

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Shelley Vanlandingham, Clerk of the School Board

(804)529-6134

svanlandingham@nucps.net

February 22, 2022- Heathsville, VA The Northumberland County Public Schools' School Board met in-person and virtually for a special called meeting and for the 2022-2023 Budget work session #2. The meeting was open to the public through Zoom audio conference calling and in person.

2022-2023 Budget Work Session #2

Superintendent Dr. Holly Wargo began the meeting with the highlights on the 2022-2023 Budget Draft. Those highlights included a 5% increase and a step (1.25%) for scaled employees; changing the Finance and Administrative Assistants from 11 month to 12 month contracts; Bus Driver salary step adjustments; an increase in stipends; material and supply line increases; and tuition and conference travel line increases.

The Board was provided with planning materials that included:

- 22-23 Draft Budget Proposal
- [22-23 Health Insurance Rates](#) (10.5% increase)

No Board action was taken on the 2022-2023 School Budget.

Closed Meeting Action Items

- The Board approved the following supplements: **Wade Self**, NMS Softball; **Justin Bowis**, NMS Softball; **Caleb Smith**, NHS Boys Soccer; **Mark Fridenstine**, NHS Girls Soccer; **George Grandstaff**, Softball; **Trinity Bea**, Track; **Lon Patrick**, Boys JV Soccer; **Donald Bazemore**, Boys Soccer Varsity Asst; **Rebekah Jones**, Girls Soccer Asst; **Alex Crittenden**, Baseball Asst Coach; **Quame Green**, Baseball Asst Coach; **Zach Kues**, Baseball Asst Coach; **Jeffery Williams**, NMS Baseball.
- The Board approved the following substitutes pending background checks: **Rebecca Mundie** and **Rajaa Shabazz**.
- The Board approved the following employees to work STEM Saturdays for March and May, not to exceed 10 hours: **Shauna McCranie**; **Mary Ambrose**; **Heather Cockrell**; **Trinity Bea**; **Italtee Vessels**.
- The Board approved the authorization for the Director of Finance to proceed with the negotiations for Paycom (E-Process vendor for HR and payroll) and Paymerrang (E-Process vendor for accounts payable).

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NMS

NHS

- The Board approved the Locally Awarded Verified Credits as presented.
- The Board approved the process involved in upgrading the internet system and cyber security for the school division to include Wired & Wireless System Upgrade & SyCom.

Other Action Items

- Approval of the request to pay for the senior trip charter bus service in the amount of \$1,747.50.
- Approval for the JROTC to move forward with the Archery Pilot Program that aligns with the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).
- Approval for February's check register.
- Approval for donations from Mr. Schindler, Omega Protein and Bevans Oyster Company. The School Board publicly thanked donors for their generosity.
- Approval of a special appropriation for the Homeless Children Grant in the amount of \$7,861.45.

Presentations/ Recognitions

- School Board Student Representative Mykel Cox presented [Arts Alive: Project Paradigm Shift](#).
- Chief Vega and Sarget Lemon presented a slide show on the JROTC [Archery Pilot Program](#) which aligns with the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).
- NHS Principal Dr. Burns, NMS Principal Mr. Simmons and NES Principal Mrs. Williams shared how each school is celebrating [Black History Month](#).
 - NHS - Dr. Burns highlighted NHS English teacher Ms. Leah Fisher for creating an escape room for her students with the Harlem Renaissance theme. Dr. Burns also highlighted NHS Special Education teacher Ms. Shae Rhodes for dressing up as Maya Angelou and performing the poem *Still I Rise*.
 - NMS - Mr. Simmons stated NMS Administrative Assistant Mrs. Tracy Harding is leading the spotlight on Black History Month for the morning announcement and sharing with the community on Facebook. NMS Assistant Principal Mrs. Taylor is spotlighting local Black History by creating videos to share with the students with information about local businesses, churches, local black history and the historic local black schools in Northumberland. Mr. Simmons said NMS Art teacher Mrs. Cockrell is incorporating black artists in her classroom.
 - NES- Mrs. Williams shared how NES is celebrating Black History Month across the grade levels. On February 23, NES will have a production on Harriet Tubman at 1:15 located in the gym.

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- Mrs. Ashton, Mr. Bayse and Mr. Conaway presented the technology [updates](#) which included information on Cyber Security, network and wireless upgrades, as well as information regarding the upgrade to Cisco Meraki System.
- Mrs. Shelby Brooks and Senior Class President Grant Biddlecomb presented an overview of a proposed Senior Class Trip to Virginia Beach for the Class of 2022.
- The school division celebrated School Board Member Appreciation Month and thanked Board Chair Mrs. Betty Christopher, Vice Chair Mrs. Gayle Sterrett, and Board members Dr. Cheryl Davis, Ms. Denise Mazyck, and Mrs. Dana O'Bier for their dedicated service, time, and commitment to the students, families, community, and NCPS staff.
- Board Chair Mrs. Betty Christopher publicly thanked School Board Clerk Mrs. Shelley Vanlandingham and Deputy Clerk Mr. Adam Letizia for their contributions.

Financial Reports

Director of Finance Jason Bellows presented the monthly finance and revenues reports:

- Check Register in the amount of \$207,446.27;
- Revenue Summary for January 2022;
- Expenditure Summary for January 2022;
- [February Director of Finance Report](#);
- [Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief \(ESSER\) III State Set-Aside Funds for Addressing Unfinished Learning, Before and After School Programs, & Summer Programs](#) (\$576,274.94 Unfinished Learning; \$100,000 Before and After School Programs; \$139,370.93 Summer Programs)
- [Sups Memo #022-22 regarding ESSER III Funds for Addressing Unfinished Learning, Before and After School Programs, & Summer Programs](#);
- Visa Explanation in the amount of \$10,400;
- Budget Calendar information: The School Board will identify dates to meet with the Supervisors; a Budget Public Hearing will be scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022.

Public Comments

Comments from [Edgar Doleman](#)

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Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Holly Wargo presented NCPS updates including, but not limited to,

[Testing & Accountability](#) submitted by Mrs. Virginia Booth

[Federal Programs & School Improvement](#) submitted by Mrs. Sophronia Smith

[School Nutrition](#) submitted by Mrs. Saunee Hamlett

[Special Education Annual Plan - First Read](#) submitted by Dr. Jamie Sears

[Special Education Updates](#) submitted by Dr. Jamie Sears

[Maintenance Report](#) submitted by Mr. Jeff Brann

Draft Calendar Updates [8-15 Start date](#) and [8-22 start date](#) presented by Mr. Adam Letizia

Board Comments

Vice Chair Gayle Sterrett stated the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School passed their budget for 2022-2033.

Board member Dana O'Beir, stated the Northern Neck Technical Center budget meeting was at the same time as the rescheduled NCPS board meeting. She will give an update at the next board meeting.