



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Michael Campbell  
Coordinator of Communications and Public Relations  
Phone: 804-733-2700  
Email: [mcampbell@pgs.k12.va.us](mailto:mcampbell@pgs.k12.va.us)

**PGCPS Recognizes Prince George School Board During Appreciation Month for Commitment to Children, Education Advocacy**

***February is School Board Appreciation Month in Virginia***

PRINCE GEORGE, Va. - Prince George County Public Schools will join 132 other school divisions throughout the Commonwealth to celebrate School Board Appreciation Month during February. Schools and communities will recognize over 800 elected and appointed school board members across Virginia for the dedicated service to public education during the month-long celebration.

In the Commonwealth, the recognition is led by the Virginia School Boards Association, a partner organization of the state's school boards that promotes excellence in public education through leadership, advocacy, and services. Their theme for this year's celebration, "115 Years of Providing Leadership Advocacy and Support, reflects the partnership between the VSBA and local school board members as they serve their local divisions and advocate for public education with local, state, and federal leaders on behalf of all students and their communities.

In Prince George County, the five-member elected school board consists of the following individuals: Rob Eley (District 1, Chairman), Cecil Smith (District 1), Jill Andrews (District 2), Chris Johnson (District 2, Vice-Chair), and Sherry Taylor (District 2). These members serve an essential role in supporting the needs of the children of Prince George County and the men and women who provide high-quality instruction or support its delivery every day inside the county's schools. In a given year, the Prince George School Board must develop policies and make decisions on complex educational and social issues impacting the entire community. They also bear responsibility for an annual budget of over \$73 million, over 6,000 students, and approximately 1,200 employees across almost a dozen schools and support buildings.

The Prince George School Board has played an active role in supporting PGCPS' safe return to in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic. The board has been instrumental in helping the school division develop its 2022-2027 Comprehensive Plan, partnering with the school system to host a series of town hall meetings with the community. They have also been an advocate for modernizing the school division's facilities. Thanks to their efforts and united partnership with the Prince George Board of Supervisors, PGCPS is

preparing to build a new elementary school along Middle Road. The school's construction is expected to begin this spring and open to students and staff in the fall of 2022.

"The dedication of our school board to supporting the needs of our children is unmatched," **Division Superintendent Dr. Lisa Pennycuff said.** "Prince George County Public Schools is blessed to have the Prince George School Board as a partner and advocate for public education in our community and beyond."

The school division's social media pages will feature unique school board member profiles during February. These profiles will have each member's answers to a series of questions to help the community know their school board better. They will be posted to the Prince George County Public School's Facebook page each week through February. The Prince George School Board will also be formally recognized for their contributions to the school system and community during their regular meeting on February 1.

To learn more about the Virginia School Boards Association, visit their website at <http://vsba.org>.