

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



NES



NMS

NHS

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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August 9, 2021 - Heathsville, VA The Northumberland County Public Schools' School Board met in-person for a monthly meeting. The meeting was open to the public through Zoom audio conference calling as a result of COVID-19 guidelines and in-person.

Important Update

Northumberland County Public Schools will be offering **five days per week of in-person instruction beginning with the fall semester on August 16, 2021. In-person open house will be held Thursday, August 12, from 1-7 pm, at all schools (NES, NMS, and NHS).**

Beginning **Tuesday, August 10, Northumberland County Public Schools will require all staff, students, and visitors in all NCPS school buildings and offices to institute universal masking.** Universal masking is based on the recommendation of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and in compliance with SB1303.

Masks are required on the school bus and school transportation under a federal mandate.

Closed Meeting Action Items

The School Board approved the following personnel:

Mr. Alejandro Eguiguren-Marul as NHS Spanish Teacher starting January 1, 2022. Mr. Eguiguren-Marul earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas. In addition to teaching Spanish, he has written a book on how to teach Spanish to others. Welcome Alex!

Mrs. Donna Kimball as NES Paraprofessional. Mrs. Kimball is returning to NCPS after taking a break to pursue her Accounting Certification from Rappahannock Community College. Mrs. Kimball has worked as a substitute and in school nutrition. Welcome Back Donna!

The School Board also approved the following substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year: **Dorolena Bowis, Regina Thompson, Lewis Howard, Jasmine Greer, Anna Brennan, Debra Bull, Derek Tomek, Thomas "Luther" Wilson, Joan Walters, Lindsay Rose, Tammy Waddy Jones, Natalie Chapman, Caty Neely, James Keefer, Wendy Morecock, Sandra Ward, Claire Given, Alexis Rock, Stacey Hammond, Miranda Clark and Cheryl Swann.**

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The School Board approved the following supplemental contracts:

NMS Athletics: **Terrell Diggs**, NMS Girls Basketball Coach; **Katie Walker**, NMS Girls Volleyball Coach; **Lon Patrick**, NMS Co-Ed Soccer; **Eddie Barnes**, NMS Golf; and **Victoria West**, NMS Cheer.
NHS Athletics: **Aaron Lewis**, Varsity Football Head Coach; **Ronald Whitt**, Football Assistant; **Darryl Smith**, Football Assistant; **Andrew Wylie**, Football Assistant; **Donald Bazemore**, Football Assistant; **Robert Etzold**, Football Assistant; **Kevin Keeve**, Football Assistant; **Lewis Howard**, Football Assistant; **Trinity Bea**, Cross Country Head Coach; **Michael Baker**, Cross Country Assistant; **Anjelica Scott**, Volleyball Head Coach; **Diane Kelly**, Volleyball Assistant; **Mark Fridenstine**, Field Hockey Head Coach; **Michele Jennings**, Field Hockey Assistant; **Shanita Curry**, Cheer Head Coach; **Imaya Brown**, Cheer Assistant; and **Gary Dickens**, Golf Head Coach.

Talented and Gifted: **Gary Dickens**, NCPS Coordinator of STEM Programming; **Michelle Jackson**, ARROW & Young Scholars Grade K-3; **Becky Crowther**, ARROW Grade 4-5; **Sarah Keller**, Music Gifted Grade 4-5; **Kim Farmer**, Gifted Music Accompanist; **Susan Lewis**, NES Art Gifted; **Michele Jennings**, NMS Future Problem Solvers & NHS Future Problem Solvers; **Leah Fisher**, NMS Scenario Writers and NHS Scenario Writers; **Gary Dickens**, NHS Robotics Team Sponsor; **Shauna McCranie**, NMS Sea Perch; and **Katrina Perez**, NMS Art Gifted and NHS Art Gifted.

NES Academics: **Susan Bates**, NES Yearbook; **Sue Swift**, NES One School One Book; **MaryAnn Saville**, NES Reading Partners; **Brieann Salatino**, NES Summer Reading Program; and **Cindy Combs**, **Whitney Perez**, **Sandi Chism**, **Tia Felton**, **Amy Saville**, **Susan Bray**, **Michelle Jackson**, **Tammy Fulford**, **Pauline Brann**, **Jessica Rogers**, NES LTERS Training.

NMS Academics: **Rob Etzold**, Co-SCA Sponsor; **Sarah Coyle**, Co-SCA Sponsor; **Krista Sisk**, Junior BETA; **Cindy Swift**, Junior BETA; **Stacey Lee**, Summer Reading; **Stacey Lee**, One School-One Book; **Katie Walker**, Yearbook Sponsor; **Jennifer Thomas**, ½ Block French; and **Tracey White**, 1 Block Fall Keyboarding.

NHS Academics: **Madeline Lee**, Performance Band; **Latasha Lee**, Performance Choir; **Michelle Roberti**, Junior Co-Class Sponsor; **Rachel Edwards**, Junior Co-Class Sponsor; **Shelby Brooks**, Senior Class Sponsor; **Michelle Roberti**, Forensics Sponsor; **Rachel Edwards**, HOSA Sponsor; **Angelica Scott**, SCA Sponsor; **Karen Baker**, Senior BETA Sponsor; **Karen Baker**, Yearbook Sponsor; **Sterling Harris**, Chess Club Sponsor; **Molly Frazier**, Flag Corps Sponsor; **Gary Dickens**, Academic Competition Sponsor; **Lance Reynolds**, Driver's Ed Summer In Car; **Teresa Rock**, Driver's Ed Summer In Car; **Keyva Parker**, Driver's Ed Summer In Car; **Nancy Burgess**, Driver's Ed Summer In Car; and **Keyva Parker**, Driver's Ed Distance Learning.

Special Education: **Tammy Wilkins**, PAES Greenhouse; **Angela Ellis**, Eligibility Coordinator; **Jessica Rogers**, K-8 Child Study Chairperson; **Angelica Scott**, Student Support Team Chair; **Kim Farmer**, CPI Restraint/Seclusion Trainer; **Valorie Mundie**, Extra Duties Teacher of Students with Intensive Needs; **Stephanie Ricks**, Extra Duties Paraprofessional for Students with Intensive Needs; and **Alicia Crockett**, Paraprofessional for Students with Intensive Needs.

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Division Supplementals: **Susan O'Bier**, Extra Duties Health Services Coordinator; **Michelle Gordon**, Substitute Teacher Facilitator; **Itallee Vessels**, NMS VTSS Coordinator; **Chelsey Fox**, NHS VTSS Coordinator; **Tammy Fulford**, NES Mentoring Program; **Cindy VanGuilder**, NMS Mentoring Program; **Leah Fisher**, NHS and Division Mentoring Coordinator; **Bonnie Swann**, NES Substitute Manager; **Tracey Harding**, NMS Substitute Manager; **Yvonne Woolard**, NHS Substitute Manager; and **Jay Lightfoot**, CTE Coordinator.

Other Actions:

The Board approved the NHS Counseling Proposal submitted by Dr. Burns to contract services with **Sarah Henry** as remote school counselor until full-time school counselor is hired.

The Board voted unanimously to extend **Superintendent Holly Wargo**'s contract for four (4) years from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025. No other changes were made.

Public Meeting

The School Board approved Consent Agenda items including the check register, minutes from July 6, 2021, and July 15, 2021.

Presentations / Recognitions

Mrs. Cindy Swift, Co-Sponsor of NMS Junior BETA provided the Board with an update on the National Competition in Orlando, Florida, on June 28, 2021, to July 1, 2021. **Chloe Brann**, rising 9th grader, thanked the Board for their support. Chloe placed 4th in Visual Arts.

Mrs. Karen Baker, NHS BETA Sponsor, provided the Board with an update of the National Competition in Orlando, Florida, on June 24, 2021, to June 29, 2021. Students participated in seven academic categories and in the Robotics category for the first time. **Kasey Dawson** placed 8th in Color Photography and **James Baker** 9th in Math Competition. Mrs. Baker informed the Board that NHS has qualified to participate in the Leadership Summit in October, 2021, in Williamsburg, VA.

Coordinator of Talented & Gifted Programs **Mrs. Shauna McCranie** and Division English Language Learner Teacher **Mrs. Amy Jones** presented to the Board a summary of the 2021 Young Scholars' Summer Sessions June 1, 2021, to June 23, 2021. Young Scholars is for students in grades K-2 who have been recommended by their teacher(s) and have high achievement data and creative capacity. The initial goal is to identify giftedness in children with diverse cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds as early as possible and to nurture, guide and support exceptional potential so that students are prepared for increasingly higher levels of challenge. At NES each day was centered around a theme and careers associated with a theme. Themes included: Dinosaurs- Paleontologist/ Archaeologists Robotics-Programmer/ Game Designer Air/ Land/Sea- Oceanographer Building and Construction-

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Architect/Contractor/Engineer Bodies of Water and Storms-Meteorologist Animals-Veterinarian Art and Language-Artist/Translator.

Finance Report

Director of Finance **Donna Booth** provided the Board with an update on CARES/ESSER Reimbursements and Funding. Her report can be found [HERE](#).

Director of Finance **Jason Bellows** updated the Board on the current survey results for ESSER III grant funding categories. The Division is seeking input from students, staff, and community members. [CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY.](#)

Open Public Comments

Tara Brent, parent of two NMS students, commented to the Board that Kids are okay with wearing masks. She commented that as a parent she is transferring duty of care to the schools. “Error on the side of caution and require all to wear masks.”

Brooke Russell, parent of a NES student, addressed the Board. Mrs. Russell was totally against the mask mandate. She commented that her child does not need to wear a mask and if mandated she would withdraw her child from school.

Lee Metsala thanked Dr. Wargo for answering her email. Dr. Wargo listened to her and took action. Although, Ms. Metsala, indicated parents may not like what they hear, communication needs to be between schools and parents. “Parents need to know what is going on.”

Natasha Nutt commented that Northumberland County has always put the kids first. She feels that the Board is moving too fast and should offer options of virtual learning.

Vivian Nutt thanked the Board and Northumberland County. She told the Board that children need teachers, friends, family and support. “They need to be safe.” She reported that 12 new cases of COVID were reported today and that children need to be taught to wear masks.

Cataya Veney, parent of an elementary school student, wishes the Board to consider virtual learning options. Keeping kids safe in school, as well as at home is important. It should be up to parents to wear masks. She indicated that she would rather teach her children at home than send them to school to catch COVID.

Quintasia Henderson, parent of NES student, is in favor of having an option to send children to school. The Board should offer options because of the new variant - for at least the first few months of school. Children cannot sit in a classroom for 8 hours and wear masks. Virtual school should be a consideration.

Superintendent’s Report

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Back to School Updates

Teachers and staff attended Convocation on Monday, August 9, from 8:45- 11:45. Thank you to Mrs. Christopher, Mrs. Sterret, Ms. Mazyck, Mrs. O'Bier, and Mr. Perez for attending Convocation. Teachers and staff were welcomed back by School Board Chair Mrs. Betty Christopher, Superintendent Dr. Holly Wargo, and Northumberland County Education Association President Mrs. Shauna McCranie. Guest presenters included Ronnie Sidney, Scott Habeeb, and Wade Anderson.

Open House will take place at NES, NMS, and NHS on Thursday, August 12, from 1-7 pm. The first day of school is Monday, August 16, 2021.

Director of Instruction & Student Support Services **Mr. Adam Letizia** and Director of Educational Technology **Mrs. Javornda Ashton** presented a Back to School Employee Induction Overview.

Principal Reports.

Dr. Travis Burns, Principal of Northumberland High School, shared the following information:

Important Academic Events and Dates for the 2021-22 School Year

- August 2, 2021 - Schedules mailed out to students.
- August 12, 2021 - NHS Open House. Meet the teachers and staff of NHS.
 - 5:00 p.m. - The administration/counseling staff will meet with parents of rising 10th graders to review programs and services provided by NHS.
 - 6:00 p.m. - The administration/counseling staff will meet with parents of rising 9th graders to review programs and services provided by NHS .
- October 21, 2021 - Annual College Fair.
- October 25-29, 2021 - Homecoming Week
- May 14, 2022 - Prom/After Prom
- May 21, 2022 - Graduation Important Athletic Events and Dates for the 2021-22 School Year Official

Practice Dates for Fall Sports

- Football and Golf - July 27, 2021 at 5:30 PM
- Volleyball, Field Hockey, Cross Country - August 2, 2021 at 5:30 PM
- October 29, 2021 - Homecoming Football Game Important Athletic Information

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- Sports schedules are online and available at <https://www.northernneckdistrictva.org/>
- NHS will continue to stream games live the NFHS network at <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/>
 - The monthly subscription cost is \$9.95. This includes access to all high school sports including non-Northumberland High School sports.
 - NHS will resume tickets sales for all athletic events during the 2021-22 school year \$3.00 for students / \$5.00 for guests

Mr. Patrick Simmons, Principal of Northumberland Middle School shared the following information:

Important Academic Event Open House:

- Northumberland Middle School will host an **open house on August 12, 2021, from 1-7pm**. Students and families will have an opportunity to meet NMS staff, receive their schedules, chrome books, and a backpack of school supplies.
 - 5:00pm - The administration/counseling staff will meet with parents of rising 6th graders to review programs and services offered by NMS.
 - 3-7pm - Three Rivers Health District Staff will be on site to provide rising 7th graders with required immunizations. These immunizations, if needed, include: TDAP, MCV4 and HPV.
 - Yearbooks: The 2020-2021 year books were delivered at the end of August and have been distributed to families.

Important Fall Dates:

- **Social Media Safety**: Northumberland Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Mrs. Erin Hapgood will present social media safety and responsibilities to middle school students on August 19, 2021.
- **School Pictures**: Lifetouch will be at NMS on September 17, 2021 for fall pictures. Fall Sports Pictures will occur on October 26, 2021. Make-up and Retakes will occur on October 29, 2021.

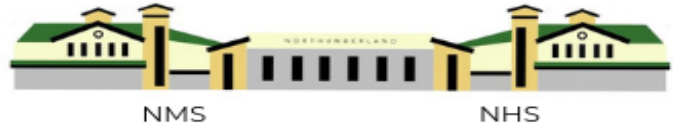
Important Athletic Events

- Northumberland Middle School is excited that we will be offering sports for the 2021- 2022 School year. Fall sports: The fall sports season includes: Soccer, Girls Basketball, Cheer, and Volleyball.
- Students who participate in middle school sports will need a VHSL sports physical for the current school year.
- Middle School Try-outs: Will Begin on August 30, 2021, after school.

Ms. Martha Williams, Principal of Northumberland Elementary School, presented the following information:

- Open house for Northumberland Elementary school will be held in the cafeteria on August 12, 2021, from 1- 7 PM. Parents will be able to speak with representatives from the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club. They also will have an opportunity to meet with our transportation

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director making any needed adjustments to their child's bus route. use the computer lab to complete or adjust any necessary forms, and then visit their child's classroom and meet their teacher.

- Technology: Laptops and carrying cases will be delivered to each pod and our staff will distribute these to children on the first day of school.
- Important Dates:
 - Aug. 23 - Sept. 17 Growth Assessment and MAP Testing
 - September 28th Lifetouch individual pictures
 - November 1, 2021 Lifetouch make up and retakes

Northumberland Middle School Principal **Mr. Patrick Simmons** provided information on the updated NCPS Crisis Plan for 2021-2022.

The School Board received correspondence regarding department updates from the following directors:

Mrs. Stacy Branem, Director of Transportation

Mrs. Sophronia Smith, Director of Federal Programs & School Improvement

Mrs. Javornda Ashton, Director of Educational Technology

Mrs. Virginia Booth, Director of Data, Assessment, & Accountability

Mr. Jeff Brann, Director of Facilities & Maintenance

Mr. Jeff Brann also reported in-person regarding progress on the NES metal roof replacement, noting the TPO flat surface is on back order. He also is working on a broken water main on the NHS football field.

Other Actions:

- The School Board adopted the revised Crisis Plan 2021-2022;
- The School Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Virginia Department of Health;
- The School Board approved Memorandum of Agreement with Rappahannock Community College to provide Career Coaching services to students enrolled in Northumberland High School (NHS);
- The School Board approved May 2021 Virginia School Board Association Policy Updates and Recommendations;
- The School Board approved NCPS Technology Use Guidelines.