

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

Present: Chairman Neil Whitmore; Trustees Corey Berkstresser, Catie Brown, Kathy Burant, Wendy Lovell; Superintendent Phillip Thompson, Clerk Rhonda Humphries.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Whitmore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION:

Mr. Timothy Martino, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Ms. Erin Allen, Art Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, who provided a visual presentation of the artwork submitted for participation in the VSBA Student Art Contest. The contest was held in conjunction with the annual VSBA Spring Regional Network Forum on April 11, 2023. The three students who participated were: Jayden Nguyen, Central Elementary School; Sydney Rose, Maury River Middle School; and Katelynn Patterson, Rockbridge County High School. Ms. Allen explained the techniques used for the elementary and middle school artwork pieces. Ms. Patterson explained her inspiration for her painting and expressed her appreciation to Ms. Allen for giving her the opportunity to participate.

- Trustee Lovell expressed her appreciation to Ms. Erin Allen, Art Teacher, and Ms. Miranda Fitzgerald, Music / Band Teacher, for their work for the arts program.
- Chairman Whitmore expressed his sentiment that it is always great to hear of the work of our students and appreciated having Ms. Patterson speak to the board.

Ms. Melanie Hickman, Interim Principal, Natural Bridge Elementary School, and Ms. Julie Morris, reading specialist, provided information on the program of "One School, One Book" that their school participated in. Ms. Hickman stated that this program provided students with a very rich literature experience to ensure that students were exposed to the text in a cross-curricula fashion, which includes all specialty area teachers, as well as classroom teachers. The book chosen for this program was "The Chocolate Touch" by Patrick Skene Catling. Title I funds paid for the purchase of the book for all students and staff. Ms. Leyna Hansley, DREAMS Coordinator, led the after school program participants to create a variety of candies that were hung in the hallways in anticipation of the kick-off date of January 30, 2023. Ms. Julie Morris created a play for the kick-off assembly, which included members of the staff. Students were given the book at the kick-off assembly, as well as a calendar mapping out the daily reading schedule and a first choice board to encourage reading and participation. Students were encouraged to read the book at home with their family. While at school, students explored the novel with their classmates and their teachers. This essential strategy reinforced their reading instruction, increased parental involvement, bridged the home-school connection, and built a true community of readers. Staff members read the chapters of the book in sections so that recordings were available on the Natural Bridge Elementary School Facebook page for families to follow along at home. Ms. Lacey Lynch, music teacher, incorporated songs about chocolate to help students connect to the book. Mr. Forest Hundley, physical education teacher, taught students a new way to jump rope to one of the songs. The third through fifth graders put on a musical performance for Natural Bridge families on March 9, 2023. Students also worked on different projects related to this project during Art. This initiative was a collaborative effort involving the entire staff, especially Music, PE, Art, Title I Reading, and the after school program of DREAMS. The candy that hung in the hallways was taken down and given to Ms. Martha Dudley, third grade teacher, for her students to count the pieces of candy as part of their ongoing PBL quest.

- Mr. Timothy Martino, Assistant Superintendent, expressed his sentiment that it is important to understand that people see the finished product of presentations, and stated that in his time as a principal, he always ended a presentation with the sentiment that for each two minutes of a performance that you see, it takes about two hours of time and preparation. He offered his appreciation for all of the school and congratulations to Natural Bridge Elementary School staff and students for a job well done.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon recommendation by Chairman Whitmore, motion by Trustee Lovell, seconded by Trustee Burant, the board approved the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: 1) March 13, 2023 [Discipline Committee Hearing]; 2) March 14, 2023 [Regular Meeting]; 3) March 23, 2023 [Joint Meeting with Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors]; 4) March 27, 2023 [Discipline Committee Hearing]

- Field Trip Requests
- Fundraiser Requests
- Applications for Use of Facilities
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Professional Staff

Melanie Hickman, Principal, Natural Bridge Elementary School, remainder of the 2022-2023 school year

Gracyn Darrington, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, 2023-2024 School Year

Substitute Bus Driver

Kimberly McKee

Food Service Substitute

Kelly Snarr

Spring Coaches 2022-2023

Rockbridge County High School

Soccer

Matthew Roy, Boys' Volunteer Soccer Coach

Maury River Middle School

Outdoor Track

Andrew Ludtke, Volunteer Outdoor Track Coach

Support Staff

Resignation

Lisa Burkhart, Mountain View Elementary, resigning effective end of the 2022-2023 school year

Professional Staff

Resignations

Christine Black, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year

Racheal Blalock (Hepler), Teacher, Maury River Middle School, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year

Professional Staff Approved for Employment 2023-2024 School Year

Central Office Administrators on Continuing Contracts - Instructional

Crossman, Matthew	Director of School Services
Daniels, David	Director of Financial Services
Falls, Melanie	Director of Testing and Instructional Data
Kirby, Jason	Chief Business Officer
Martino, Timothy	Assistant Superintendent of Instruction & Administration
Owens, Paige	Director of Technology & Career & Technical Education
Walters, Randall	Chief Operations Officer

Central Office Administrator completing year 1 or less

Rhodenizer, Ashley	Director of Special Education
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School-Based Administrators on Continuing Contracts - Instructional

Craft, Mike	Principal
Fleshman, Scott	Assistant Principal
Parker, Robin	Principal
Pollock, Kimberly	Assistant Principal
Stevens, Vicki	Principal

School-Based Administrators completing year 2 or less

Camden, Melanie	Principal
Fauber, Lauren	Principal
Haynes, Adam	Athletic Director

School-Based Administrators completing year 1 or less

Breeding, Jason	Assistant Principal
Fallen, Daniel	Assistant Principal
Jones, Kelly	Assistant Principal
Hickman, Melanie	Principal

Support Staff on Continuing Contracts – Instructional

Bennett, Rebecca	Supervisor of Instructional Technology
Bain, Ricky	Supervisor of Human Resources
Breeding, Allison	Data Manager
Cummins, Tamara	Psychologist
Hinty, Tracy	Supervisor of Federal Programs
Ludtke, Jennifer	Supervisor of Elementary Special Education
Wills, Thomas	Psychologist

Support Staff Not on Continuing Contracts - Instructional

Allen, Penni	Coordinator of School Nurses
Campbell, Kirstie	Supervisor of Transportation
Gerow, Charles	Manager of Network Services

Teachers/Counselors on Continuing Contracts - Alphabetized Listing

Allen, Erin	Teacher (Classroom)
Armstrong, Misty	Teacher (Classroom)
Bailey, Jeffrey	Teacher (Classroom)
Beard, Jeanne	Teacher (Classroom)
Black, Victoria	Teacher (Classroom)
Bowen, Bernadette	Teacher (Classroom)
Bradley, Patrick	Teacher (Classroom)
Braun, Rachael	Teacher (Classroom)
Brooks, Laurie	Teacher (Classroom)
Brooks, Lindsay	Teacher (Classroom)
Brooks, Stephanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Brown, Sherry	Teacher (Classroom)
Brown, Stuart	Teacher (Classroom)
Bryant, Rebecca	Teacher (Classroom)
Burks, Amanda	Librarian
Camden, Hillary	School Counselor
Carter, Shelly	Teacher (Classroom)
Cauley, Sonya	Teacher (Classroom)
Chittum, Jessica	Teacher (Classroom)
Clark, Stephanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Clay, Valerie	Teacher (Classroom)
Clemmer, Karen	Teacher (Classroom)
Coffey, Ronald	Teacher (Classroom)
Coleman, Amy	Teacher (Classroom)
Conner, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Cosgriff, Coleen	Teacher (Classroom)
Crance, Jessika	Teacher (Classroom)
Davis, Maury	Teacher (Classroom)
Diette, Courtney	Teacher (Classroom)
Dietz, Carrie	Teacher (Classroom)
Donahue, Kiersten	Teacher (Classroom)
Dowless, Gretchen	Teacher (Classroom)
Dudley, Martha	Teacher (Classroom)
Duff, Karen	Teacher (Classroom)
Edwards, Sarah	Librarian
Erskine, Farrah	Teacher (Classroom)
Falls, Christina	Librarian
Fitzgerald, Miranda	Teacher (Classroom)
Fleshman, Rebecca	Teacher (Classroom)
Flint, Lindsey	Teacher (Classroom)
Floyd, Heather	Teacher (Classroom)
Floyd, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers/Counselors on Continuing Contracts - Alphabetized Listing (continued)

Folsom, Keith	Teacher (Classroom)
Fuller-Spears, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Funkhouser, Kristie	Teacher (Classroom)
Gallagher, Chris	Teacher (Classroom)
Gay-Milliken, Jacqueline	Teacher (Classroom)
George, Anikka	Teacher (Classroom)
Gerken, James	Teacher (Classroom)
Glass, Heath	Teacher (Classroom)
Godfrey, Joan	Teacher (Classroom)
Gosney, Gwendolyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Gray, Tracey	Teacher (Classroom)
Guerdat, Amanda	Teacher (Classroom)
Hadley, Constance	Teacher (Classroom)
Hamelman, Brian	Teacher (Classroom)
Hardin, Ashley	Teacher (Classroom)
Hardin, Perry	Teacher (Classroom)
Harris, Andrea	Teacher (Classroom)
Harris, Kathryn	Teacher (Classroom)
Haver, Sue	Teacher (Classroom)
Hawes, Joseph	Teacher (Classroom)
Hellmuth, Elizabeth	Teacher (Classroom)
Hepler, Rachael	Teacher (Classroom)
Henk, Kimberly	Teacher (Classroom)
Hepner, Shannon	Teacher (Classroom)
Hess, Barbara	Teacher (Classroom)
Higgins, Sherry	Teacher (Classroom)
Hinkle, Amy	Teacher (Classroom)
Hockman, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Hoehne, Susan	Teacher (Classroom)
Holton, Mary	Teacher (Classroom)
Huffman, Laura	Teacher (Classroom)
Huffman, Sean	Teacher (Classroom)
Hughes, Michelle	Teacher (Classroom)
Hundley, Forrest	Teacher (Classroom)
Imler, Christine	Teacher (Classroom)
Jarvis, Alton	Teacher (Classroom)
Jarvis, Teresa	Teacher (Classroom)
Johnson, Anne	Teacher (Classroom)
Jones, Robert	Teacher (Classroom)
Keesee, Lisa	Teacher (Classroom)
Kirby, Michelle	School Counselor
Knepper, Ann	Teacher (Classroom)
Kostelni, Maria	Teacher (Classroom)
Leadbetter, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Lenoir, Robert	Teacher (Classroom)
Leonard, Katrina	Teacher (Classroom)
Lewis, Amber	Teacher (Classroom)
Little, Jean	Teacher (Classroom)
Loret, Michael	Teacher (Classroom)
Losh, Gerald	Teacher (Classroom)
Lynch, Lacey	Teacher (Classroom)
Mahood, Susan	Teacher (Classroom)
Malloy, Cynthia	Teacher (Classroom)
Marshall, Molly	Teacher (Classroom)
Martin, Andy	Teacher (Classroom)
Martin, Lisa	Teacher (Classroom)
Mastin, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Matsumoto, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Mazingo, Jason	Teacher (Classroom)
Mazingo, Kristyn	Teacher (Classroom)
McElroy, April	Teacher (Classroom)
McElroy, Elizabeth	Teacher (Classroom)
McFaddin, Rebecca	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers/Counselors on Continuing Contracts - Alphabetized Listing (continued)

McGrath, Christopher	Teacher (Classroom)
McKenzie, Rachael	Teacher (Classroom)
Miller, David	Teacher (Classroom)
Mohler, Shanna	Teacher (Classroom)
Moore, Heather	Teacher (Classroom)
Morris, Julie	Teacher (Classroom)
Nicely, Katelyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Owens, Marsha	Teacher (Classroom)
Parks, Heather	Teacher (Classroom)
Paxton, Ariadne	Teacher (Classroom)
Payne, Ashlee	Teacher (Classroom)
Peters, Margaret	Teacher (Classroom)
Polly, Tasha	Teacher (Classroom)
Poston, Mark	Teacher (Classroom)
Powell, Rosemary	Teacher (Classroom)
Propst, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Rapoza, Kelly	Teacher (Classroom)
Rhodenizer, Zachary	Teacher (Classroom)
Richarde, Robin	Teacher (Classroom)
Roadcap, Travis	Teacher (Classroom)
Sandridge, Marilyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Schemehorn, Wanda	School Counselor
Schmidt, Elizabeth	Teacher (Classroom)
Schrivier, Karlie	Teacher (Classroom)
Schucker, Matthew	Teacher (Classroom)
Schultz, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Sherman, Robyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Stolarz, Mary Curtis	Teacher (Classroom)
Stutsman, Lindsay	Teacher (Classroom)
Tanner, Julie	Librarian
Tanner, William	Teacher (Classroom)
Tomlin, Melissa	Teacher (Classroom)
Torrence, Teresa	Teacher (Classroom)
Trombetta, Christina	Teacher (Classroom)
Tucker, Cynthia	Teacher (Classroom)
Tuttle, Bradyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Tuttle, Stephanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Wallace, Corey	Teacher (Classroom)
Watts, Atlanta	Teacher (Classroom)
Weidman, Jodie	Teacher (Classroom)
Wheeler, Kirk	Teacher (Classroom)
Wheeler, Terri	Teacher (Classroom)
Whitesell, Cathy	Teacher (Classroom)
Whitmer, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Whitmore, Gwendolyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Wilhelm, Nicole	Teacher (Classroom)
Williams, Jonathan	Teacher (Classroom)
Williamson, Lauren	Teacher (Classroom)
Woody, Amy	Teacher (Classroom)
Woody, Elizabeth	Teacher (Classroom)
Wright, Deborah	Teacher (Classroom)
Youngblood, Jamie	Teacher (Classroom)
Youngdahl, Scott	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers /Counselors Eligible for Continuing Contract (Completing Probationary Status)

Armstrong, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Bailey, Kristin	School Counselor
Balkey, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Black, Christine	Teacher (Classroom)
Butler, Rebekah	Teacher (Classroom)
Clemmer, Katie	Teacher (Classroom)
Cox, Martin	Teacher (Classroom)
Grimm, Amanda	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers /Counselors Eligible for Continuing Contract (Completing Probationary Status)**(contined)**

Hogge, Stephanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Howald, Dana	Teacher (Classroom)
Kelly, Adam	Teacher (Classroom)
Lunsford, Cindy	Teacher (Classroom)
Mast, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
McRae, Stephanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Palmer, Shauna	Teacher (Classroom)
Perlozzo, Nicholas	Teacher (Classroom)
Ritter, Theresa	Teacher (Classroom)
Steiner, Michelle	Teacher (Classroom)
Tyree, Kristen	Teacher (Classroom)
Tyree, Stephanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Whitten, Jessica	Teacher (Classroom)
Winfield, Robert	Teacher (Classroom)
Vanderveer, Derek	School Counselor
Vest, Andrew	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers/Counselors Completing Year 2

Beard, Tori	School Counselor
Bellairs, Andrew	Teacher (Classroom)
Beristain, Hillary	Teacher (Classroom)
Carr, Janell	Librarian
Crawford, Stacey	Teacher (Classroom)
Dekle, Jane	Teacher (Classroom)
Dishman, Emmalyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Dishman, Zachary	Teacher (Classroom)
Glass, Katelyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Harlow, Christina	Teacher (Classroom)
Hite, Jeannie	Teacher (Classroom)
Jarvis, Courtney	Teacher (Classroom)
Jones, Erin	Teacher (Classroom)
Kerr, Destinee	School Counselor
McMichael, Taylor	Teacher (Classroom)
Patrick, Emma	Teacher (Classroom)
Painter, Hannah	Teacher (Classroom)
Paxton, Raegan	School Counselor
Perkins, Richard	Teacher (Classroom)
Ramsey, Blake	Teacher (Classroom)
Ramsey, Linda Jean	Teacher (Classroom)
Ricker, Christa	Teacher (Classroom)
Roberts, Haley	Teacher (Classroom)
Spangler, Cynthia	Teacher (Classroom)
Spangler, Paul	Teacher (Classroom)
Thomas, Brookney	Teacher (Classroom)
Tyree, Julie	Teacher (Classroom)
Wiedrich, Lindsay	Teacher (Classroom)
Wolfe, Maryann	Teacher (Classroom)
Wurster, Mallory	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers/Counselors Completing Year 1 or Less

Alt, Mila	Teacher (Classroom)
Andrews, Angela	Teacher (Classroom)
Bailey, Ashley	School Counselor
Bennett, Colter	Teacher (Classroom)
Bolen, Brooke	Teacher (Classroom)
Bryan, Shannon	Teacher (Classroom)
Clark, Haileigh	Teacher (Classroom)
Clements, Patricia	Teacher (Classroom)
Fallen, Adrienne	Teacher (Classroom)
Foisy, Veronica	Teacher (Classroom)
Fridley, Shawna	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers/Counselors Completing Year 1 or Less (continued)

Goodbar, Savannah	Teacher (Classroom)
Gundacker, Paul	Teacher (Classroom)
Haas, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Hinkle, Robert	Teacher (Classroom)
Johnson, Diana	Teacher (Classroom)
Kabzinski, Benjamin	Teacher (Classroom)
Lampman, Peter	Teacher (Classroom)
Little, Tyra	School Counselor
McDaniel, Krista	Teacher (Classroom)
Mitchem, Lenna	Teacher (Classroom)
Nelson, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Murray, Heather	Teacher (Classroom)
Nester, Audrey	Teacher (Classroom)
Perkins, Amanda	Teacher (Classroom)
Perlozzo, Nicholas	Teacher (Classroom)
Poulin, Erin	Teacher (Classroom)
Robinson, McKenzey	Teacher (Classroom)
Saunders, Karlan	Teacher (Classroom)
Sheets, Kathryn	Teacher (Classroom)
Sholes, Amy	Teacher (Classroom)
Simon, Andrew	Teacher (Classroom)
Smith, Brandon	Teacher (Classroom)
Staton, Judith	Teacher (Classroom)
Tyree, Kristen	Teacher (Classroom)
Walters, Michael	Teacher (Classroom)
Wheeler, Jacob	Teacher (Classroom)
Wiley, Caryn	Teacher (Classroom)

- Religious Exemption Application
- Declaration of Surplus Vehicles
- Business Items
 - Approved debt service payments due June 1, 2023 to US Bank for Rockbridge County Public Schools VPSA bonds in the amount of \$159,375.00.
 - Approve Monthly Financials in the amount of \$3,881,165.09.

Superintendent Thompson stated that as part of the Board’s approval of the consent agenda, Ms. Melanie Hickman was named the new principal at Natural Bridge Elementary School, effective immediately. Ms. Hickman has most recently served as the interim principal of Natural Bridge Elementary School. She is a product of Rockbridge County Public Schools and has been an educator in our school division for the past twenty-four years. Superintendent Thompson offered his congratulations and stated that he is looking forward to working with her in her new leadership role.

- Chairman Whitmore stated that it is wonderful to see someone so rooted in the community move into this role and expressed his congratulations to Ms. Hickman.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BUDGET PLANNING:

Superintendent Thompson stated that the division is still waiting for Richmond and is hoping for conclusion soon. He stated that the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors have closed the budgetary gap, which means they have also closed the gap for the schools in whatever manner they see fit. He stated that while listening to one of the most recent meetings of the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors are hopeful that we will be able to offer a 5% well-deserved raise to all of our employees and also be able to meet the other school board priority of adding two positions at Maury River Middle School for an alternative education setting. The local Board of Supervisors are also waiting to hear from the state with many unknowns. The current news is positive at this moment and is better than what it could have been. He further expressed his appreciation for the Board of Supervisors and of their support for our schools, teachers, and staff and for all of the hard work they do to ensure that we will be able to give at least a 5% raise for next year.

- Trustee Lovell expressed her appreciation to Superintendent Thompson and the administrative staff for their time and effort put into developing the budget as it is an annual burden to bear as we wait for decision-makers to make their decisions.

- Superintendent Thompson stated that it is a burden in that the discussion for contracts for next year has begun. He stated that contracts have been issued in the past without a budget out of Richmond but there has always been a caveat of "pending budget approval". It is hard to budget now when there are still many unknown factors such as how many students there will be, how many teachers will be needed, and how much money we will be funded from Richmond for FY24.
- Chairman Whitmore stated that people may not realize that when developing a budget, there are many factors that are out of the control of the school division, making it a difficult process. He also stated that it is good to hear of a positive response from the Board of Supervisors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Burant stated that she and Trustee Berkstresser met with the Renovation Committee and Spectrum Design to discuss the Rockbridge Innovation Center renovation. She stated that the design is coming along nicely, there is great input and communication taking place with staff, and that the plans are being updated to fully support the needs of our students. She was pleased to find that new equipment is coming in to be used in conjunction with what is already in place, which will save taxpayer dollars.

- Superintendent Thompson stated that previous discussion in regards to timeline has been to get the project complete in a school years' time. As of right now, administration was anticipating to have a "notice to proceed" from the school board no later than July 11, 2023 and having shovels in the ground shortly thereafter, with the hope of finishing by August of 2024. There has been a lot of conversations the past several weeks with Mr. Spencer Suter, Rockbridge County Administrator, who has had conversations with the Board of Supervisors; there have been conversations with the school board as well. Spectrum Design has also been involved in conversations with regards to the current timeline. Mr. Granville Grant, Spectrum, conveyed that the short timeline is doable and reasonable, but was quick to add that adding three to four months to the timeline could potentially bring other construction candidates and bidders to the table, which could also increase competition, potentially lower costs, and could ultimately end with a better product without being under the timeline crunch of one year. There has been communication with all parties involved. The School Board has agreed to push the completion date out to December 2024, as opposed to August 2024. The challenge remains to ensure that we have quality instruction through the last three or four months just as throughout the year. Dr. Craft, Principal, Rockbridge County High School, and his RCHS team, Mr. Paige Owens, Director of Technology and Career and Technical Education, and Mr. Randy Walters, Chief Operations Officer, continue their hard work to figure out ways to make the quality instruction happen throughout that year, and the last three or four months as well. If something positive came out of covid, it was that teachers learned how to teach under odd circumstances. Construction will create some odd circumstances with respect to teaching effectively. Superintendent Thompson feels confident with the way things are progressing, noting "short-term pain for the long-term gain". It is the hope of gaining the limited certificate of occupancy by Thanksgiving of 2024 and being 98-99% complete, with a completion date of December 24, 2024 so that students will return to a new building after winter break.
- Chairman Whitmore expressed his sentiment that a key phrase is the "quality of the product" with the focus being for the students. He also stated that this is a unique project in that the quality renovation is taking place in the heart of the building which is used on a daily basis.
- Trustee Burant stated that she is most pleased with the quality of instruction that is being guaranteed for students while being good stewards of taxpayer funds. She stated that her concern is if the school can handle another half a year and how it may impact enrollment. She stated that knowing the staff and teachers in the classrooms, she feels very strongly that we can make it through. She offered her appreciation to the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors and others involved in the renovation project.

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:

Mr. Timothy Martino, Assistant Superintendent, provided information on the upcoming Summer Professional Development. He stated that teachers do a lot of summer work in preparation for the school year. The focus, once the school year begins, is on teaching and learning. He stated that this has been a great school year and has shown significant progress in a lot of our learners, but there is a long way to go. He stated that most of the work will occur in June. The highlights of his presentation were as follows:

- ❖ Elementary Library K-5 Curriculum Development
- ❖ PBL 101 (two sessions)
- ❖ Celebrations of Learning
- ❖ 3-12 Curriculum Work
- ❖ 6-12 English Collaborative Planning
- ❖ Elementary K-5 Reading
- ❖ LETRS, Cohort 2 (Fall)
- Superintendent Thompson expressed his appreciation to Mr. Martino, noting that it is evident when Mr. Martino speaks about instruction and working with students, his passion comes through and reflects the reason why he is in the position of Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Administration. Mr. Martino has done an excellent job of finding teachers and staff within Rockbridge County Public Schools who do well in training other teachers to help achieve success to increase instruction and achievement in the past several years. He offered his appreciation to Mr. Martino for all that he does and his initiatives to move the school division forward.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Ms. Ashley Rhodenizer, Director of Special Education, provided a first reading of the Rockbridge Area Special Education Advisory Council 2023-2024 members who the Board is required to formally approve. This will be presented for approval at the May board meeting.

Ms. Ashley Rhodenizer provided information on the Special Education Grant 2023-2024. The Rockbridge Area Special Education Advisory Council reviewed all documents at their meeting of March 16, 2023, as required. This will be presented for approval at the May board meeting.

- Trustee Lovell inquired, and received confirmation, that the amount set aside is for the period of the grant.
- Chairman Whitmore inquired in regards to the social and emotional well-being of students, what is being done.
 - Ms. Rhodenizer stated that training opportunities are being offered to staff so they can recognize things to do for themselves to help calm a situation, as well as for students, such as a calm-down corner for students, to regulate emotions. The goal is to build some structure for students and staff to recognize educational and social expectations.

ACTION ITEMS:

Upon recommendation by Chairman Whitmore, motion by Trustee Burant, seconded by Trustee Brown, the board voted 5-0, to approve the application for the Carl Perkins Grant, as presented.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Whitmore, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Burant, the board voted 5-0, to approve Policy JHCD-R Management of Naloxone Administration in the School Setting, as presented.

- Chairman Whitmore inquired, and received, confirmation that requirements have been met to move ahead with this policy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Whitmore inquired if there is any new information in regard to the School Resource Officer staffing.

- Superintendent Thompson stated that there is now a School Resource Officer assigned to each school in Rockbridge County.

Trustee Burant expressed her appreciation to the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors who came to the Rockbridge Innovation Center for a walk-through.

Trustee Burant expressed her appreciation to all schools for the invitations to school board members to attend events. She also expressed her appreciation to The Chamber of Commerce and all businesses who participated in Career Fest at the Virginia Horse Center.

Trustee Lovell stated that Central Elementary School hosted a great week of PE activities and that it was great to have parents back in the building with parents engaging in their children's learning.

Chairman Whitmore offered his sentiment that the board members are thinking of students and staff with six weeks of school remaining and with SOL testing coming up.

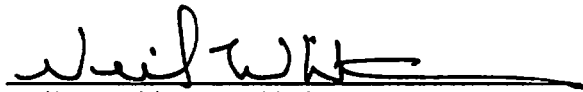
Trustee Berkstresser stated that he the attended Math 24 Challenge competition event at Central Elementary School and that it was great to see students from all over the county come together and compete.

SCHOOL BOARD

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 / 5:30 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Lovell, seconded by Trustee Brown, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.


Neil D. Whitmore, Chairman
Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board