

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at the County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION:

Chairman Lovell read a statement from Trustee Burant expressing her thoughts that she wants everyone to know that our students are lucky to be educated by a diverse community. There are a wealth of opportunities for our students to be enriched in Rockbridge County. She also wanted to highlight the incredible stadium and field dedication at the Rockbridge County High School football opener. She wanted to thank Dr. Thompson for his great leadership for those fallen heroes. The outpouring of community support, the memorial, the planning team’s hard work, and the cheers of the fans - all created a wonderful evening.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes: 1) July 21, 2022 [Special Meeting]; 2) August 9, 2022 [Regular Meeting]; 3) August 24, 2022 [Discipline Committee Hearing]; 4) September 8, 2022 [Discipline Committee Hearing]
- Field Trip and Bus Use Requests
- Fundraiser Requests
- Applications for Use of Facilities
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Professional Staff

Veronica Foisy, Teacher, Fairfield Elementary School, 2022 – 2023 school year
Ashley Bailey, School Counselor, Rockbridge County High School, 2022 - 2023 school year

Support Staff

Paul Pelter, Alternative Education Specialist, Rockbridge County High School, 2022 – 2023 school year
Abigail Hattersley, Teacher Assistant, Mountain View Elementary School, 2022 – 2023 school year
Stephanie Thomas, Teacher Assistant, Maury River Middle School, 2022 – 2023 school year
Ida Manspile, Bus Driver, Transportation, 2022 – 2023 school year
Melissa Clark, Food Service, Rockbridge County High School, Time-Sheet, 2022 – 2023 school year
Jeffrey Hogge, Groundskeeper, Maury River Middle School, 2022 – 2023 school year
Shane Dillhoff, Custodian, Fairfield Elementary School, 2022 – 2023 school year
Robert Easley, 21st Grant Coordinator, Maury River Middle School, 2022 – 2023 school year
Lisa Coffman, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, 2022 – 2023 school year

Substitute Teacher

Jennifer Busnell

Substitute Food Service Workers

Patty Gladfelter
Jeanne Ramsey
Shannon Coburn
Regina Shafer

Resignations

Support Staff

Susan VanNess, Teacher Assistant, Maury River Middle School, resigned August 13, 2022
Angel Cravello, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, resigned August 29, 2022

Retirement
Support Staff

Cindy Luck, Special Education Secretary, Central Office, retired effective August 31, 2022

Fall Coaches 2022-2023**RCHS****Cross Country**

Jenn Ludtke, Assistant Coach

Club Sponsors**MVES**

Brandon Smith, Gifted

- **Business Items**

- Approved appropriations to Fund 70 in the amount of \$634,500.00.
- Approved appropriations to Fund 50 for CIP projects in the amount of \$308,000.00
- Approved appropriations to Fund 50 for carry over grants in the amount of \$923,397.00.
- Approved appropriations to Fund 50 for new grants in the amount of \$72,934.00.
- Approve Monthly Financials in the amount of \$2,896,383.24

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BUDGET PLANNING:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Lovell provided an update about school safety on behalf of Trustee Whitmore and herself. The School Board Executive Committee (Chairman Lovell and Trustee Whitmore) board and the Executive Committee of the Board of Supervisors met in June and August. The agenda focused on the safety of our overall school community. She stated that school safety has always been at the top of the list for the Rockbridge County School Board. Dr. Thompson and his staff have a great relationship with the Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office. She reflected that there have been some horrific events that have happened in our country. The meetings were to determine how the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors can support us as we continually work to improve school safety for our students and staff members. We would like to have a School Resource Officer in every school and the reality is that it is hard to fill those positions but it is a priority for our boards.

- Trustee Whitmore expressed his appreciation to the local law enforcement. He stated that part of those meetings are planning and budgetary items but without their support we would not be able to do it. He stated that those conversations will continue to happen.

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:

Ms. Vicki Stevens, Principal, Maury River Middle School, and Mr. Jason Breeding, Assistant Principal, Maury River Middle School provided a report on "Team Building". Ms. Stevens began by saying, "Let's go back to 1996. I was at Rockbridge Middle School teaching grade 6. I was asked to take one of my duty periods and teach team building to our new 6th graders". She stated that she became a firm believer that students need to learn how to listen, work as a team, and learn how to think and to work together to solve issues. Mr. Breeding stated that he had been exposed traditionally to that structure at VMI as a former student. He stated that he saw the facility being built from the ground up and that the building is only about 5 years old. He expressed that the staff enjoyed working outside of the classroom to focus on communication. Ms. Stevens expressed her sentiment that she wasn't sure if it was all because of this experience, but this was the smoothest start that she has ever had in her 34 years as an educator. This year and last year there were 25 new staff members and it was important to learn about each other and work as a team. Ms. Stevens stated that she strongly encourages other principals to take their students and staff to VMI for this experience. Ms. Stevens shared a video representative of their team building experience.

- Chairman Lovell asked how accessible the ropes course is to the community.
 - Ms. Stevens stated that the course is very accessible to the community and that VMI is working closely with others to bring in their groups to work on team building. They can accommodate anything from middle schools to corporate groups - it is very cost effective.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Mr. Tim Martino, Assistant Superintendent, stated provided information regarding four proposed changes to the 2022-2023 school calendar. The request is to make December 16, 19, 2022 and May 23, 24, 2023 as two-hour early release days. Rockbridge County High School staff administers exams and would like to have our schools close early to facilitate that process. This item will be presented at the October board meeting as an action item.

ACTION ITEMS:

Dr. Thompson stated that Rockbridge County Public Schools has worked with the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors for the past seven to eight years, which has led to some newer, renovated buildings, but the HVAC lifespan is starting to dwindle. He stated that a replacement schedule has been developed. The Capital Improvements Projects for Rockbridge County Public Schools in 2025 had three locations to have HVAC replaced: Natural Bridge Elementary School, Mountain View Elementary School, and Central Office. These three projects are slated to be financed. Fortunately, some good news, the administration of Rockbridge County Schools has been able to work in the last six to eight months to find grant monies for the most part to fund the Mountain View Elementary School project entirely without having to finance it. This will come from three areas: One source is from ARPA Grant, ESSER Grant; the General Assembly included a state construction line for a one-time use in this year's budget. These combined make 2.8 million dollars which allows us to fund Mountain View Elementary School. This will allow the project to be done a year earlier and even better with grant money that won't cost our taxpayers any additional money.

- Chairman Lovell stated that the cooperation between the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors was present when conversations have taken place with TRANE. She expressed her sentiment that the Rockbridge County School Board has such a good relationship with the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors and that she appreciates being part of that collaboration and their willingness to look ahead and funding items we need for our school system.

Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the Mountain View Elementary School HVAC Project as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

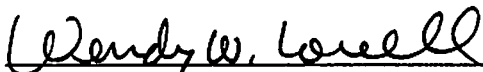
Trustee Berkstresser shared that the Rockbridge County Public Schools Foundation will have their Annual Corn Hole Tournament on September 17, 2022 from 12 to 4 PM at Whistle Hollow Farm.

SCHOOL BOARD

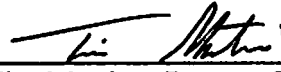
The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 / 5:30 PM / Location: Maury River Middle School, 600 Waddell Street, Lexington, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Brown, and passed by 4-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman



Tim Martino, Deputy Clerk of the Board