

# Rockcastle County Board of Education

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

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Rockcastle Teaching & Learning Center ♦ 250 Richmond Street, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456  
November 9, 2021 - 6:00 PM

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

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

### 2. ADOPT AGENDA/ACTION

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

### 3. SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SHOWCASE:

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#### A. Mt. Vernon Elementary School (Mr. Coffey)

Mr. Coffey shared his pride and appreciation for the students and staff at MVES, as well as the board and Central Office staff for their hard work and support. He pointed out the Character Pumpkins on display and on the screen as a culminating project from 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to spotlight their favorite literary characters. He also shared information about the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Native American unit, including dioramas, presentations and gallery walks. 5<sup>th</sup> grade student Darius Bubilici, winner of the UNITE Poster Contest shared his artwork and winning submission. 5<sup>th</sup> grader AJ Martin, School Winner of the DAR Essay Contest, read his winning essay titled, "Tomb of the Unknown Solder." Ms. Ballinger and Ms. Mink thanked the students and Mr. Coffey for their presentations.

#### B. Rockcastle County Middle School Building Presentation (Mr. Phillips)

Mr. Phillips presented the need for a new middle school by sharing pictures of internal structural damage and what he sees every day, including walls separating from the foundation, cracks in the floors, past mold damage, etc... He expressed the need for a school built to accommodate a true middle school concept, with smaller teams, as opposed to the high school model for which this structure was originally built over 50 years ago. Mr. Phillips also invited the board members to the upcoming Veteran's Day Program on Thursday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, which will include a parade through Mt. Vernon and a luncheon for our veterans.

#### C. Energy Project Savings Update (CMTA)-Brian Mason

Mr. Mason presented the CMTA GESC Progress Report and good news regarding our energy savings thus far. In August/September, RCS saved \$31,087.00 (35%) in utility costs during these 2 months alone. RCS received \$66,862.13 in KU Utility Rebates, along with a breakdown of the savings for each building. Mr. Mason also shared a re-cap of the work completed at MVES this fall and that some equipment has already been ordered and will be stored off site until needed, due to supply chain issues at the national level. Ms. Ballinger thanked Mr. Mason for his presentation.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

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- A. James Poynter - Vaccine Incentive

Mr. Poynter, bus driver for RCS, spoke to the board regarding his concern about the vaccine incentive approved by the board. He shared his love for this district and our students and staff and his numerous roles held in the district over the past several years. He encouraged the board to continue to hold freedom as a value when making decisions for the district. He shared his personal experience with COVID, along with his family and his reasons for not wanting to be vaccinated why the incentive was a concern for him. Ms. Mink thanked Mr. Poynter for speaking. Ms. Lakes expressed her hope for unity among all staff members.

### 5. OPERATIONS/ACTIONS:

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- A. Approve Minutes of the October 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of the October 19, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- C. Approve Minutes of the October 26, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- D. Approve Minutes of the November 4, 2021 Special Board Meeting

- E. Approve Bills for Payment
- F. Approve School Trips
- G. Approve Requests for Family and Medical Leave of Absence
- H. Approve Adult Meal Pricing Increase
- I. Approve MOA with Midway University
- J. Approve Non-Resident Contract with Fayette County Public Schools

Ms. Goff made a motion to approve Operations/Actions. Ms. Woods made a second. All members present agreed.

## **6. DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

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

Chairman Mink asked Ms. Sweet about the payment to 5/3 Bank. Ms. Sweet stated that those purchases were made using the district credit card, which is managed by 5/3 Bank. Ms. Goff made a motion to approve the Monthly Financial Reports. Ms. Woods made a second. All members present agreed.

- B. Review/Approve Salary Schedule Amendment for Roundstone Elementary Family Resource Coordinator Position (Mrs. Ballinger)

Superintendent Ballinger stated that the Salary Schedule Amendment was needed to keep the salary and number of days worked within the parameters of the grant and to match the other FRYSC Coordinators. Ms. Goff made a motion to approve the Salary Schedule Amendment for Roundstone Family Resource Coordinator Position. Ms. Lakes made a second. All members present agreed.

## **7. DISCUSSION/REVIEW:**

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

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

## **8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

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

## **9. SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION**

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Superintendent Ballinger shared with the board her recent meeting with the new Superintendent's Advisory Council, which is an activity listed in her Professional Growth Plan. The Council met on November 9<sup>th</sup>, prior to the board meeting and contained representatives from each school. Superintendent Ballinger told the board that efforts would be made to add/invite middle/high school students in January.

## **10. BOARD COMMENTS**

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Ms. Lakes expressed her appreciation for all of RCS teachers and staff for their hard work. She also suggested that with a new board member joining in January, it might be a good time to revisit the Board team commitments and vision.

Mr. Hammond made a comment regarding ESSR funds and their significance to the district budget. He had a question about how those funds might be spent. He referenced a conversation he had recently had with a former employee for several years. He expressed the importance of thinking about the teachers and staff and their loss of buying power over the last several year, due to inflation. He asked the board to consider our teachers when thinking of how to spend those funds? He asked if the board could plan for a guaranteed 1% yearly raise.

Ms. Lakes inquired about when the salary schedule is reviewed and how RCS compares to surrounding counties. Ms. Sweet stated that we are not at the bottom nor at the top. We are in the middle range, when it comes to salaries. She also emphasized the need to also consider the bus drivers, cooks, janitors and classified staff, who provide invaluable services to our students every day.

Mr. Hammond had an additional inquiry about fundraisers, based on a comment from someone. While he realizes that fundraisers are necessary, he asked if the district could lighten the load of families when it comes to fundraisers.

Chairman Mink asked to recognize the recent success of the RCHS Land Judging team who earned State Runners-Up this month and qualified for the National Range and Land Judging Competition in Oklahoma City. The board discussed ways to assist this team as they compete at the national level.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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Ms. Lakes made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM. Ms. Woods seconded the motion. All members present agreed.