

Rockcastle County Board of Education

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Rockcastle Teaching & Learning Center ♦ 250 Richmond Street, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

September 14, 2021 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

Chairman Mink called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM. At the direction of Board Chair Mink, those in attendance observed a moment of silent prayer. All members were present. Mrs. Lakes read the Board Team Commitments.

2. ADOPT AGENDA/ACTION

Mrs. Mink requested that the agenda be amended to include the following items under Discussion/Action:

- 6F. Review/ Approve Superintendent use as needed for 20 temporary remote instructional days
- 6G. Review/Approve \$100 for all vaccinated employees to match the \$100 that the Kentucky Department of Education is providing to all vaccinated employees.
- 6H. Review/Approve the hiring of 2 retired teachers to provide Expanded Instructional Services during COVID Pandemic (21-22 school year) at KTRS Daily Wage Threshold

Mrs. Woods made a motion to adopt the agenda with the requested additions. Ms. Goff made a second. All members present agreed.

3. SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SHOWCASE:

- A. Rockcastle County High School (Mr. Bussell)

RCHS Principal JD Bussell introduced Agriculture Teacher Matthew Whitaker and the RCHS Agronomy Team members Ashley Brenda, Logen Dykes, Natalie Tolle, Luree Gabbard and Dylon Thompson. The team recently placed 1st in at the KY State Fair. Mr. Whitaker provided an update on the AppHarvest project noting that the concrete pad had been completed and that we hoped to receive our container in early 2022 and be able to have lettuce ready in the spring.

RCHS Student Council President Haley Thacker provided an update on recent projects including the upcoming 50th RCHS Football Homecoming and the annual scholarships they will award. She noted that the club continues to produce podcasts, provide social media updates and is also working on establishing a new website.

Mr. Bussell shared an update about the upcoming Hunger Walk in partnership with Christian Appalachian Project.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. Rachele Riddle - Mask Requirements

Ms. Riddle was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, but had sent a letter to address the board which was read by Mrs. Connie Riddle. The letter encouraged the board to continue with the mask mandate in our schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and included appreciation to the district for offering a virtual learning option for parents/students that did not feel comfortable attending school in-person.

5. OPERATIONS/ACTIONS:

- A. Approve Minutes of the August 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of the September 2, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- C. Approve Minutes of the September 8, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- D. Approve Bills for Payment
- E. Approve School Trips
- F. Approve Unpaid Leave Request
- G. Approve Requests for Family and Medical Leave of Absence
- H. Approve MOA with Kentucky Incentives for Prevention (KIP)
- I. Approve Letter of Agreement with AdvanceKY
- J. Approve MOA with Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Local Education Authority
- K. Approve Membership to Support the Council for Better Education, Inc.
- L. Approve Evaluation of Superintendent Process

- M. Approve FRYSC Contract Modification
- N. Approve Certified Evaluation Plan (CEP) Modification

Mr. Hammond requested that the board minutes for August 10, 2021 not be approved and be revised to include the comments between him and Ms. Lakes regarding his ability to serve on the Board. Board members agreed to look into the issue with the August 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Goff made a motion to approve Operations/Actions Items 5B-5N. Mrs. Woods seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- A. Review/Approve 2021-2022 Working Budget (Mrs. Sweet)

Director of Finance Jenny Sweet presented the 2022 Working Budget with the following information:

- 2021-2022 Tax Receipts - \$3,528,000
- 2021-2022 Net General Fund SEEK Forecast - \$14,000,101
- The district has a 7% Contingency of \$1,845,960.14.

The total revenue and expenses for 2021-2022 budget is \$40,712,335.38.

Ms. Goff made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Working Budget. 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. Lakes made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports. Ms. Goff seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- C. Review/Approve Resolution Authorizing COVID-19 Related Leave (Mrs. Ballinger)

Superintendent Ballinger shared the Resolution Authorizing COVID-19 Related Leave in accordance with 702 KAR 1:191E which states that during the 2021-22 school year only, full-time and part-time employees who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 may use up to two weeks (10 work days) without loss of salary upon approval of the Superintendent/designee.

Mr. Hammond made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Goff seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- D. Review/Approve Rockcastle Academy Teacher Position (Mr. Reppert)

Director of Student Services Marcus Reppert shared the need for an additional teacher to administer virtual instruction. He noted that the increase in COVID numbers in our community has created the request from families for more students to go to the virtual learning platform. He added that there are currently 40 students on the waiting list. Additionally, he noted that this position was for one year only. Mr. Hammond made a motion to approve the Rockcastle Academy Teacher Position for one year. Ms. Goff seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- E. Review/Approve Updated Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (Mrs. Ballinger)

Superintendent Ballinger presented the updated Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plan. The updates included details regarding the Test-to-Stay Program and a continuation of the mask mandate while the community is in the red and orange zones. Mrs. Woods made a motion to approve the updated plan. Ms. Goff seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- F. Review/ Approve Superintendent Use as Needed for 20 Temporary Remote Instructional Days

Superintendent Ballinger requested that the board allow her use of the 20 Temporary Remote Instruction Days approved by the state, as needed. Mr. Hammond made a motion to approve the as-needed use of the 20 Temporary Remote Instructional Days at the discretion of Superintendent Ballinger. Mrs. Woods seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- G. Review/Approve \$100 for all vaccinated employees to match the \$100 that the Kentucky Department of Education as offered to all vaccinated employees.

Superintendent Ballinger requested that the Board provide a \$100 payment to all full-time and part-time employees that received the COVID-19 vaccine, matching the \$100 given by the state. Mrs. Woods made a motion to approve the \$100 payment. Mrs. Lakes seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- H. Review/Approve the hiring of 2 retired teachers to provide Expanded Instructional Services during COVID Pandemic (21-22 school year) at KTRS Daily Wage Threshold

Superintendent Ballinger requested to hire two retired teachers to provide expanded instructional services to students during the 2021-2022 school year at the KTRS Daily Wage Threshold. Mrs. Woods made a motion to approve. Mrs. Lakes seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

7. DISCUSSION/REVIEW:

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

Superintendent Ballinger shared the Personnel Action Report for the month of August 2021.

8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Department reports were shared via Google Drive with all Board members.

9. SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

Superintendent Ballinger shared her appreciation to staff for their efforts to serve students through the trying times created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Hammond asked Transportation Director Ken Hopkins if the 72 passenger buses are still the best option or should the district go back to the 66 passenger option for easier turn-arounds. Mr. Hopkins shared that there were very few situations that the 66 passenger bus would make a difference in the ability to turn-around. He asserted the additional capacity helps tremendously with decreasing the number of routes, field trips and the very small price difference between the two options.

Based on a recent inquiry, Mr. Hammond asked about any plans to resurface the track at the football field. Director of Facilities Trent Clark noted that he had looked into resurfacing the track, but that it needed to be completely replaced because there were many other issues that had resulted in it's poor condition, such as drainage problems. He further explained that he hoped a new track would be part of the new middle school facility.

Mr. Hammond inquired as to whether booster funds had been being used for travel and referees. Superintendent Ballinger stated she would look into his inquiry regarding booster funds and address it with athletic staff.

Mr. Hammond shared his letter of resignation from the Division 5 School Board seat, effective January 1, 2022.

Mrs. Woods shared her appreciation to school staff for their hard work during these difficult times. She further asked that parents have patients as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on how the district operates.

Mrs. Woods thanked Mr. Hammond for this service to the Board.

Ms. Goff thanked Mr. Hammond for this service to the Board. She also shared her appreciation to school staff stating we are "blessed with the best".

Mrs. Mink shared her appreciation to school staff and thanked Mr. Hammond for always sharing a different perspective for her to consider.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:11 PM, Ms. Goff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Woods seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

Angela Stallsworth-Mink, Board Chair

Carrie Ballinger, Secretary