three of the six schools were accredited with warning).** She added that this was accomplished by people working together, noting *one program cannot change your school; one program didn't change your school – it's what is happening with the leadership in your school.*

### Claim Type 2. Professional Development

- **Improved teacher quality in content knowledge and pedagogy.** Dr. Turnage stated *that's what it's all about; you can't teach what you don't know.* She added that when teachers graduate from college they do not learn everything about how to work in the classroom; *they need additional help. (According to feedback from the teachers and principals, this goal was achieved.)*

### Claim Type 3. Capacity Building Team (CBT)

- **Capacity Building Team (CBT).** Dr. Turnage noted that **PCPS has a Capacity Building Team** with members in different schools. The CBT members will help to sustain the professional development at the district level as well as the school based level of the Algebra Project and any other math with which assistance may be needed. Dr. Turnage indicated that team members have been trained.

### Claim Type 4. Community and Site Development

- **Programmatic focus (VSU dual enrollment, VSU Math Mentor Leadership Program, or M<sup>2</sup>, faith-based after-school initiatives, etc.).**

Dr. Turnage stated that she made some recommendations in the following areas:

- Project Services
- Management
- Evaluation
- Funding (*to enhance replication in whole and/or in part*), and
- Consideration to Share Indirect and/or Administrative Costs (*as noted in the evaluation document*)

As relates to innovative and challenging science and mathematics programs, Dr. Turnage noted that we should mention what is happening to students. She referenced a program initiated by the National Science Foundation implemented in the sixth grade and continuing through high school (*as well as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program*). The example (i.e. *Roanoke River Valley Educational Consortium*) highlighted various items to include grade levels and initiatives (i.e. pre-college awards for excellence in math, science, engineering, and technology; PACE/MSET Academic Year and Summer Program at the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels; scholars academic year and summer residential program for 8<sup>th</sup> grade females; science, engineering, technology – Mathematics (SET-M) Academic Year and Summer Program for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders; leadership conference for 11<sup>th</sup> graders; and mentorships for 12<sup>th</sup> graders. She also noted the Center of Excellence for Research, Teaching and Learning (CERTL) – Saturday activities and Summer Residential Research Institute; higher education – college, university, world-of-work, and/or others were available for eleventh and twelfth graders.

Dr. Turnage noted that in looking at the anatomy of the partnership between Petersburg City Public Schools and the Algebra Project, Inc., *Claim Type 1 (Academic Initiative)*; *Claim Type 2 (Professional Development)*; *Claim Type 3 (Capacity Building Team)*; and *Claim Type 4 (Community and Site Development)* one is looking at mathematics, SOL's, dual enrollment, college algebra and trigonometry, youth programs, graduation rate, and math accreditation.

The following were part of the Algebra Project professional development:

- Saturday Workshops
- Summer Institutes
- Professional development in several topical areas was provided to include math content, pedagogy, lesson plans, pacing guides, scaffolding, SOL's, higher order of thinking, and classroom visitations. (*Dr. Turnage indicated an average of 125 classroom visitations were conducted per year over a period of five years.*)

With regard to the Capacity Building Team and sustainability, Dr. Turnage indicated that this will happen. At the school and district levels, data analysis of benchmark testing will be conducted, and assistance in the area of classroom visitation will be given at the district level. CBT members will also look at SOL and SAT data.

Dr. Turnage shared that the state of Virginia for this year recommends that the PSAT be given to each junior with payment being provided by the state. She added that it has been proven that students who take the PSAT on the average score 100-146 points higher on the SAT.

With regard to community and site development, community dialogues were held on a monthly basis to discuss initiatives to support Petersburg's students (i.e. faith-based and community agency after-school opportunities).

Dr. Turnage shared that she is a researcher, and likes to conduct research. She noted the following research facts:

- Out of 7,000 school districts sampled, 3,000 schools (*representing 500,000 students*) had no Algebra II classes; however, Petersburg does offer Algebra II classes for students.
- Out of 7,300 school districts sampled (*representing more than 2 million students*) there was no access to Calculus classes; Petersburg has had Calculus classes and has scaled up to Calculus II and dual enrollment.
- Out of 7,000 school districts, only 22% indicated they provide a pre-k program; Petersburg has a pre-k and early education program at Westview Early Childhood Education Center.

It was indicated by Dr. Turnage that these are facts that people need to know. She stated the school board is to be commended for its foresight in the noted areas. In summary, she shared that there is a new trend with testing, and stated *there is no doubt with the students you have in Petersburg, the Petersburg City School District is prepared to succeed and even surpass the new trend line's challenging standards and assessments.*

Dr. Turnage added that whenever things are happening there is a mission. She stated that her report was crafted around the Petersburg City Public Schools' mission. Secondly, she indicated that *if professional development is not connected to the six standards for teachers with the seventh standard on student achievement, it needs to be critiqued.* Dr. Turnage suggested that the following standards be encompassed in professional development provided to teachers:

- Professional Knowledge (*i.e. teachers need to know what they are going to teach*)
- Instructional Planning
- Instructional Delivery
- Assessment of and for Students
- Professionalism of Teachers
- Learning Environment
- Student Achievement

Dr. Turnage expressed appreciation for the opportunity to assist with the program evaluation. She thanked the school board and division for what has been done and how the division relates to the national report in mathematics and pre-school programs.

As a disclaimer, Dr. Turnage noted that *the opinions, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position(s) of the Cameron Foundation, the Petersburg City School District and/or the Algebra Project, Incorporated.*

Dr. Turnage shared that *there are funds out there that you can control, but you have to write for them.* She noted the *Upward Bound Math and Science, and Teacher Quality programs* in the report. In addition, Dr. Turnage stated that the *Wallace Foundation* increased its funding to include urban districts, and there are after-school programs the school division may consider.

Following the presentation, the following questions and comments were received from school board members:

Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis expressed appreciation for the positive comments provided by Dr. Turnage related to the national report; however, he noted the news media left 15 minutes prior to those comments. Dr. Turnage indicated she has a copy of the article she can provide.

Dr. Lewis also referenced Dr. Turnage's comments related to the standard of *teacher professionalism*. He asked Dr. Turnage to speak about some of the characteristics that define *teacher professional* as related to the standard. Dr. Turnage responded that *the teacher must be a continuous sponge of knowledge; to continue to learn.* She added that teachers must *craft situations to move students forward.* Dr. Turnage shared her opinion that a teacher cannot be stationary or static, but must move on to improve his/her professional development; one cannot sit still *because things are happening;* teachers must read the current literature, be knowledgeable about what is happening, and be a team player in the school district to work together as a team. She concluded that teachers must have *a thirst for knowledge.*

Dr. Lewis added that he imagines the standard may also look at topical things (i.e. how one looks, dresses, and speaks, etc.). Dr. Turnage concurred.

**Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett** expressed his appreciation for the presentation and all that has been done. He asked Dr. Turnage if she will still be around with the regional initiative. Dr. Turnage responded that she will not.

**NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis** encouraged meetings to support the Petersburg Library Foundation as well as the Petersburg Symphony (*a Petersburg Symphony flyer was provided by Dr. Lewis*).

Dr. Lewis also said he hopes that discussion may be held related to getting the field house built for the Petersburg High School football team. He added that donations have been received, and *it is time to take care of that*.

Mr. Stanley O. Jones asked if Dr. Shannon Smith, Director of Elementary Instruction, might share information related to the Petersburg Library Foundation. Dr. Smith noted elementary principals visited the Petersburg Library Foundation and presented over \$1,000 in funds raised by Petersburg students. The foundation was very appreciative of the efforts put forth by the students.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At 8:06 p.m., on a motion by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the school board unanimously agreed to adjourn.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

**APPROVAL      Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of the Board