

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

245 RICHMOND STREET

MT. VERNON, KY 40456

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Rockcastle Board of Education Members

Angela Stallsworth-Mink - Chair, Susan Jordison - Vice Chair,

Anna Stevens-Goff, Misty Lakes

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** At approximately 6:00 pm, Vice-Chairman Susan Jordison called the meeting to order.
 - A. Silent Prayer:** At the direction of Vice-Chairman Susan Jordison, the Board observed a moment of silent prayer.
 - B. Roll Call:** All members present with the exception of Angela Stallsworth-Mink.
 - C. Reading of Board Team Commitments:** Misty Lakes read the board team commitments.

- 2. ADOPT AGENDA/ACTION**

Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

- 3. SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SHOWCASE:**
 - A. School Showcase – Brodhead Elementary School:** Principal Derrick Bussell showcased virtual learning and a typical NTI day at Brodhead Elementary School using a video presentation. Mr. Bussell noted the exceptional support all BES staff had extended to students and families during the pandemic. Mr. Bussell added that it was important to him and his staff to maintain a “sense of community” in Brodhead.

- 4. OPERATIONS/ACTIONS:**
 - A. Approve Minutes of the November 10, 2020 Board Meeting**
 - B. Approve Bills for Payment**
 - C. Approve Letter of Resignation from Division 2 Board Member Jeff Vanhook**
 - D. Approve Non-Resident Contracts with Fayette and Laurel Counties**
 - E. Approve Student Teacher Agreement with the University of Kentucky for 2020-2021 School Year**

Misty Lakes made a motion to approve Operations/Actions. Anna Stevens-Goff made a second. All members present agreed.

- 5. DISCUSSION/ACTION:**
 - A. Review/Approve Year Ending June 30, 2020 Audit Presented by White & Associates, PSC**

Mr. White reported no findings in the year ending audit and there was no corrective action needed. He commended the finance staff for an excellent job. Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion to approve the audit presented by White & Associates. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

 - B. Review/Approve Worker’s Compensation/Employers Liability Insurance FY 2021 (Mrs. Sweet)**

Finance Director Jenny Sweet recommended the renewal from Van Meter Insurance, a proposal from the carrier Kentucky Employers Mutual Insurance. Based on the quote their renewal option for 2021 is \$53,880. This is an increase of \$6,813.79 from the prior year. The increase is due to the mod increase of 22%. Our mod is based on claims paid during the fiscal year. KEMI applied an additional 10% credit from prior years, bringing the total credit to 35%. In addition, the district will receive a dividend check from KEMI in the amount of \$6,399.62 for the 2017 policy year which will offset the increase. Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion to approve the Worker’s Compensation/Employers Liability Insurance FY 2021. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

 - C. Review/Approve Monthly Financial Reports (Mrs. Sweet)**
 - 1. Month Ending Balance Sheet**
 - 2. Revenue & Expenditures for the Month by Fund**

Finance Director Jenny Sweet presented the monthly financial reports. Misty Lakes made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports. Anna Stevens-Goff made a second. All members present agreed.

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D. Review/Approve Creation of Digital Learning Coach Position

Superintendent Ballinger reported that the state provided a stipend to cover the Digital Learning Coach position. This position will be responsible for coaching teachers on how to best instruct students virtually. The Digital Learning Coach will work with all schools in the district. Misty Lakes made a motion to approve the Digital Learning Coach position. Anna Stevens-Goff made a second. All members present agreed.

E. Review/Approve 2020-2021 Salary Schedule Amendment

Superintendent Ballinger noted that the amendment to the salary schedule includes the Digital Learning Coach position and also aligns the salary schedule to reflect changes to extended days that were made in 2016. Misty Lakes made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Salary Schedule Amendment. Anna Stevens-Goff made a second. All members present agreed.

6. DISCUSSION/REVIEW:

A. Review Superintendent's Personnel Action Report (*Mrs. Ballinger*) (*Appendix A*)

Superintendent Ballinger shared current personnel actions in the district with the board.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Jenny Sweet – Finance

- Red Book Training was recently provided to our schools by Kentucky Education Development Corporation (KEDC)
- Working on draft budget for General Fund to be presented in January.

Brandon Reynolds – Technology

- 100 hot spots are actively being delivered to households throughout the county to provide internet access to students for virtual learning
- Technology Help Line will remain active through January.
- Web filter upgrades have been made to assist in monitoring student internet activity. Notifications are set to automatically notify staff members. For example, our Mental Health Coordinator would be notified if there is suspicion a student has searched for violence or suicide related material.
- Students will receive Minecraft on their Chromebooks as a Christmas gift from the district. Mr. Reynolds noted Minecraft teaches programming and other STEM skills.

Jason Coguer - Instruction

- New Teacher Academy continues with the last session focusing on virtual learning. Hannah Laswell and Matthew Whitaker provided best practices with New Teacher Academy participants.

Jennifer Mattingly - Instruction

- Fall i-Ready Diagnostic results for reading and math were presented.
- Project LIFT Literacy Grant has provided 130 hours of professional learning to our teachers

Ken Hopkins – Transportation

- Food deliveries continue across the district during NTI averaging about 700 miles per delivery day. Approximately \$24,000 has been spent up to Thanksgiving break to deliver meals.

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- Working with transportation staff to prepare for when students return to in-person classes. A/B schedule will help with putting more distance between students on the bus.

Marcus Reppert – Student Services

- MOU for School Resource Officer was approved at last board meeting and the City of Mt. Vernon has approved as well. Once this position has been posted and filled, the SRO will work with students on the prevention of drug use, vaping and digital citizenship.
- Students can still be referred for the Truancy Diversion Program even while we are on virtual learning. Mr. Reppert noted this isn't to charge anyone with truancy but to work to remove barriers so that students can be successful.

Wendy King – Special Education

- Mrs. King provided a glimpse into what Special Education services are being provided to students during NTI. During a 7-day window there were:
 - 114 Small Group Meetings
 - 177 Google Meets
 - 143 Speech Therapy Sessions
 - 58 Physical/Occupational Therapy Sessions
 - 479 Emails/Messages/Texts
 - 542 Phone Calls
 - 7 Home Visits
 - 242 Odysseyware Correspondence
 - 1801 Total Contacts with Special Education students
- December 1 Child Count completed

Trent Clark – Facilities & Technology

- Working with CMTA for the scope of the Mt. Vernon Elementary Energy Project
- Wireless equipment was recently upgraded. This is the 3rd upgrade since we began using wireless technology.

Jamie Saylor – Food Service

- Rocket Refuel School meal sites continue during each day of NTI. For the month of November, we served 35,314 breakfasts and 36,712 lunches (includes in-person school days).
- Christmas lunch will be served at all Rocket Refuel sites on Wednesday, December 16th. Menu will be sliced ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls and dessert.
- Rockcastle County Schools has partnered with Optimum Foods to offer direct-to-door food boxes to be delivered on or around Christmas break. 2,458 children were pre-registered to receive the 10-day food box. Each box contains 10 shelf stable breakfasts, 10 shelf stable lunches and shelf stable milk for each meal.

Sherman Cook – ATC Principal

- Working to support students and staff during virtual instruction.
- Working to make daily contact with students during virtual learning.
- Google meets have added some accountability for students and has help reconnect them to school.

8. SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

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Superintendent Ballinger thanked out-going board members Jeff Vanhook and Susan Jordison for their service to Rockcastle County Schools. We hope to celebrate the service of both board members during the January or February 2021 meetings.

Superintendent Ballinger noted that while students are completely virtual now, we are waiting on guidance from the Governor to see how schools will operate when we can return in January. Operating on an A/B schedule will provide more social distancing and create a safer environment for our students and staff.

As of the board meeting, we had 35 staff members quarantined and 11 students quarantined. We are monitoring data on a daily basis.

8. BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member Anna Stevens-Goff thanked Susan Jordison for her service to Rockcastle County Schools and that she would be greatly missed.

Vice-Chair Susan Jordison shared that she began her service to Rockcastle County Schools serving on the Roundstone Elementary SBDM Council in 1995. She stated, "I know your work is hard, but you power on."

9. ADJOURNMENT

Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

Angela Stallsworth-Mink, Board Chair

Carrie Ballinger, Secretary

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Appendix A

SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

November 10, 2020 – December 8, 2020

Appointments are subject to valid certification and other State requirements. All salaries/wages are in compliance with the current Board-approved salary schedule. Upon receipt of all required documentation, including SBDM approval and Principal recommendation, the Superintendent will send an official letter of employment to each individual. Employee assignments listed below are based on current projections and are subject to alteration as permitted by law.

Full Time Certified Employees

Name	Effective Date	Position

Full Time Classified Employees

Name	Effective Date	Position
Holden Barnett	11/11/2020	Assistant Football Coach - RCMS
Christina Lear	12/3/2020	Youth Service Coordinator - RCMS
Jimmy Clark, Jr.	11/18/2020	Volunteer Archery Coach - RCMS
Rachele Smith	12/1/2020	Cook/Baker - MVES

Resignation

Name	Effective Date	Position

Retirement

Name	Effective Date	Position
Linda Taylor	1/1/2021	School Grounds Monitor - RCHS
Melissa Owens	1/1/2021	Teacher – RCMS
Rebecca Griffin	1/1/2021	Instructional Assistant - MVES

Certified Substitutes

Names	Effective Date	Position
Maggie Franklin	11/5/2020	Substitute Teacher
Cindy McCullough	11/16/2020	Substitute Teacher

Classified Substitutes

Names	Effective Date	Position
Christina Prewitt	12/1/2020	Substitute Cook/Baker