

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

245 RICHMOND STREET
MT. VERNON, KY 40456

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Rockcastle Board of Education Members

Angela Stallsworth-Mink - Chair, Anna Stevens-Goff - Vice Chair,
Larry Hammond, Misty Lakes, Angela Parsons-Woods

- 1. Call To Order:** At approximately 6:00 pm, Chairman Angela Stallsworth-Mink called the meeting to order.
 - A. Silent Prayer:** At the direction of Chairman Angela Stallsworth-Mink, the Board observed a moment of silent prayer.
 - B. Roll Call:** All members present. New board members Larry Hammond and Angela Parsons-Woods were welcomed by Chairman Angela Stallsworth-Mink.
 - C. Reading of Board Team Commitments:** Misty Lakes read the board team commitments.
 - D. Election of Officers:** Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion for Angela Stallsworth-Mink to continue serving as Board Chair. Angela Stallsworth-Mink made a motion for Anna Stevens-Goff to serve as the Vice-Chair. Larry Hammond made a second. All members present agreed.
 - E. Develop and Approve the 2021 Regular Board Meeting Schedule:** Larry Hammond made a motion to maintain the current regular board meeting schedule of the second Tuesday of the month, 6:00 PM at Rockcastle Teaching & Learning Center. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

- 2. Adopt Agenda/Action**

Angela Stallsworth-Mink requested that State Representative Josh Bray be given the chance to speak by changing Item 9 to Public Comments, Item 10 will be Board Comments and moving the Adjournment to Item 11. Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

- 3. School & Community Showcase:**
 - A. School Showcase – Roundstone Elementary School:** Principal Chris Bishop showcased virtual and in-person learning and a typical day at Roundstone Elementary School using a video presentation. Mr. Bishop noted that the mission of Roundstone Elementary is to promise quality educational opportunities for ALL students. Roundstone is comprised of 22 certified staff, 16 classified staff, 3 custodians and 6 food service staff. Mr. Bishop noted the school's many achievements over the last several years and added that the entire Roundstone Elementary community is like one big family that works to build relationships with students.

- 4. Operations/Actions:**
 - A. Approve Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Board Meeting**
 - B. Approve Bills for Payment**

Larry Hammond expressed concern about Item E in the December 8, 2020 board meeting minutes in regards to backing up and amending the 2016 salary schedule. Mr. Hammond noted that he had discussed the concern with Superintendent Ballinger, but wanted to make the audience and other board members aware that there is an issue with doing that. Superintendent Ballinger explained that she became aware of the issue and the amendment was a way to align the salary schedule with the 2016 changes and that the board discussed and approved the amendment at last month's meeting. Larry Hammond asked if the amendment was for payment above and beyond what was listed on the salary schedule. Superintendent Ballinger responded that the amendment was made to include payment of additional extended days above what was listed on the regular salary schedule approved by the board. She added this isn't a new change, but had taken place in 2016 and no new changes had taken place during her Superintendence. Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion to approve Operations/Actions. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

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5. Discussion/Action:

A. Review/Approve Draft Budget for 2021-2022 School Year (*Mrs. Sweet*)

Finance Director Jenny Sweet presented the draft budget for the 2021-2022 school year. The draft budget keeps SEEK at prior year levels since a forecast for next year has not been received from the state. Budgets for staffing include our current staff, but we are in the process of collecting Letters of Intent so we will be aware of anyone who plans to retire or will have a rank change. Another consideration for the draft budget is that the CERS rate on classified employees is set to increase 12%. Those rates were frozen for this year. The current rate is 24.06%, but next year's increase would put us at 26.95%, which is equivalent to \$125,045.00. Mrs. Sweet noted this increase will be hard for districts to sustain without an increase in SEEK funding. The budget is based on prior year revenues and expenditures. We will begin looking at our staffing allocations and information will be included in the working budget to be presented in May. In discussion, Larry Hammond requested salary schedules for the last 10 years so that board members can review and know how to prepare for the future. Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion approve the 2021-2022 draft budget. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

B. 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 for December 2020. Angela Parsons-Woods made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

C. Review/Approve Proposed 2021-2022 District Calendar Committee (*Mr. Reppert*)

Director of Student Services Marcus Reppert presented the 2021-2022 Calendar Committee. Larry Hammond approved the 2021-2022 Calendar Committee. Angela Parsons-Woods made a second. All members present agreed.

D. Review/Approve Rockcastle County Schools Tuition Schedule (*Mr. Reppert*)

Director of Student Services Marcus Reppert presented the Rockcastle County Schools Tuition Schedule as required by Board Policy 09.124. The tuition schedule will be a fee based on the amount equal to state Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) allocations. He further explained this tuition is for out of district students seeking to attend Rockcastle County Schools from a district that does not have a non-resident contract with Rockcastle County Schools. Misty Lakes made a motion to approve the Tuition Schedule as presented. Anna Stevens-Goff made a second. All members present agreed.

E. Review/Approve 2019-2020 Nutrition and Physical Activity Report (*Mrs. Saylor*)

Food Service Director Jamie Saylor presented the 2019-2020 Nutrition and Physical Activity Report. The report highlighted information about the district's National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, After School Snack Program, Summer Food Service Programs and physical activity events and opportunities in our schools. Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Nutrition & Physical Activity Report. Angela Parsons-Woods 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

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Ken Hopkins – Transportation

- The transportation department has been preparing for the return to in-person classes. By switching to an A/B schedule, each bus driver will have to create a new seating chart. The new schedule will allow for more distancing while on the school bus and should result in few students being required to quarantine if there is a COVID positive case on the bus.
- Back in the summer, when we realized there would be a need for additional supplies to bus drivers on a regular basis, we came up with the idea of a "Supply Bus." We were able to create a safe environment away from the school bus garage that drivers and monitors could pick up their needed supplies such as hand sanitizer, gloves, safety goggles, disinfectants, and paperwork.

Brandon Reynolds – Technology

- Maintaining technology, especially Chromebooks for students.
- Averaging 30 help-desk tickets per day.

Jamie Saylor – Food Service

- Rocket Refuel - For the month of December, 44,588 breakfasts and 44,738 lunches (includes holiday food boxes) were served.
- Holiday Break Meal Boxes Delivered - 2,458 children received holiday food boxes over Christmas break. Each box contained 10 shelf stable breakfasts, 10 shelf stable lunches and shelf stable milk for each meal. This program brought over 73,000lbs of food into Rockcastle County.
- January Meals - Students will receive shelf stable meals on the days they are at school to take home for virtual learning days. Rocket Refuel community feeding sites will continue on Friday NTI days. MyRock Online virtual students can pick up 5-day food packages at Friday meal sites.

Jenny Sweet – Finance

- Fingerprinting procedures for new hires has recently changed. New hires will be fingerprinted digitally by Identigo and will need to travel to London, Somerset or Richmond to complete the process. The cost will be \$51, which is an increase from \$31 (set by the contract). The district is exploring options to help sub employees, etc. cover the cost.

Wendy King – Special Education/Preschool

- Teachers are logging communication with special education students during NTI using a Google form.
- 3,927 total student contacts were made from December 7th-January 8th:
 - 238 - Small Group Instruction
 - 460 - Google Meets
 - 1,593 – Emails, Remind messages, Odysseyware messages
 - 736 – Telephone Calls
 - 35 – Home Visits
 - 245 – Other

Jennifer Mattingly – Assessment/Instruction

- i-Ready Winter Diagnostic will be February 8-19 at all schools for reading and math
- ACT will be March 9th for all 11th grade and any 12th grader who missed the 2020 ACT
- CTE EOP will be March 22 to April 30 for all CTE Programs at RCHS and RATC

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- KPREP will be in the spring (Last 14 days) unless waivers are granted
- RCHS is hosting ACT Now workshops during January and February to help students prepare for the ACT exam.

Sherman Cook – ATC Principal

- Glad to be back to in-person classes. In-person learning is imperative in most of the ATC classes because students are learning with hands-on experience in front of their instructor.
- Preparing for industry certification assessments.

Marcus Reppert – Student Services

- 538 students are still enrolled in MyRock Online. We have had movement both ways with students going to virtual only or deciding to come back to in-person classes.
- Attendance for in-person so far has been around 90%-91%.
- The first truancy diversion meeting was held today and most parents attended. This program helps us remove barriers to students so that they can be present at school and be successful.
- Mental health referrals have slightly increased with the return of students. School counselors work with students and then they are possibly referred on to Somerset Mental Health for additional services.

Trent Clark – Facilities & Technology

- Working with Electricity teacher, Mr. Draper, and vocational students to run wire for wireless access at ATC.
- District-wide wireless upgrade will hopefully be finished by the end of January.

8. Superintendent Communication

Superintendent Ballinger presented the results of her Leadership Practices Inventory, which is part of the Superintendent On-boarding process. The results are compiled from a survey that was sent to 31 total staff and community members. The survey is based on five leadership behaviors: Model, Inspire, Challenge, Enable and Encourage. Superintendent Ballinger noted that she would be placing a focus on the “Inspire a Shared Vision” category as that fits well with all we are doing with strategic planning.

Superintendent Ballinger shared a brief update on the Strategic Planning process. A survey was shared within the community and schools so that we are able to see what our focus priorities should be. We will be working with Dr. Jim Evens from KEDC to complete this work. The first orientation meeting will be held at the end of January.

A COVID-19 vaccine update was provided. 340 staff (55% of all staff) member names have been turned in to the Dept. for Public Health for those that wish to receive the vaccine. There will be another opportunity for more staff members to sign up if they have since changed their mind. We should find out who our vaccine provider will be, in the near future.

At the time of the meeting there were 10 staff members quarantined (4 were COVID positives). 53 students are quarantined.

Superintendent Ballinger also shared information about the SESC Elevate Virtual Summit 2021, which will focus on sharing best practices for distance learning. She noted that we should be proud that nearly all of the Summit presenters are Rockcastle County Schools’ teachers (9 of our teachers).

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Superintendent Ballinger noted that January is Board Appreciation Month and board members received a small gift of appreciation.

9. Public Comments

Representative Josh Bray provided a legislative update.

- House Bill 1 would give school boards the ability to decide if students are in school
- Budget update – Because of COVID there was only a one year budget last year, so a one year budget is currently in the works
- CARES Act funds will be one time money
- Requested that we share our school district priorities so that he can advocate for those things.
 - Angela Stallsworth-Mink noted she would like to see SEEK fully funded as promised each year and ask that he fully support public education.

Representative Bray presented citations to each board member in honor of board appreciation month.

10. Board Comments

Anna Stevens-Goff welcomed new members Misty Lakes and Larry Hammond.

Larry Hammond noted that he was glad to be here and that he has a true interest in Rockcastle County Schools.

Misty Lakes noted her appreciation that Rockcastle County Schools is “about kids”. She added that we should look forward to the future and that we all continue to do what’s best for kids and the community.

Larry Hammond shared his experiences in working in other districts. He noted that his experiences will be valuable in serving as a board member for Rockcastle County Schools.

Angela Stallsworth-Mink thanked Representative Bray for attending the meeting and speaking with those in attendance. She also thanked Ms. Erin Grace, RCHS Teacher, for attending, recognizing her dedication to Rockcastle County Schools.

11. Adjournment

Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 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

December 8, 2020 – January 12, 2021

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 |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jason Coguer | 1/6/2021 | Digital Learning Coach (District) |

Full Time Classified Employees

| Name | Effective Date | Position |
|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| Andrew Cash | 12/7/2020 | Program Assistant II – Voc Rehab (RCHS) |
| Albany Wilson | 12/15/2020 | AmeriCorps Volunteer (RES) |

Resignation

| Name | Effective Date | Position |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Valerie Williams | 1/6/2021 | Bus Monitor |
| Kendra Calico | 12/28/2020 | Instructional Assistant (MVES) |

Retirement

| Name | Effective Date | Position |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | | |

Certified Substitutes

| Names | Effective Date | Position |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | | |
| | | |

Classified Substitutes

| Names | Effective Date | Position |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | | |