

# Rockcastle County Board of Education

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

Rockcastle Teaching & Learning Center ♦ 245 Richmond Street, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2021 - 6:00 PM

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

At approximately 6:00 pm, Board Chair Angela Mink called the meeting to order.

- A. Silent Prayer - At the direction of Mrs. Mink, the Board observed a moment of silent prayer.
- B. Roll Call – All members present.
- C. Reading of Board Team Commitments – Misty Lakes read the Board Team Commitments.

### 2. ADOPT AGENDA/ACTION

Misty Lakes made a motion to approve the agenda. Angela Parsons-Woods made a second. All members present agreed.

### 3. SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SHOWCASE:

#### A. Recognition of Community Volunteers from the Warming Center

Superintendent Carrie Ballinger recognized community members who served as volunteers at the Warming Center that operated following the February ice storm. Those recognized were David Coleson, Andrew Pensol, Kathryn Pope, County Attorney Jeremy Rowe, County Judge Executive Howell Holbrook, Volunteer Fire Departments, Principal Robert Phillips, Rockcastle County Schools employees, Sheriff Shannon Franklin, Christian Appalachian Project, Coca-Cola, KFC, Wendy's, Limestone Grille and Little Caesars.

#### B. School Showcase – Rockcastle County Middle School

RCMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Anna Chaliff gave an inspiring presentation highlighting how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the lives of students. Anna discussed student struggles, benefits, adaptations and the impact on extra-curricular activities.

Principal Robert Phillips shared his enthusiasm for the return of a more regular schedule and having more students present for in-person instruction beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>. He closed with a statement asserting that through this pandemic we can see that academics are secondary and relationships and trust must come first.

### 4. COMMUNICATION:

#### A. Digital Instruction Presentation

Digital Learning Coach Jason Coguer presented digital instructional resources used to provide remote learning and enhanced in-person learning. The following topics were discussed: Digital Lessons vs. In-Person Lessons, Digital Tools for quizzes, Student-Centered Response Tools, Interaction Tools, and Google Tools.

#### B. Energy Audit Timeline and CMTA Education Presentation

Representative from CMTA Energy Solutions provided an introduction to Guaranteed Energy Savings Contracts (GESC). GESCs are a financing tool used to reallocate utility savings to make facility improvements. CMTA shared the advantages of using a GESC such as: 1. Provides a mechanism for system renovations to pay for themselves over their lifespan; 2. Improves the environment for occupants (indoor air quality, occupant comfort, lighting); 3. Competitive bidding, best value and low cost results; 4. Single source accountability - no finger pointing & no change order and; 5. Ongoing measurement and verification ensures lowest life cycle cost. CMTA shared the Energy Use Intensity (EUI) for Rockcastle County, which was 56.6 in 2017. This ranks Rockcastle 140<sup>th</sup> in the state for EUI.

### 5. OPERATIONS/ACTIONS:

- A. Approve Minutes of the February 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of the March 2, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- C. Approve Bills for Payment
- D. Approve Request for Family and Medical Leave of Absence
- E. Approve Service Contract with Martin Associates for Grant Writing Services for \$1M Rural Utility Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Application

Finance Director Jenny Sweet provided an overview of the Rural Utility Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant. She explained it is intended for rural communities, could be used to further advance our distance learning

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opportunities, provide more dual credit opportunities, update classroom technology and improve our school telemedicine programs.

Misty Lakes made a motion to approve Operations/Actions. Larry Hammond made a second. All members present agreed.

### 6. DISCUSSION/ACTION:

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#### A. Review/Approve Monthly Financial Reports

1. Month Ending Balance Sheet
2. Revenue & Expenditures for the Month by Fund

Finance Director Jenny Sweet presented the monthly financial reports. Angela Parsons-Woods made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

#### B. Review/Approve Student Accident/Athletic Insurance for the 2021-2022 School Year

Finance Director Jenny Sweet recommended renewal with Roberts Insurance, which insures over 140 districts throughout the state. Roberts obtained quotes on behalf of the district to present the lowest quote from Hartford for K&K Insurance. The renewal option from K&K Insurance, underwritten by Nationwide Insurance Company, including a \$7.5 million catastrophic policy with Zurich American Insurance Company. This renewal is a decrease from \$76,497 to \$74,997.60, a savings of \$1,499.40.

#### C. Review/Approve Cost of Living Raise Proposal

Superintendent Ballinger recommended a 3% cost of living raise for employees. Mrs. Ballinger asserted that we value our educators and support staff and it is a commitment we need to make. Finance Director Jenny Sweet noted that the cost of the raise will be covered through attrition and will cost the district \$470,980.16 annually. Larry Hammond made a motion to approve the 3% cost of living raise. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

#### D. Review/Approve In-Person Return to School on March 15, 2021

Superintendent Ballinger requested that beginning March 15, elementary, middle and high school in-person students be in attendance every day, Monday through Thursday. She requested that Fridays remain a virtual learning day (NTI) for all students. This will allow us to deliver meals, connect and meet with our My Rock Online students, and bring in struggling students for targeted assistance. Anna Stevens-Goff made a motion to approve the in-person return to school on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Angela Parsons-Woods made a second. All members present agreed.

#### E. Review/Approve Amendment to 2020-2021 School Calendar

Director of Student Services Marcus Reppert presented the amended 2020-2021 school calendar. The amended calendar will include extending the school day by 20 minutes April 26-May 28. May 28<sup>th</sup> would be the last day for students. June 1 would be closing day. Mr. Hammond made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 amended school calendar. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

#### F. Review/Approve 2021-2022 School Calendar – Second Reading

Director of Student Services Marcus Reppert presented the 2021-2022 school calendar for a second review. The first day for students would be August 25<sup>th</sup> and the projected last day would be May 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Reppert highlighted the addition of one full week of fall break and a full week of spring break. Angela Parsons-Woods made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 school calendar. Misty Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

#### G. Review/Approve Resolution for Selling Surplus Buses

Director of Transportation Ken Hopkins requested approval to sell one 34 passenger school bus through the Kentucky Interlocal School Transportation Association (KISTA). Larry Hammond made a motion to approve the resolution for selling the surplus bus. Angela Parsons-Woods made a second. All members present agreed.

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### H. Review/Approve RFP or KPC Delivery Method for Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract (GESC)

Director of Facilities Trent Clark presented methods for selecting a qualified provider for the GESC which included the options of a Request for Proposals, Request for Qualifications or by selecting a provider through the Kentucky Education Development Corporation (KEDC). Mr. Hammond suggested doing an RFP to allow any vendor the opportunity to create a proposal. Mr. Clark noted that to stay within the timeline he would recommend selecting a KEDC provider and that the KEDC partnership brings experience and expertise to entire GESC process. He added that the four vendors at KEDC would still have to compete for the project. Superintendent Ballinger noted that the quicker timeline of using KEDC would allow us to address the air quality issue in some of our buildings more quickly. Mr. Clark asserted that a local committee would be formed to help with the vendor selection process. Committee members would include the Superintendent, Facilities Director, MVES Principal, Finance Officer, Director of Student Services, a school board member and a community member. Misty Lakes made a motion to use the KPC/KEDC delivery method for the GESC contract. Angela Parsons-Woods made a second. The motion passed with 4 votes in favor (Mrs. Stallsworth-Mink, Mrs. Lakes, Mrs. Stevens-Goff and Mrs. Parsons-Woods) and 1 against (Mr. Hammond).

### 7. DISCUSSION/REVIEW:

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#### A. Review Superintendent's Personnel Action Report

Superintendent Ballinger shared current personnel actions in the district with the Board. (*Appendix A*)

### 8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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Department reports were provided to Board members via Google Drive.  
Mrs. Lakes shared her appreciation to school district staff who have helped with flood victims.

Superintendent Ballinger shared that AppHarvest is working with Rockcastle County families to offer \$500 grants to assist families affected by flooding.

Mrs. Lakes inquired about P-EBT. Food Service Director Jamie Saylor shared that the second round of payments would begin March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Director of Instruction Jennifer Mattingly shared that RCHS juniors had taken the ACT exam earlier in the day and that all but 13 juniors were present. She also shared information about the most recent iReady diagnostic results. Lastly, Mrs. Mattingly shared that the K-PREP assessment would be given the last 14 days of school.

Director of Facilities Trent Clark and Superintendent Ballinger shared their appreciation for the maintenance staff that worked during and after the ice storm.

### 9. SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

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Superintendent Ballinger asserted that she, along with Mr. Reppert and Mr. Bussell, are working to establish a graduation date and details for prom.

Superintendent Ballinger provided a COVID-19 update with 6 positive cases, 14 students quarantined and 8 staff quarantined.

### 10. BOARD COMMENTS

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Angela Stallsworth-Mink requested an update on COVID-19 vaccinations. Mrs. Ballinger shared that about 60% of staff had received the vaccination at the time of the meeting.

### 11. ADJOURNMENT

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Angie Parsons-Woods made a motion to adjourn at 9:01 PM. Anna Stevens-Goff made a second. All members present agreed.

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*Angela Stallsworth-Mink, Board Chair*

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*Carrie Ballinger, Secretary*

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### Appendix A

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

February 9, 2021 – March 9, 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

#### Full Time Classified Employees

Name	Effective Date	Position
Jeff Mink	3/1/2021	Vehicle Mechanic I
Brooke Bishop	2/24/2021	Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach - RCMS
Kyle Childress	3/1/2021	Assistant Baseball Coach - RCMS

#### Resignation

Name	Effective Date	Position

#### Retirement

Name	Effective Date	Position

#### Certified Substitutes

Names	Effective Date	Position
Kagan Miller	1/27/2021	Substitute Teacher

#### Classified Substitutes

Names	Effective Date	Position
Philip Permenter	2/24/2021	Substitute Bus Driver
David Bryant	2/24/2021	Substitute Bus Driver