

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 ♦ 250 Richmond Street, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2021 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- A. Silent Prayer
- B. Roll Call
- C. Reading of Board Team Commitments

At approximately 6:00 PM, Board Chair Mink called the meeting to order. All members were present. Mrs. Mink read the Board Team Commitments.

2. ADOPT AGENDA/ACTION

Mr. Hammond requested that the agenda be amended to move Item 3D (Minutes of the June 11, 2021 Special Board Meeting) to 4G, for discussion.

Mrs. Mink requested that the agenda be amended to include the following items:

- 3U Approve MOA with Union College for ESU Candidate Placement Agreement
- 3V Approve MOA with Berea College Upward Bound Math and Science
- 3W Approve MOA with Berea College GEAR UP Grant
- 3X Approve Invitation to Bid for RCMS Combination Ovens

Ms. Goff made a motion to adopt the agenda with amendments. Mrs. Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

3. OPERATIONS/ACTIONS:

- A. Approve Minutes of the June 7, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of the June 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- C. Approve Minutes of the June 8, 2021 Special Meeting of the Rockcastle County School District Finance Corp
- ~~D. Approve Minutes of the June 11, 2021 Special Board Meeting Moved to 4G~~
- E. Approve Bills for Payment
- F. Approve School Trips
- G. Approve Employee Leave of Absence
- H. Approve Shortened School Days for Hospital Classroom for 2021-2022 School Year
- I. Approve 2021-2022 District Funding Assurances (GMAP)
- J. Approve TC-4 Substitute Teacher Certifications for the 2021-2022 School Year
- K. Approve Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Intent to Participate for the 2021-2022 School Year
- L. Approve Steele Reese Foundation Grant
- M. Approve MOU with Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)
- N. Approve Community Education Grant
- O. Approve Resolution for Selling Surplus School Bus
- P. Approve Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline for the 2021-2022 School Year
- Q. Approve Crisis Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year
- R. Approve 3% Raise to Preschool Driver Stipend Rate on 2021-2022 Salary Schedule (approved May 11, 2021)
- S. Approve MOA with Somerset Mental Health, PSC for 2021-2022 School Year
- T. Approve Acknowledgement of Data Security and Breach Notification Best Practices
- U. Approve MOA with Union College for ESU Candidate Placement Agreement
- V. Approve MOA with Berea College Upward Bound Math and Science
- W. Approve MOA with Berea College GEAR UP Grant
- X. Approve Invitation to Bid for RCMS Combination Ovens

Mrs. Lakes made a motion to approve Operations & Actions with additions and amendments (italicized). Mrs. Woods seconded. All members present agreed.

4. DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- A. Review/Approve Mileage Reimbursement Rate for the 2021-2022 School Year (Mrs. Sweet)

Mrs. Sweet recommended the mileage reimbursement rate for the 2021-2022 school year be increased to .44 cents per mile as determined by the American Automobile Association (AAA) Daily Fuel Gauge Report for Kentucky. Mr. Hammond made a motion to approve the mileage reimbursement rate for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Woods seconded the motion. 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

Mrs. Woods made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports. Mrs. Lakes seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- C. Review/Approve New Kindergarten Teacher Position (1 Year) at Brodhead Elementary School (Mrs. Ballinger)**

Superintendent Ballinger noted that there are currently 3 kindergarten teachers at Brodhead Elementary and that there are 76 kindergarteners currently enrolled which would result in 25-26 students per class. The additional teacher would lower the class size to a more manageable number. She added that this was a 1 year position covered by ESSER funds. Ms. Goff made a motion to approve the new kindergarten teacher at Brodhead Elementary. Mrs. Lakes seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- D. Review/Approve Second Reading of 2021-2022 Policies & Procedures Updates (Mrs. Ballinger)**

Mrs. Woods made a motion to approve the second reading of the 2021-2022 Policies & Procedures Updates. Mr. Hammond seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- E. Review/Approve Second Reading of 2021-2022 Employee Handbook (Mrs. Ballinger)**

Mrs. Lakes made a motion to approve the second reading of the 2021-2022 Employee Handbook. Mr. Hammond seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- F. Review/Approve Second Reading of 2021-2022 Coaches Handbook (Mrs. Ballinger)**

Mrs. Woods made a motion to approve the second reading of the 2021-2022 Coaches Handbook. Mr. Hammond seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- G. Approve Minutes of the June 11, 2021 Special Board Meeting**

Mr. Hammond shared his concern in not including his personal comments in the minutes of the June 11th Special Board Meeting. He referenced that the meeting could be watched online at any time and did not see any reason for the comments to be excluded from the minutes.

Mrs. Lakes shared that she was not in favor of including Mr. Hammond's comments in the minutes at the advice of the Board Attorney. She added that she felt the statements included opinions and not facts and that the board could be sued for such statements.

Mrs. Mink stated that she was also not in favor of putting the district at risk by including Mr. Hammond's comments in the minutes since they included specific employee names and felt the board should take the advice of the Board Attorney.

Mrs. Woods also stated that she was not in favor of including Mr. Hammond's comments in minutes stating that there were too many accusations and not facts. She further stated that she felt surprised by the comments.

After further discussion, Mrs. Woods made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2021 Special Board Meeting as presented, excluding Mr. Hammond comments. Mrs. Lakes seconded the motion. Mrs. Woods, Mrs. Lakes, Mrs. Mink and Ms. Goff all agreed. Chairman Mink did not request nay votes.

5. DISCUSSION/REVIEW:

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

Superintendent Ballinger shared current personnel actions with the Board.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Department reports were shared via Google Drive.

7. SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

Superintendent Ballinger shared that she had begun to get questions regarding whether or not masks would be required for the new school year. She noted that the Commissioner of Education stated that will be a local decision, unless other guidance is issued between now and the return to school.

Superintendent Ballinger also shared that Mr. Hammond had mentioned that there had been inquiries within the community regarding Critical Race Theory (CRT) and whether or not it is taught in our schools. Superintendent Ballinger stated that Rockcastle County Schools is charged with teaching Kentucky Academic Standards, which does not include CRT.

8. BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Lakes stated that she would like for the Board to establish a time to review the Board Team Commitments. She also stated that she thinks the board should start making a plan for the money that the district has in CDs. Mrs. Lakes also shared concerns from community members that inquired about Mr. Hammonds eligibility to serve on the school board, asking Mr. Hammond if he had any information to share. Mr. Hammond responded that a previous opinion from the Attorney General in regards to a Superintendent of a county serving on the school board in another county was only an opinion for that specific case. He also referenced that his legal advisors did not think the AG's opinion applied to his situation.

Mrs. Woods stated that she would like for district office staff to return to sharing department reports and would also like to honor students and staff members for their accomplishments during regular board meetings.

Mr. Hammond inquired about the district's Title IX status. Mr. Reppert shared that according to our most recent information, there are more girls participating in athletics than boys. Overall, the district spends slightly more on boys, but only by a small amount. Mr. Hammond referenced upgrades to the locker room. Mr. Reppert asserted that the locker room is used by all athletic departments, boys and girls. He further explained that the district would be sending out a survey to student athletes to gauge interests in sports not already offered.

Mr. Hammond also suggested that the Board consider having a student member. Board members and Mrs. Ballinger were both in support.

Mrs. Mink requested that we share a plan for the use of ESSER III funds and how they will be used within the district.

Lastly, Mrs. Mink thanked Mrs. Jennifer Mattingly, retiring Instructional Supervisor, for her service to Rockcastle County Schools. Mrs. Mink also shared her excitement in regards to the hiring of the new BES Principal, Sandy Brown.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Mrs Lakes made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 PM. Mrs. Woods seconded the motion. All members present agreed.