

**PETERSBURG SCHOOL BOARD
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TO
CONVENE A CLOSED SESSION (PERSONNEL) – 5:30 p.m.
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – 6:30 p.m.
School Administrative Office
October 5, 2011
Jeanette P. Berrios, Board Clerk**

CALL TO ORDER

At 5:35 p.m., Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, Chairman of the Petersburg School Board, called the 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:

Ward One:	Mr. Steven L. Pierce
Ward Two:	Mr. Fred B. Wilson
Ward Three:	Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, Chairman
Ward Four:	Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks (arrived at 6:08 p.m.)
Ward Five:	Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis
Ward Six:	Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr.
Ward Seven:	Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon

Dr. Alvera J. Parrish, Superintendent, and Ms. Linda Ampy, Acting Director of Human Resources were also present for the closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:36 p.m., following a motion by Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the School Board unanimously agreed to enter into a closed session related to personnel appointments and salary recommendations as permitted by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia.

OPEN SESSION

At 6:28 p.m., following a motion by Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the School Board unanimously agreed to return to an open session. 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 was taken, and all members responded affirmatively.

ACTIONS ON CLOSED SESSION MATTERS

CALL TO ORDER: REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

At 6:34 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:

Ward One:	Mr. Steven L. Pierce
Ward Two:	Mr. Fred B. Wilson
Ward Three:	Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, Chairman
Ward Four:	Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks
Ward Five:	Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis
Ward Six:	Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr.
Ward Seven:	Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon

The following staff members were present at the meeting:

Alvera J. Parrish, Ed.D.	Superintendent
Mr. John L. Mayo	Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Tracie Coleman	Director of Business and Finance
Dr. Shannon Smith	Director of Elementary Instruction
Mr. Willie J. Bell	Director of Secondary Instruction
Mr. William Rawles	Director/Technology
Dr. Danielle Belton	Supervisor/Federal Programs
Ann M. Ford, Ed.D.	Student Services Coordinator/Conduct Officer
Mrs. Ahnjayla Hunter	Coordinator/Special Education
Mrs. Gwendolyn Price	Coordinator/Testing
Ms. Johna Vazquez	Interim Public Information Officer
Mr. Russell Lawrence	Supervisor/Buildings & Grounds
Ms. Donna Johnson	Supervisor/Food Service
Mrs. Jeanette Berrios	Clerk of the Board

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ms. Michelle Kent, Petersburg High School physical education teacher, and family, were remembered in the passing of her mother, Mrs. Justine Maclin Astwood, on Saturday, September 24, 2011.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting attendees were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Ivory Blizzard and Jaylen Gholson.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Virginia School Boards Association Academy Awards – Dr. Alvera J. Parrish

Dr. Alvera J. Parrish, PCPS Superintendent of Schools, presented School Board members with the VSBA Academy awards for VSBA training received. The following School Board members received awards of distinction: Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, and Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr.

The following School Board members and the Clerk of the Board, received certificates of recognition: Mr. Fred B. Wilson, Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks, Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, and Mrs. Jeanette P. Berrios. Dr. Parrish was presented with an Award of Excellence.

Petersburg High School (PHS) Class of 1981 – Special Presentation to the School Board – Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett Presented Ms. Johna Vazquez

Ms. Johna Vazquez, representing the PHS Class of 1981, presented the Petersburg School Board with an original 1981 senior class picture consisting of over 500 students.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Veronica Davidson – 3611-C McGuire Drive, Richmond, VA

Ms. Davidson asked what the division's plan is as it relates to the hiring of teachers who are *willing and able to be hired*. Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett noted that human resource staff member, Ms. Linda Ampy, and Assistant Superintendent, Mr. John L. Mayo, would be glad to get in touch with Ms. Davidson.

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

Mrs. Brown expressed appreciation to the School Board and Dr. Alvera J. Parrish for listening to and communicating with parents. She noted that the online *parent portal* is working well.

It was also noted by Mrs. Brown that there are many community activities available for Petersburg youth; i.e. a bowling league, football, tennis, and golf activities. She encouraged parents to take advantage of the opportunities for children, adding many activities through Parks and Leisure Services are free to students.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, and a second by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, the School Board approved the October 5, 2011, meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., and a second by Mr. Fred B. Wilson, the School Board, without dissent, approved the consent agenda, to include the personnel agenda dated October 5, 2011, a personnel addendum to *include the following superintendent's recommendations*, and minutes of the July 6, 2011 (*Regular School Board Meeting*); August 3, 2011 (*Regular School Board Meeting*); September 26, 2011 (*Special School Board Meeting – Personnel/Superintendent's Evaluation*), and September 27, 2011 (*Special School Board Meeting – Personnel/Superintendent's Evaluation Follow Up*):

- **The appointment of the individual in personnel case # 11-055, as principal of Peabody Middle School at a salary of \$55,010**
- **The appointment of the individual in personnel case # 11-056, as the Head Basketball Coach for Petersburg High School with a supplement to the individual's contract of \$4,551**
- **The appointment of the individual in personnel case # 11-057, as the Interim Human Resources Director at a salary of \$350.00 per day, three to four days per week**

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Sabrina Beamon, PCPS Coordinator of Gifted Education, presented the following 2011-2012 Gifted Advisory Committee members as nominated:

School	Teacher Representatives
A.P. Hill Elementary School	Ms. Asseyah Abdul-Karim
Robert E. Lee Elementary School	Ms. Shauna Mayo
J.E.B. Stuart Elementary School	Ms. Leslie Steele
Walnut Hill Elementary School	Ms. Elizabeth Wilson
Peabody Middle School	Ms. Patrice Godbolt Ms. Emerlina Binuya
Vernon Johns Junior High School	Ms. Shanna Chambliss
Petersburg High School	Ms. Charrie Dacanay
Gifted Education	Ms. Patricia Payne
Parent and Community Representatives	
Ms. Tamara Thomas, Parent	
Ms. Gloria Brown, Parent	
Ms. Eulica Kimber, Parent	
Ms. Joy Spencer, Community	
Ms. Barbara Gravely, Community	
Administrative and School Board Representatives	
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School – Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett	
Appomattox Regional Governor's School – Mr. Fred B. Wilson	
Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis – School Board Office	
Dr. Shannon Smith, Director of Elementary Instruction	
Mr. Willie Bell, Director of Secondary Instruction	
Mrs. Sabrina Beamon, Coordinator of Gifted Education	

Following discussion, Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon asked if the entire committee is to meet. Ms. Beamon responded that the committee is scheduled to meet several times a year. Dr. Alvera J. Parrish indicated that during committee meetings, three school board members cannot meet at the same time. It was noted that one school board member would have to alternate at committee meetings. Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett stated that in the past, Dr. Lewis has been the only school board representative to the committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., and a second was offered by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, to accept the 2011-2012 Gifted Advisory Committee Members as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by the School Board.

Resolution Requesting the City Council to Issue General Obligation School Bonds – Mrs. Tracie L. Coleman

PCPS Business and Finance Director, Mrs. Tracie L. Coleman, indicated that the application process for the school division to request that the Petersburg City Council issue General Obligation School Bonds in the amount of \$1,530,882.35 has been ongoing since 2008. She noted that discussions have been held between PCPS and the City of Petersburg, and indicated that a resolution was received from Bond Counsel. Additionally, the city has scheduled a public hearing at the next city council meeting on October 18, 2011, as a public hearing is required for the issuance of the bonds.

Projects to be included in the bond issuance are window replacements at Peabody Middle School, unit ventilators at A.P. Hill and J.E.B. Stuart Elementary Schools, new ceilings and lighting in all classrooms at Walnut Hill Elementary School, replacement of gymnasium bleachers at Petersburg High School, and upgrade of kitchen exhaust hoods at Petersburg High School, J.E.B. Stuart Elementary School, Walnut Hill Elementary School, and Peabody Middle School.

In response to a question from Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon regarding the ability of the school division to change the funded projects, Mrs. Coleman indicated the noted list of projects must be submitted with the application.

On a motion by Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon, and a second by Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., the School Board approved the superintendent's recommendation of the passage of the resolution requesting the city council to issue General Obligation School Bonds to finance capital projects for school purposes and consenting to the issuance thereof in the amount of \$1,530,882.35.

MOU/LTP Update – Mr. John L. Mayo

Mr. John L. Mayo, Assistant Superintendent, presented information representative of the progress made towards achievement of the MOU objectives, since the last report to the School Board on September 21, 2011.

Student Achievement

- The *Fall 2011 Writing Standards of Learning Assessments* are to be administered October 17-19, 2011.
- The first nine weeks interim Benchmark Assessments are to be administered October 3-7, 2011.

- A.P. Hill Elementary School students, under the direction of art teacher, Lauren Wood, participated in the Bank of Southside Virginia's *Draw Your Favorite Book* contest. The student who receives the most votes on the bank's Facebook page (bsbnet.com) will receive a \$100 savings bond, and the school will receive \$500. Seven A.P. Hill School students are participating in the contest. It was noted that A.P. Hill students are also participating in the NBC 12 *Draw the Weather* contest. Winners will have their art showcased on the 4:00 p.m. news and receive tickets to the Science Museum.
- PCPS was awarded a \$158,000 continuation grant from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to continue the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21stCCLC) after-school program at Vernon Johns Junior High School (VJJH) and Petersburg High School (PHS).
- VJJH will participate in the *Choose Respect Program* this school year. Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health, ninth graders will participate through their health and physical education classes. The program focus will be on helping teens develop healthy and respectful relationships to prevent dating violence. The national effort was put in place to help parents, caregivers, and educators motivate teens.

Leadership Capacity

- The PCPS Federal Programs supervisor will attend the Federal Education Program Administrators Meeting for Region 1 and Region 2 on October 7, 2011, as well as a Title I Division Leadership Combined Meeting at The College of William and Mary on October 3, 2011.
- The PD360 Networking Group Session in Richmond, Virginia, was attended by the assistant superintendent and program support specialist on September 28, 2011. Best practice and new PD360 features were the points of focus.
- School counselors and select assistant principals received training on the district-wide Olweus Bullying Program.
- The gifted coordinator attended the *Virginia Consortium of Gifted Education Administrators* on September 21, 2011, in Charlottesville, VA.

Teacher Quality

- October 9-14, 2011, The Algebra Project trainers will visit schools to work with teachers, and conduct a workshop on October 15, 2011. New mathematics standards will be the focus.

- On September 27, 2011, EverFi Training was held for Career and Technical Education teachers. Twenty-four teachers new to teaching or new to Petersburg attended a staff development session on classroom management. It was also noted that *New Teacher Roundup* sessions will be held each month during the 2011-2012 school year.

External Turnaround Partner

- Alternate Governance meetings were held on September 23, 2011, for A.P. Hill Elementary, J.E.B. Stuart Elementary Schools, and September 26, 2011, for Peabody Middle, and Vernon Johns Junior High Schools. The focus of the meetings was to review indicators from the School Improvement Plan (SIP) for each school, professional development needs, personnel concerns, and discuss assessment data.
- A webinar on a new data tracking tool to be used to input school improvement data was held on September (elementary), and September 22, 2011 (secondary). The Assistant Superintendent, Directors of Elementary and Secondary Instruction, Internal Lead Turnaround Partner, Division Director of Testing, and principals from A.P. Hill Elementary, J.E.B. Stuart Elementary, Peabody Middle, and Vernon Johns Junior High Schools participated in the webinar.

In response to a question by Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, it was noted that the next EdisonLearning report is anticipated for presentation to the School Board at the October 19, 2011, School Board work session.

Mr. Mayo also noted that student safety is one of the indicators to be addressed. He added that a safety meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2011.

In response to Dr. Lewis's inquiry regarding the need for a crossing light at Lee Avenue and Jones Street, it was indicated that a person will be designated to speak with the city administrator.

Accreditation Report – Mrs. Gwendolyn Price

Mrs. Gwendolyn Price, PCPS Testing Coordinator, presented the division accreditation report for the 2011-2012 school year for the following schools:

PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AYP/ACCREDITATION REPORT 2011-2012	
PEABODY MIDDLE SCHOOL	
AYP STATUS	PRELIMINARY ACCREDITATION STATUS
Did not make AYP – Met 26 of 29 indicators (areas of concern: total students, black students, and economically disadvantaged for math)	Accreditation Denied: warned in math – met 2 of 3 benchmarks

PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AYP/ACCREDITATION REPORT 2011-2012	
A.P. HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	
AYP STATUS	PRELIMINARY ACCREDITATION STATUS
Did not make AYP – Met 23 of 29 indicators (areas of concern: total students, black students, and economically disadvantaged for reading and math)	Accredited with Warning: (English and Science) – met 4 of 6 benchmarks

PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AYP/ACCREDITATION REPORT 2011-2012	
VERNON JOHNS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	
AYP STATUS	PRELIMINARY ACCREDITATION STATUS
Did not make AYP – Met 27 of 29 indicators (areas of concern: black students for reading and students with disabilities for math)	Accredited with Warning: (English and History)

PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AYP/ACCREDITATION REPORT 2011-2012	
PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL	
AYP STATUS	PRELIMINARY ACCREDITATION STATUS
Did not make AYP – Met 28 of 29 indicators (areas of concern: economically disadvantaged for reading)	Accredited with Warning: (Graduation) met 4 of 5 benchmarks

PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AYP/ACCREDITATION REPORT 2011-2012	
WALNUT HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	
AYP STATUS	PRELIMINARY ACCREDITATION STATUS
Did not make AYP – Met 23 of 29 indicators (areas of concern: total students, black students, and economically disadvantaged for reading and math)	Fully Accredited: met 6 of 6 benchmarks

PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AYP/ACCREDITATION REPORT 2011-2012	
ROBERT E. LEE ELEMENTARY	
AYP STATUS	PRELIMINARY ACCREDITATION STATUS
Did not make AYP – Met 27 of 29 indicators (areas of concern: total students and black students for reading)	Fully Accredited: met 6 of 6 benchmarks

**PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AYP/ACCREDITATION REPORT
2011-2012**

J.E.B. STUART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

AYP STATUS	PRELIMINARY ACCREDITATION STATUS
Made AYP – Met 29 of 29 indicators	Fully Accredited: met 6 of 6 benchmarks

Mrs. Price highlighted the fact that *graduation* is a new benchmark. In response to a request by Dr. Parrish, Mrs. Price stated that the high school did not *go backwards in terms of achievement*. She added that the student achievement rate is in good standing. The new graduation indicator has been a challenge for 64% of the high schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia, which fell into the *accredited with warning* category.

Additionally, Mrs. Price noted that from 2008-2011, the Peabody Middle School English pass rate has increased 21 percentage points; and history has increased 26 percentage points.

From 2008-2011, A.P. Hill Elementary School fifth grade history has increased 21 percentage points (42 – 63). The math score from 2008-2011 at Vernon Johns Junior High School, has increase 29 percentage points (56-85).

At Petersburg High School, math has increased 18 percentage points (69-87), and Science 29 percentage points from 2008-2011.

Walnut Hill Elementary School increased 40 percentage points (42-82) in grade 5 history.

Robert E. Lee Elementary increase the math score by 14 percentage points (77-91), grade 5 history increased 11 percentage points (73-84), and grade 3 science increased 13 percentage points (74-87).

J.E.B. Stuart Elementary School increased grade 3 science by 15 percentage points (65-80), grade 5 history increased 27 percentage points (65-92), English and math have both increased 10 percentage points (66-76)/ (73-83).

Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks offered congratulations for the accomplishments. She noted her concern that *African American student and the economically disadvantaged are designated as a subgroup*.

Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis also congratulated the schools for their accomplishments. He noted he trusts the division will have 7 of 7 schools fully accredited. He added that he hopes *we will repeat and replicate* strategies that help us meet with success.

Dr. Lewis recommended that for future graphs depicting accreditation results, perhaps a horizontal line can be included to indicate the target benchmark against which results may be compared.

Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., indicated that in the division *we need to be our own cheerleaders*, adding *we have come a long way*. He noted he will feel better when we can celebrate for all of our schools.

Mr. Kevin Brown – 1557 South Sycamore Street, Petersburg, VA

Mr. Brown encouraged meeting attendees to *think back to middle school*, noting there are a lot of changes that take place in middle school. He reminded everyone *that it takes a village to help deal with middle school*; stating, *it's not going to be Cambridge, it is going to be everybody in the whole community, every leader in the community, who will help Peabody be what it can be*.

Mr. Brown offered congratulations to our students for the work that has been done. He added that *we need to find a way to lift up and partner with parents*.

Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis asked if all sixth grade students change classes. Dr. Parrish answered affirmatively, noting this is adhered to on a state-wide basis.

Update on Blandford Academy – Mr. Willie J. Bell

Mr. Willie J. Bell, Director of Secondary Instruction, and Mr. Lawrence Bolar, Principal of Blandford Academy presented a Blandford Academy program overview. Ms. Kelley Olds, Guidance Counselor at Blandford Academy, was also introduced.

It was indicated that the following wraparound services are available at Blandford Academy:

✓ VSU partnership

- *Tutors*
- *Campus Visits*
- *Mentoring*
- *Service Projects*

✓ **District 19**

- *Mentoring*
- *Individual Counseling*
- *Group Counseling*

✓ **Health Department**

- *Prenatal Care and Support for Pregnant Teens*
- *Support and Resources for Teen Moms*

✓ **City Police Department**

- *Police Explorers Program*
- *Summer Program*

✓ **Fort Lee – (Upcoming)**

- *Careers*
- *Lunch Buddy Program*
- *Team-Building Skills*
- *Leadership Training*

✓ **Social Services**

- *Parent Education*
- *Childcare Services*
- *Job Placement*
- *Financial Management Workshops*
- *Anger Management Workshops*

✓ **Virginia Linen**

- *Tours*
- *Internships*
- *Job Placement*

- ✓ **Petersburg Police Athletic League (PPAL)**
 - *Mentoring*
 - *Intramural*
 - *Lunch Buddy Program*
 - *Community Service Projects*
 - *Parent Involvement Activities*

- ✓ **Operation Shoulder to Shoulder**
 - *Donation of Uniforms by Good Shepherd Baptist Church*
 - *Mentoring*

- ✓ **Health Space Teen Center**
 - *Pregnancy Prevention Program*
 - *Health Awareness*

- ✓ **Career and Technical Education**
 - *Computer Applications*
 - *Carpentry*
 - *OSHA Certification*
 - *Microsoft Industry Certification*
 - *Careersafe Safety Awareness Training*

- ✓ **4H**
 - *Mentoring*
 - *Hands-on Activities*

- ✓ **Adult GED SPACE**
 - *Day Program – Gillfield Baptist Church*
 - *Night Program – PHS, Pittman Building, Bethany Baptist*

- ✓ **John Tyler Community College**
 - *Job Shadowing Opportunities*
 - *Resumé Development*
 - *Mock Interviews*
 - *Career Readiness Certification (CRC)*

✓ **Local Sheriff's Department**

- *Mentoring*
- *Citizenship*
- *Core Values*
- *Lunch Buddy Program*

Mr. Bolar noted that Blandford Academy students have established positive relationships between the sheriff's office staff utilizing the *Lunch Buddy Program*.

An overview of the Blandford curriculum was presented as follows:

➤ **ISAEP/Horizon Program**

- GED preparation while fostering workplace readiness and career preparedness
- CTE training to ensure student exits with skills to find entry level employment

➤ **Choices**

- Behavior intervention program to develop skills necessary to make appropriate choices and understand impact of anti-social behavior
- Operates through E2020, a virtual program aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL)
- Continuation of special education services
- Tutors from respective schools provide services

➤ **Special Education**

- Students in grades 6-12 are instructed within the Virginia Standards of Learning framework
- Continued alignment with the individualized education Plan (IEP), and ensure IEP objectives are met

It was noted that staff are proactive, and career support opportunities to include student job shadowing *ride along* opportunities with the Police Department.

Virginia Linen Vice-President, Ms. Nancy Allen, agreed to provide training and employment opportunities with Virginia Linen, which is located in close proximity to the Blandford Academy campus.

Additionally, a partnership with Fort Lee is a work in progress with hopes for a benefit for Blandford students. Also, it was noted that mock SOL testing has been ongoing daily. The focus will change to intensive remediation and mediation. Mr. Willie J. Bell, Jr., indicated tutoring for Choices students is being expanded, adding that it is imperative that data-tracking tools are created as students return to their home schools. With a focus on the prevention of losing students along the way, Mr. Bell said efforts are underway to ensure students do not drop out. The Blandford Academy watch words are: *Building Bridges, Not Walls – Discover Your Destiny as You Soar to Your Purpose at Blandford Academy.*

Blandford student enrollment figures were presented as follow:

PROGRAM	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ISAEP	6
HORIZONS	32
CHOICES	11
SPECIAL EDUCATION	2
TOTAL	51

The following Petersburg GED testing schedule for 2011 was shared. It was noted that Hopewell Woodlawn Learning Center, Prince George High School, the Hopewell Library, and Southside Virginia Education Center are additional testing sites.

PETERSBURG GED TESTING SCHEDULE – 2011		
TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LOCATION OF TESTING
August 20, 2011 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)	August 5, 2011	Petersburg High School Library
September 17, 2011 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)	September 2, 2011	Petersburg High School Library
October 15, 2011 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)	September 30, 2011	Petersburg High School Library
November 19, 2011 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)	November 4, 2011	Petersburg High School Library
December 10, 2011 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)	November 28, 2011	Petersburg High School Library

Discussion was held related data tracking, E2020 virtual program (Choices program), and the transition of student back to home schools from Blandford Academy. Presenters address the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) and the requirements for full accreditation (85-100), and provisional accreditation (80-84).

Mr. Kenneth L. Pritchett, School Board Chairman, expressed appreciation for the Blandford Academy overview, and opened the floor for questions.

Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis thanked presenters for *an excellent visual presentation that captures what Blandford Academy is about*. He noted *the division is at a crossroads as we face the GCI*. Dr. Alvera J. Parrish indicated that a higher GCI expectation is not anticipated at this time.

Dr. Lewis expressed his desire to see more Petersburg graduates employed in local businesses with which he does business. He asked Blandford Academy representatives to let the School Board know what is needed.

Mr. Steven L. Pierce, Sr., indicated *we are trying to move ahead with a program at Blandford Academy that is full service and gets the community involved*. He added that Blandford is envisioned as a place where our children can go, be excited, and achieve success. Mr. Pierce applauded the job placement opportunities afforded the Blandford students by the division's partnership with Virginia Linen, noting, *Chance favors a prepared mind*. He also noted the positive connection with the anticipated involvement of the Virginia State University psychology department.

Mr. Fred B. Wilson noted that he and Mr. Lundy served together on the Blandford Academy committee. He added that *the staff members were previously trying to do what we are embarking upon*. Mr. Wilson noted that as he sees it, one problem the division had was having a set process to move young people, who are falling behind at the middle or high schools, to Blandford Academy. He indicated *we do not want children to fall between the cracks before we have an opportunity to turn them around*.

Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., expressed that the Blandford Academy campus *is a non-traditional setting, and there are important things that must be put in place*. Mr. Lundy asked if the division has a parent form to complete. Mr. Bell answered affirmatively, and he added that an orientation is also held.

Mr. Lundy asked if there is a place on the form where parents may list the interests of their children (especially CTE). Blandford Academy principal, Mr. Lawrence Bolar answered affirmatively.

Mr. Bolar noted a group of students from the high school have recently been placed in the Choices program at Blandford. He indicated some of the reading levels are very low, which has caused a lack of connection.

Mr. Bolar added that he is communicating with Ms. Fields, Dr. Watson, and Dr. Farquharson, to identify students who will benefit from services provided at Blandford. Discussions are also being held with the parents of identified students for parental input.

It was noted that curriculum specialists are in place and connections have been set up through technology (IStudent program), and pre-tests are administered to assist teachers in identifying students who are not reading on grade level. The technology based process allows access to scores for those who have clearance to view. Also, the *Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.)* program is being utilized to address low reading skills.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Lundy, Mr. Bolar indicated that Blandford students are held accountable to the same standards as other students in the division. Mr. Bolar noted that OSHA training is being provided for students at the end of the ISAEP program for the students to have a better opportunity to achieve. Mr. Lundy asked how often roundups are held to keep in touch with the students. Mr. Bolar responded that this is done on a regular basis, and added that data tracking has taken place since day one of the start of school.

Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., asked *how we are going to keep this curriculum wrapped around Blandford students who are transitioning back to their home schools.* Mr. Bolar responded that through E2020 and other strategies, assurances are being made that students will be *ahead of the game* in terms of achievement.

Dr. Parrish added that the E2020 technology program acts as *a great connector that enables students to cover more of the curriculum than students in the regular classroom setting.*

Dr. Elsie R. Jarmon asked for provision in the future of hard data to help the Board evaluate the success of the program at Blandford.

Mr. Fred B. Wilson asked how Blandford Academy students are tested prior to return to their home schools. Mr. Bolar responded that students are administered benchmark tests as administered to other students division-wide. Mr. Wilson asked what the procedure is if those students do not pass the test. Mr. Bolar indicated that in order for students to return to their home schools, they must be showing academic progress, and meet attendance, and behavioral requirements.

Dr. Parrish noted that the kind of data to be brought back to the School Board might include the number of students from the ISAEP program who obtain their GED's, and the number of students in the Choices program who return to their home schools.

It was noted that varying number of students arrive at Blandford from the high school weekly, and some students are referred by the School Board Disciplinary Committee.

Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., noted that the Blandford program is very important. He encouraged working with neighboring localities to help build one of the best programs in the area.

Kevin Olds – 4906 Tully Drive, Chester, Virginia

Mr. Kevin Olds, spouse of Blandford Academy school counselor, Mrs. Kelley Olds, said he is excited about the work being done at Blandford. He noted that this vital program will be successful as it garners school board and community support.

Ms. Patty Horner – 8329 Studley Road, Mechanicsville, VA

Ms. Patty Horner, District-19 employee, noted that she grew up in Petersburg, and is grateful to drive to work every day to give back to the community of Petersburg. She noted that she feels privileged to work as a community partner with Blandford Academy. Ms. Horner added that wraparound services provided by District-19 continue when students are released back to their home schools of Petersburg High School, Peabody Middle School, and Vernon Johns Junior High School.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Kenneth W. Lewis, asked that if it is the will of the School Board, he would like to receive a report that notes the percentage of students reading *on, above, and below* grade level for testing grades (third, fourth, and fifth). Dr. Lewis stated that *we always hear about the literacy rate in Petersburg, and if as a scenario, we know that 60% of students are reading on grade level, we know the students on whom to focus*. He added that *if students can read, they do a better job of taking tests*. Dr. Lewis expressed his desire for Petersburg to *get beyond testing, and make the whole thing passé*. He reminded meeting attendees that passing the SOL tests represents a minimum standard, not excellence. Dr. Lewis expressed that if the division can arrive at this place, *then we can truly educate the children, and thus create 21st Century learners*. The School Board members reached a consensus that a report related to reading levels be prepared for the Board.

Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks indicated that she was aware that it is not budget time yet; however, she noted that pre-planning is coming. She stated that the division cannot start pre-budgetary planning too early. Ms. Hendricks expressed that she *has a vision and dream, and she would like to see a compelling draft budget for the 2012-2013 school year; something that will enable the school division to absorb any costs or increase in insurance to our school division employees*.

Also, she stated that she would also *like to be able to give a long-awaited and much deserved pay increase of some sort to school employees.*

Further, she indicated her vision includes a *justified defense that will forestall any negotiating or debate with those who fund the school division.* She added that she would like to see something *locked in solid, so that the division can get the compensation for our educators and support.* Ms. Hendricks noted that she asked for this information last year Ms. Hendricks said that *it is not anyone's fault that we did not get the compensation.* She stated that she would be very happy this year if this can be made a priority. Mr. Pritchett asked if the School Board was in agreement to receive such information, and the School Board members responded affirmatively.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Mr. Bernard J. Lundy, Jr., and a second by Ms. Mary Jane Hendricks, the Board, with no opposing vote, agreed to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

APPROVAL

Approved:

Clerk of the Board

Chairman of the Board