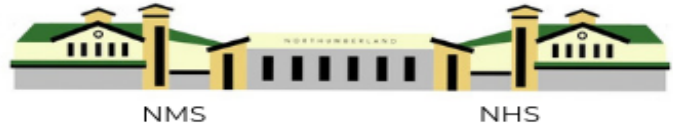


NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Donna Booth, Clerk of the School Board

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February 10, 2020, Heathsville, VA – The Northumberland County School Board met on Monday, February 10, 2020, at 6 pm in the Northumberland High School (NHS) & Northumberland Middle School (NMS) auditorium.

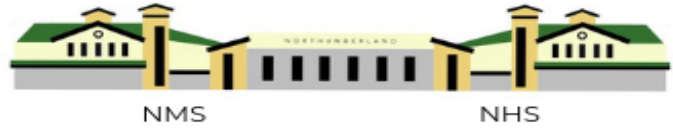
The School Board approved the following personnel for appointments, pending background check and fingerprinting as applicable, for the 2019-2020 year: **Athletic Supplements:** Quame Green, Varsity Baseball Coach; Caleb Smith, Boys' Varsity Soccer coach; Michael Baker, Varsity Softball Coach; Mark Fridenstine, Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach; Lon Patrick, Assistant Boys' Soccer JV Coach; Alex Zelaya, Assistant Boys Soccer Varsity Coach; Lisa Roberts Assistant Girls Soccer Coach; Rebekah Jones, Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach; Amanda Headley, Assistant Softball Coach; and Williams Withers, Northumberland Middle School Boys Baseball Coach. **Other Supplements:** Writing Team: Pauline Brann, Arlene Bourne, Anne Gardiner, Michele Jennings, April Walker, Stacey Lee, Sherri Kent, Michelle Roberti, and Molly Frazier; and HOSA sponsor, Rachel Edwards. **Substitutes:** Annette Kelly, Cafeteria Substitute. **Other Personnel:** Professional Leave Request for Tammy Wilkins to attend "Agriculture in the Classroom National Conference" in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Superintendent's reimbursement for National Board Certified Teacher Renewal once renewal is completed.

In other news . . .

The School Board adopted a Resolution honoring the life of District 3 School Board member Mr. Gerald Howard. Specifically, the Resolution recognized Mr. Howard for being instrumental in implementing the full day Pre-Kindergarten model in 2017, as he recognized the impact of early childhood education on a student's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical needs; applauded Mr. Howard for his exemplary service and tireless support for education equity, access, and opportunity for all Northumberland County students; and, the Board expressed how they will miss Mr. Howard's commitment and dedication to upholding principles and policies, his willingness to listen to concerns of the public, and his ability to put the interests of Northumberland County students first.

Division superintendent Holly Wargo outlined the process for filling the District 3 seat: Qualified voters of District 3 who may be interested in seeking appointment for the position are encouraged to apply. Applicants must submit a Statement of Interest, not to exceed 300 words, and a resume to Clerk of the

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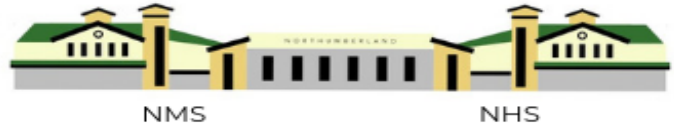
School Board, Northumberland County School Board Office, 2172 Northumberland Highway, Lottsburg, VA, 22511, no later than 4 PM on Friday, February 14, 2020. The School Board will interview applicants in a public meeting beginning on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 6 PM at the School Board Office, located in Lottsburg. The School Board will hold a public hearing to receive citizen comments about the appointment on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 6 PM at the School Board Office, located in Lottsburg.

The “NES Trash Slashers” presented by Fifth Grade Community Problem Solvers, led by Academically Talented & Gifted Coordinator Mrs. Shauna McCranie, presented a slideshow on their problem to reduce waste and reduce noise pollution in the Northumberland Elementary School Cafeteria. Students hope to reduce the noise pollution by adding sound panels, reduce food waste and litter with education, and add recycling bins for plastics. The Fifth Grade Community Problems Solvers are Jermaris Barber, Abby Bates, Lyrac Bea, Braylin Beauchamp, Emma Brown, Uriel Cabral-Aries, Ally Biddlecomb, Chase Dodson, Waylon Hymes, Tori Jett, Cadence Jones, Shrade Knowlton, Mia Livingston, Riley Milau, Caleb McCall, Alex Ponce, Chloe Ricks, Luke Sisk, Landon Nance, Lyndon Williams, Nathaniel Barnes, William Rosado, and Erick Vargas. Mrs. McCranie introduced and thanked the “Duchess of Ditches” Mrs. Julie Hendrickson, and Mr. Mike Ahart, President of the Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPS), for all of their support. The team will travel to Norfolk, Virginia, to compete in the State Bowl on April 24, 2020.

Next Mrs. Liz Hood, the NMS & NHS Library & Media Specialist, who shared information on “Lunch with a Writer.” The purpose of the monthly event is to provide students with interest and passion for writing while offering additional support and encouragement and to provide struggling writers with guided support and encouragement. Writers from the Northumberland Public Library, Lancaster Public Library, Chesapeake Bay Writers Guild, Virginia Writers Guild, and Virginia State University have participated.

Director of Special Education, Student Support Services, Equity, & Compliance, Mr. Adam Letizia, provided an overview of Black History Month activities and events. At NES, students will learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Maggie Walker, Arthur Ashe, and Thurgood Marshall. Third grade students will travel to the Virginia Repertory Theater to attend a production of Harriet Tubman while fourth grade students will conduct a research project of famous African Americans to include a biography art project. Northumberland Middle School is displaying a collection of photographs and artwork on loan by artist Donald Lee who is relative of Mrs. Latasha Lee. In addition morning announcements feature a historical fact about African American music and music clips are played. Artists include Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Al Green, B.B. King, and Selma March by Grant Green. The culminating activity for NMS & NHS will be a schoolwide assembly focused on the theme “I Am History” held on February 25,

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2020, featuring middle and high school students, two NCPS alumni from George Mason University (Deion Maith) and Christopher Newport University (Kayla Harding).

February is School Board Appreciation month. Northumberland County Public Schools recognizes the contributions of Chair Mrs. Betty Christopher, Vice chair Mrs. Gayle Sterrett, Mrs. Mary Hooper, Mrs. Dana O’Bier, and the late Mr. Gerald Howard for their leadership and support of education. School board members develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues impacting Northumberland County. They are responsible for an annual budget of over \$18 million, 1,308 students in PreK-12, an average of 300 full and part time employees, and three school buildings.

NCPS also recognized Clerk of the School Board Ms. Donna Booth during School Board Clerk Appreciation Week, which is held February 17-21, 2020.

Public Hearing #2 for the 2020-2021 budget was held in which figures for a 3%, 4%, and 5% salary increase; increases to regional programs; the addition of a full time school counselor; 3 buses; 2 vans; 1 passenger van; a skylift; a school nutrition part time employee; and an oven were reviewed. NES School Counselor Mrs. Lynne Haynie spoke in support of an additional full time school counselor.

Other actions taken by the Board:

The Board approved overnight field trip for Future Problems Solvers State Bowl on April 24-25, 2020, to Norfolk, Virginia, overnight field trip for NMS Junior BETA (February 12-13, 2020) and NHS BETA (February 14-14, 2020) to Hampton, Virginia. The Board approved the 2020-2025 Gifted Plan presented by Mrs. Shauna McCranie.