

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at Maury River Middle School.

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION:

Mr. Rick Bain, Principal, Natural Bridge Elementary School, recognized Dawn Hetrick, Cafeteria Manager, Natural Bridge Elementary School, for being inducted into the No Kid Hungry School Lunch Heroes Virginia Hall of Fame.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes: 1) September 13, 2022 [Regular Meeting]; 2) September 21, 2022 [Discipline Committee Hearing]
- Field Trip and Bus Use Requests
- Fundraiser Requests
- Applications for Use of Facilities
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Support Staff

Kimberly Hamilton, Special Education Admin Assistant, Central Office, effective October 3, 2022

Amy Price, Cafeteria Manager, Fairfield Elementary School, effective October 12, 2022

Jeff Blalock, Alternative Education Specialist, Maury River Middle School, effective October 12, 2022

Luann Dongilli, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, effective October 12, 2022

Dawn Martin, School Nurse, Fairfield Elementary School, effective October 12, 2022

Substitute Teacher

James Kostelni

Substitute Food Service Workers

Heather Bursey

Resignation

Support Staff

Chelsia Wade, Teacher Assistant, Mountain View Elementary School, resigning effective November 22, 2022

Melissa Bennington, School Nurse, Fairfield Elementary School, resigning effective October 21, 2022

Retirement

Support Staff

Herman "Bryan" Barbour, Custodian, Natural Bridge Elementary School, retiring December 31, 2022

Winter Coaches 2022-2023

RCHS

Boys' Basketball

Robert Winfield, Head Coach

Troy Hall, Assistant Coach

Johnathan Williams, JV Coach

Gary Randall, Volunteer Coach

Tim Burkhart, Volunteer Coach

Forrest Hundley, Volunteer Coach

Girls' Basketball

Andrew Bellairs, Head Coach
Seth Clark, Assistant Coach
Ana Rasmussen, JV Coach

Wrestling

Mike Wood, Head Coach
Garret Schultz, Assistant Coach

Winter Cheer

Shannon Bryan, Head Coach
Tasha Polly, Assistant Coach

Indoor Track

Jennifer Showalter, Head Coach
Amy Zickafoose, Assistant Coach
Taylor Tyree, Volunteer Coach
Julie Tisone, Volunteer Coach
Mike Brown, Volunteer Coach
Gloria Brown, Volunteer Coach

Swimming

Erica Bisailon, Head Coach

Maury River Middle School**Boys' Basketball**

Ron Clark, Head Coach

Girls' Basketball

Michael Crouse, Head Coach
Monica Schaus, Volunteer Coach

Wrestling

John Campbell, Head Coach

Cheer

Taylor McMichael, Head Coach

- **Business Items**

- Approved appropriations to Fund 50 for new grants in the amount of \$1,630,152.00.
- Approved appropriations to Fund 50 for carryover grants in the amount of \$467,610.00.
- Approve Monthly Financials in the amount of \$3,584,742.43.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BUDGET PLANNING:

Superintendent Thompson stated that the budget season is actually a twelve-month process but that it will ramp up in October for FY24. He noted that this is the second year of the biennium with some budgetary factors known, which greatly aides in building the budget. It is difficult as the budget is to be final by April of each year, with some required numbers being unknown until August. The first budget work session for FY24 will tentatively be scheduled for late October or early November.

- Chairman Lovell stated that the budget process is the most challenging aspect of work done for the school division, and as a school board member, and reflected her hope that the community understands that it is a long process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Berkstresser provided a report on the Floyd S. Kay Renovation Advisory Committee. He stated that Spectrum Design has developed preliminary drawings but are subject to change. He stated that he feels there has been great progress in molding it to fit the needs of the school and community.

Trustee Brown provided an update on the Rockbridge County Public Schools Foundation. The Foundation held a recent fundraiser that resulted in a \$4,767.78 profit. There is an upcoming fundraiser at Devil's Backbone on November 1, 2022. She reported on two grants that have been awarded to teachers in Rockbridge County Public Schools by the Rockbridge County Public Schools Foundation.

- Chairman Lovell expressed appreciation to Trustee Berkstresser for his past service to the Rockbridge County Public Schools Foundation.

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:

Dr. Jennifer Floyd, Reading Specialist, Mountain View Elementary School, provided a report on "LETRS in Rockbridge County Public Schools" [Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and spelling]. This project leads to a connection of research to practice and provides teachers with "tools for their toolboxes and allows for conversation among colleagues. She provided an overview of the facilitator's role and components of the professional development model. The first cohort consists of volunteers, pre-k, elementary, and middle school classroom teachers, Reading Specialists, and an ESL specialist. The kick-off event was held on August 30, 2022. The project will have four face-to-face meetings during the school year, with the first meeting held on October 11, 2022.

- Trustee Burant inquired how many volunteers are working with the project.
 - Dr. Floyd stated that there are twenty-two volunteers consisting of English Language Specialists and middle school staff members because middle school often has students who need to building foundational skills and need the support. She reflected that having the support of Central Office administration and building level administrators has been crucial to this model.
 - Trustee Burant reflected that if a student cannot read, they are not going to succeed. The younger a student is and the more developed our teachers are will make the instructional process perfect.
- Chairman Lovell inquired if technology and social media has changed students' brains, the way they think and processed. She also asked if this program helps to mitigate some of the issues.
 - Dr. Floyd stated that Dr. Marion Wolf has a great book that addresses how we are changing our brains with screen time and that this is definitely something that needs to be considered as our students are becoming so saturated. This model will help teachers make sure that they are covering those foundational skills so that a struggling student will receive more support
- Mr. Timothy Martino, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Administration, expressed his appreciation to Dr. Floyd for her work with this professional development model. He expressed appreciation to the facilitators as they trained for fifty to sixty hours outside of the classroom time.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None**ACTION ITEMS:**

Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Burant, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the request to make December 16, 19, 2022 and May 23, 24, 2023 as two-hour early release days.

Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the Capital Improvements Plan FY 2023-2029, as presented.

NEW BUSINESS: None**SCHOOL BOARD**

There will be a joint meeting with the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, October 20, 2022 / 5:00 PM / Location: Rockbridge County School Board Office, 2893 Collierstown Road, Lexington, VA.

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 / 5:30 PM / Location: Maury River Middle School, 600 Waddell Street, Lexington, Virginia.

Superintendent Thompson requested that board members review the current mission and goals and relay to him their thoughts in making sure that the goals and mission are up to date. He stated that the comprehensive planning will begin for the next five to six years and critical work can begin now in comparing where we are now to five years ago and determine if it is still applicable.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Whitmore, seconded by Trustee Brown, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Wendy W. Lovell
Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman

Rhonda B. Humphries
Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board