

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY SCHOOLS  
SUPERINTENDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
January 19, 2011

The Prince Edward County Public Schools Superintendent's Advisory Council was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 3:45 p.m. in the Records Room.

Members present: Dr. David Smith, Superintendent; Jane Lee, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Jackie Fells, Elementary School; Kacey Potter, Middle School; Meda Lupas, High School; Judy Layne, Clerical; Elizabeth Watson, Custodial.

Members absent: Donald McClelland, Career and Technical Center; and Linwood Harris, Transportation and Rose Miller, Food Service.

Concerns:

Elementary School:

There were no concerns expressed.

Middle School:

1. What is the district policy on participating in school sports, if a student is failing classes?

Response: The Virginia High School League has regulations that apply to both the Middle and High School. The Middle School has its own Coaches Athletic Handbook and it states that if a student passes five classes in the last semester then they are eligible to play. If you do not think this rule is being followed on a specific student, please bring this concern to Mrs. Carson's attention. This has serious implications if students are failing and participating in sports.

2. Is the county going to apply for a permanent residency for teachers that have been teaching for more than three years in Prince Edward? What is the criteria for acceptance or rejection?

Response: There is no policy in place to guide requests for permanent residency, but the Board follows all requirements of immigration laws. If an individual is near the end of their three year term, and is interested in permanent residency, the individual should speak to Mrs. Reid, Director of Human Resources. According to Federal Law, prior to seeking permanent residency status, the position must be advertised. If a qualified American citizen applies, the job must then be filled by a citizen.

3. Are county employees receiving a bonus at the end of January?

Response: Yes, county employees received a bonus at the end of January. A bonus for school employees was on the January School Board Agenda. The discussion of a possible bonus has been postponed to the May School Board Meeting after the budget for the 2011-2012 school year has been approved.

High School:

There were no concerns expressed.

Agenda Question:

2011-2012 School Calendar – The following suggestions were shared:

1. A suggestion was made for the current year 2010-2011 school calendar to modify the March 11<sup>th</sup> make-up day to include an early dismissal and half day teacher workday.

Response: This will be on the February School Board Agenda for consideration.

2. At this time, we have eight inclement weather make-up days in this school calendar. We can only use seven of the eight days because the October 11<sup>th</sup> make-up day was put on the calendar in case of a fall emergency closing, and was not needed.

In 2009-2010 school year, we had 184 school days with four built-in days, two built-in days per semester.

The previous built-in days were removed because of budget reasons.

Some school divisions have a 185 or 190 day school calendar so that the school year has sufficient amount of days in case of inclement weather. If they are not used then they are taken back at the end of the school year.

Spring Break may become a consideration in the future for make-up days.

3. Can we have inclement weather codes?

Response: Employees groups and their reporting time are defined in a memo dated December 13, 2010. If there is a need to further define those conditions or create a reference code for each closing status, that can be easily done.

4. A concern regarding yesterday's weather and the instant alerts that employees/students did not receive?

Response: Dr. Roy Echeverria is examining the instant alert system to see why some of the instant alert messages were not received.

5. The high school needs a telephone tree.

Response: Dr. Smith has suggested to the high school administration that the use of a telephone tree will impede the quick notification provided by instant alert due to busy signals as a telephone tree is simultaneously used.

Dr. Smith thanked everyone for coming to share concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.