

TEACHER ADVISORY MEETING
APRIL 24, 2012
3:45 P.M.

Present were:

Meredith Anderson	Meadowview Elementary School
Jason Breeding	Abingdon High School
Phyllis Copeland	Wallace Middle School
Sandy Frederick	Damascus Middle School
Mimia Herald	John S. Battle High School
Nyana Malone	Neff Center/Technical School
Jim McCall	Abingdon Elementary School
Sarah Mercer	Rhea Valley Elementary School
Cathy Shelton	High Point Elementary School
John Walker	Patrick Henry High School
Jim R. Sullivan	Superintendent
Foney Mullins	Assistant Superintendent
Gary Catron	Supervisor of Secondary Education
Janet Lester	Supervisor of Elementary Schools
Barry Yost	Supervisor of CTE & Adult Education
Connie Phillips	Supervisor of Special Ed
Lisa McCoy	Coordinator of Special Ed
Judy Honaker	Coordinator of Math Education & Testing

Mr. Sullivan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He thanked those who were involved with the SACS Review and said that the review went well.

He provided them with a budget update. The 2012-2013 Budget has been approved by the School Board and forwarded to the Board of Supervisors. There is currently a \$6.6 million deficit. It is hoped that the county will fund us \$3.6 million. Included in the school budget is additional staff, which should improve class size and student/teacher ratios. It is hoped that the School Board will be able to compensate employees for the 5% VRS increase and provide a raise and step increase, but this has not officially been approved by the Board. It is the desire of both the School Board and Board of Supervisors to continue with the Five-Year Salary Improvement Plan. Roof replacements and repairs, as well as other facilities updates, are ongoing and money for the replacement of school buses remains in the budget.

Mr. Sullivan shared the commendations received from the SACS Review Committee. The official report will be back in a couple of weeks. The unofficial report was very good, and we had only three recommendations. He provided a copy of the preliminary report for their review. The Committee said that Washington County Schools would be accredited.

He asked what was going on in their area of responsibility. Responses were:

- He asked if there was criteria for assigning credit for the twenty extra work days and how much discretion the principals had in that regard.

Dr. Mullins responded that on the twenty workday form, there are certain in-service and workdays that qualify. Principals have five days at their discretion to award credit. Credit is sometimes given for serving on committees, attending PTA meetings, etc.

- The policy on attendance may need to be reviewed to look at attendance per period or per day.

Mr. Catron responded that the attendance policy would be reviewed soon.

Mr. Sullivan commented that with block scheduling, a student can get behind quickly. He said that there is some latitude with the twenty extra work days, and he would make sure what is being done is consistent.

- Patrick Henry had a successful girls' basketball season. The Forensics Team did well in competition. The girls' swim team did an excellent job. He recognized Cadence Wilmoth for her performance on the girls' basketball team.
- The Neff Center students recently competed in the SKILLS USA competition in Hampton, Virginia, where several students placed. Washington County hosted the district competition. The LPN students visited a bone farm. The yard sale went great, and proceeds went to the SKILLS USA Club. Everyone is gearing up for SOLs. Twenty-two of her students will be taking the state boards. The Neff Center did a reality store where students had money to spend. The school also received \$10,000 from Lowes to build a Habitat for Humanity house.
- Everything is going well at Meadowview Elementary. The third grade went on a field trip to the public library in Bristol. Students got to do the caterpillar crawl in Bristol. The second grade visited a museum and the fourth grade students went to Bays Mountain. The fourth grade will be building rockets, and a former Emory and Henry professor will help them blast off. Emory & Henry tutoring ends today and this has been a big help. The school is having a pep rally on Friday. The United Way donated trees, which will be planted at the sites directly affected by the tornados.
- The GATE students visited the Amish country in Philadelphia, and students were fascinated by Amish life. Damascus Middle is working on fundraising for Relay for Life and is close to meeting their goal. The eighth grade students did an international service project and adopted a school in Africa and Tanzania. They pledged \$1,600 and raised \$2,500. Damascus Middle had a womanless beauty pageant. Students had amazing ideas on how to raise funds.

- John Battle's NHS volunteered at the Special Olympics this past weekend. Catelyn Hughes won Queen of Hearts. The softball team is undefeated. The National Honor Society had inductions, and that went well. Scheduling for next year is almost complete. The FBLA just got back from state competitions. They won five places in regional.
- Rhea Valley Elementary had a visit from the SACS Review Team. A lot of field trips are going on. The fifth grade went to Ripley's Aquarium. The pre-school and third grade visited Holston High School and observed the things they are doing related to agriculture. The kindergarten students traveled to Sugar Hollow Park for Earth Day activities. The school is gearing up for testing and winding down the school year.
- High Point has been involved with a reading team from Virginia Tech, and students did a presentation at the Higher Ed Center. A teacher from Radford University was impressed by their presentation and urged them to participate in the state reading conference in April. High Point had a Title 1 Family Fun Night, and there was a large turnout of eighty-two people. They gave away a bicycle, walkie talkie, digital camera and more. Jamestown/Yorktown visited the school. The fourth grade history bowl team won. The students are working on becoming million word readers. DARE graduation is coming up. They are preparing for the summer reading program. There is a Relay for Life Walk fundraiser on Friday. Thursday, there is a PTA Program involving the kindergarten students. Students will take a field trip on Friday to visit a farm. March was celebration of arts in the schools. Students are being assessed and getting ready for the SOLs.
- Abingdon Elementary students have been doing reviews. Tutors come in during the day. After school tutoring began last week. The school is working on a community service project. They did a marathon for St. Jude's and collected \$3,100. They collected \$2,100 for the Ronald McDonald House. Jump Rope for Heart raised \$1,500. They also collected money for muscular dystrophy. Abingdon Elementary hosted a book fair, which went well. This year the school had a Chess Club. They also have organized a Lego Club for next year. A couple of student teachers have been helping out. The school won second place in the History Bowl. Staff are sad that Dr. Cox is leaving.
- Wallace Middle School had a visitor from the Mark Twain Museum. March 14 was Pie Day. The PTA sponsored a talent show, and they took first place in the t-shirt contest. The Student Advisory Team spent March 23 working on community service project activities. The school had PTA Essay Reflections winners as well as a DARE Essay winner. Students are turning in projects to earn varsity letters. The school is working on raising funds for Relay for Life for May 19. Teachers are tutoring and doing reviews for SOL testing.
- The SACS Committee visits went well across the county. The SACS Team picked students from Abingdon High School to talk with, and the students indicated they felt they had someone at the school they could go

to at any time if they needed them. Several students participated in the Queen of Hearts competition. The VHCC Chemistry dual enrollment class went to White Top. The English Appalachian Literature dual enrollment class is building dulcimers. Some of the teachers are helping with the Backpack Program. The SCA is having underclass elections tomorrow. A couple of concerns are the exam schedule and the new teacher evaluation with recommendation being tied to student performance.

Mr. Sullivan said that the new teacher evaluation instrument is being worked on, and he hopes that counties can be consistent.

Mr. Catron informed them that the exam schedule was sent to principals today.

Dr. Mullins talked about the new teacher evaluation. There is a Teacher Evaluation Committee, and several teachers are part of that. There are seven standards that will be part of every evaluation model in the state of Virginia. One standard is on student growth. Everyone will establish goals in the classroom, and that is how student growth will be measured. Training will be done in June. Teachers will establish goals and will have input along with the principal. A few counties in the state did a pilot program, and administrators have attended workshops. The first six standards are similar to what we have been doing. The seventh standard centers around how much students grew this year, and this will be tied to the evaluation. The evaluation must be in place by July 1. It will be a work in progress.

Mr. Sullivan said that the SACS Review Teams visited eight schools and talked to numerous individuals throughout the county including school board members, administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, stakeholders, etc.

He showed them an example of a Wordle document created by the SACS Team. The words mentioned most often to describe the school system by those who were interviewed were depicted in large font. Some of the words used to describe the school system were: awesome, caring, student centered, team work, supportive, progressive, diverse, well rounded.

Mr. Sullivan said that the SACS review results will be publicized. We also have flyers indicating our accomplishments and goals, which are distributed extensively. Our school calendar provides an overall view of our school system, policies, events, staff, etc. We continue to work to show others the many positive aspects of our school system.

He told them that parents and community members can be our best proponents when they speak up and let others know about our great school system.

Mr. Sullivan told the teachers that the purchase of classroom sets of social studies textbooks is being considered. Money for instructional supplies and

staffing remain in the budget. We should receive news about the Governor's Budget soon.

He thanked them for being part of the Teacher Advisory Team. The next meeting will be in October. Minutes of the meeting will be published online, and he will follow up on any concerns mentioned in the meeting. Teachers are scheduled to work on Tuesday following Memorial Day as a Teacher Workday.