

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at the County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

Present: Chairman David McDaniel; Trustees Corey Berkstresser, Heather Hostetter, Wendy Lovell, Neil Whitmore; Superintendent Phillip Thompson; Clerk Rhonda Humphries.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and requested that everyone rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

One patron addressed the board regarding the amount of plastic throwaway containers used in the elementary food service programs.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lovell seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the board approved the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: 1) August 14, 2018 [Regular Meeting]
- Field Trips / Bus Use Requests
- Fund Raiser Requests
- Applications for Use of Facilities
- Enrollment Update
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Support Staff

Stacey Bain, 21st Century Site Coordinator, Natural Bridge Elementary School,
2018 – 2019 school year

Jeremy Williams, Teacher Assistant, Natural Bridge Elementary School,
2018 – 2019 school year

Nurse Substitute

Carol Mason

Food Service Substitutes

Dawn Phaneuf

Dawn Clark

Car Drivers

Lawrence Ayers

Jenny Bane

Bus Driver Substitute

Robert Gay

Club Sponsors

Rockbridge County High School

Newspaper - Laura Harrawood

Yearbook – Brian Hamelman

Forensics – Amanda Burks

Academic Team – Christopher McGrath

Academic Team Assistant – Patrick Bradley

SCA – Pamela St. Clair

NHS – Davina Copsy

Drama – Christina Tweardy

Destination Imagination – Amy Hinkle

Maury River Middle School

Yearbook – Amber Lewis

SCA – Tasha Polly

NJHS – Candace Kincaid

Destination Imagination – Sarah Schultz

Gifted Coordinator – Sarah Edwards

Special Education Coordinator – Cyndi Tucker

Central Elementary School

Gifted Coordinator – Elizabeth Schmidt

Destination Imagination – Andrea Kelly

Fairfield Elementary School

Gifted Coordinator – Stephanie Tuttle

Destination Imagination – Cathy Whitesell

Mountain View Elementary School

Gifted Coordinator – Gail Clark

Natural Bridge Elementary School

Gifted Coordinator – Elizabeth McElroy

Resignations

Professional Staff

Steven Wilder, Supervisor of Career and Technical Education, Rockbridge County High School, resigned effective August 31, 2018

Support Staff

Stephanie Higgins, Food Service Worker, Central Elementary School, resigned August 16, 2018

• **Financial Items**

- Approve carryover grant appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$21,333.00.
- Approve new grant appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$966,825.00.
- Approve Monthly Financials \$2,634,841.92
 - Trustee Lovell expressed her sentiment that she is impressed with the field trips and vast variety of opportunities that are being given to our students.
- Application for Religious Exemption from Compulsory School Attendance

BUDGET PLANNING:

Superintendent Thompson stated that the FY20 planning year has begun adding that principals have begun discussions with teachers, as well as beginning discussion with central office staff. Superintendent Thompson requested board members to begin thinking about their priorities for the FY20 budget year and that he would like to schedule a Budget Work Session for the month of October.

- Chairman McDaniel requested that board members communicate their priorities to Dr. Thompson by September 21, 2018. He requested that, if possible, the budget work session, be held in conjunction with the regular October board meeting.
- Chairman McDaniel requested salary data from surrounding localities be made available to board members as soon as it is available, for planning purposes.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that the data is anticipated to be available from VSBA and REA by late October.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS:

Mr. Timothy Martino, Director of Elementary Education, provided a School Improvement Plan Update for Maury River Middle School. [Mr. Billy Thomas, Principal, Maury River Middle School was not able to attend]. He stated that goals and strategies were developed to help students and to increase staff knowledge to assist with academic review and lesson planning. An Instructional Planning Guide was developed with components from the Virginia Department of Education. Teachers utilize this document weekly for their lesson plans and noted that components of Rockbridge County Public Schools were also included to aid in progress. Mr. Billy Thomas, Principal, and Ms. Kimberly Pollock, Assistant Principal, as well as Mr. Martino view lesson plans weekly to ensure that plans align with the curriculum. Mr. Martino stated that “The better we plan, the better we deliver, and the better our kids perform”.

Mr. Martino noted that all CORE classes are giving benchmark assessments, which serves as data points so that teachers know what to do in order to assist students who are having a difficult time or students who are doing very well. The strategies are not strictly remedial; content, curriculum, and performance are also utilized.

Maury River Middle School will begin a “WOW” Program [Wonderful Opportunities Weekly], which is an in-school program to assist with enrichment and remediation. The goal of the program is to offer assistance so that a child makes progress and does not need the program. This program will offer alternate enrichment activities for students who do not need remedial help. Student progress will be re-evaluated every eight weeks.

- Trustee Lovell inquired if there will be opportunities for students who do not need the program.
 - Mr. Martino responded that all staff will be involved; for example, Civics teachers to have time to discuss Current Events; PE teachers to discuss healthy living. There may be topics that are not part of the curriculum and that may not be discussed during instructional time. Volunteers from Washington and Lee University will also participate in the program.
- Trustee Berkstresser inquired how many students will be in the reading program.
 - Mr. Martino responded that he anticipates there will be no more than 12 to 1 student/teacher ratio.
- Trustee Hostetter inquired if this program will take place during the entire school year.
 - Mr. Martino stated that it will begin late September and will finish at the end of the third quarter.
- Chairman McDaniel expressed his appreciation to the staff of Maury River Middle School for taking the initiative to begin the program.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Mr. Haywood Hand, Assistant Superintendent, provided information on the 2019-2020 School Calendar. He referred to the survey that was completed during the 2017-2018 school year and that it provided good feedback. A difference that is being considered is to reduce the contingency plan days from four to three. This will be presented as an Action Item at the October board meeting.

- Trustee Lovell inquired how long Rockbridge County Public Schools has been ending the first semester before the holiday and if there has been much feedback as to how that is working for students and teachers.
 - Mr. Hand stated that the current year is the third year. The feedback reflects that most students, teachers, and parents like having the first quarter behind them with no exams upon return.

Mr. Haywood Hand provided information on the VSBA Policy Manual Updates, which are now in effect.

ACTION ITEMS:

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lovell, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the board approved the Capital Improvement Projects as presented.

- Chairman McDaniel stated that the needs of Rockbridge County High School will be addressed in the Feasibility Study.
 - Dr. Thompson stated that it will be slated as a larger project if in the Feasibility Study and it may address the question of cost.
 - Trustee Whitmore asked for the timeframe of the Feasibility Study.
 - Dr. Thompson responded that the RFP for the Feasibility Study will go out October 1, 2018. The Board of Supervisors have previously approved an estimated \$60,000 towards this project; if the cost comes in higher, there will be a need for additional conversation with the Board of Supervisors.
- Chairman McDaniel requested that Dr. Thompson communicate Performance Contracting data to new board members.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Hostetter, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the board approved the Comprehensive Plan as presented.

- Dr. Thompson commended the Comprehensive Plan Committee Members and stated the priorities of the Comprehensive Plan as follows:
 - Priority 1: Student Success
 - Priority 2: Instruction, Leadership, and Support
 - Priority 3: School Safety, Culture, and Climate
 - Priority 4: Communication and Engagement
 - Trustee Hostetter expressed her sentiment that this is a living document and that it may change as the climate changes.
- Trustee Lovell inquired how the document will be shared with the community and asked if it will be shared with the Board of Supervisors.
 - Dr. Thompson stated that social media, email communication, and accessibility of paper copies will be utilized. The document will be shared with the Board of Supervisors at the next Joint Meeting.

Chairman McDaniel expressed his appreciation for work done to develop a plan and acknowledging that it will need to be updated moving forward.

- Dr. Thompson stated that the Comprehensive Plan Committee could be pulled back together in the future. It may be a summer task to determine if goals were met and reiterated that it must be a living document to ensure that Rockbridge County Public Schools stays on track.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Thompson addressed the impending weather and that he had attended a 911 Center meeting earlier in the day to offer support if the need arises. He stated that Maury River Middle School is designated as an emergency shelter and has a generator that was placed there for safety purposes and operation of minimal items – it does not run the entire school; Fairfield Elementary School is a backup emergency shelter – local fire and rescue facilities are primary emergency shelters; Rockbridge County School Board Office is a backup emergency shelter – local fire facility is the primary emergency shelter.

- Trustee Berkstresser inquired if there is a plan in place if a school is damaged.
 - Dr. Thompson stated that there is no set plan but that it is likely that trailers would be set up on another school site. He also stated that the 1:1 initiative will help with student instruction in the future.

Chairman McDaniel addressed the Public Comment regarding the amount of plastic throwaway containers used in the elementary food service programs. He requested that Rockbridge County Public Schools administration contact County of Rockbridge Administration about changes in the recycling program.

- Dr. Thompson stated that there have been changes that affect Rockbridge County Public Schools and that research needs to be done to see what can be controlled by Rockbridge County Public Schools. He also stated that USDA sends some proportioned items pre-packaged in plastic containers.
 - Trustee Whitmore stated that there are health and sanitary reasons for the USDA packaging.
 - Trustee Berkstresser stated that there is a program to take food to classrooms to enable more instruction time.
 - Dr. Thompson confirmed that it has allowed for a gain in instructional time.
 - Trustee Hostetter stated that there has been a major change in the county recycling system and that the Board of Supervisors may need to be involved because of the cost of trash transference issues.

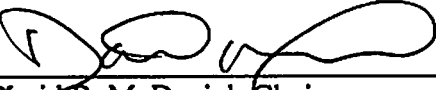
SCHOOL BOARD:

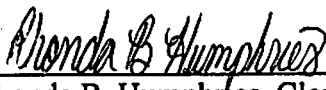
The next Joint Meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board and Board of Supervisors will be held on **Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 5:00 PM.** The meeting will be held at the Rockbridge County School Board Office, 2893 Collierstown Road, Lexington, VA

The next regular monthly meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on **Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the Rockbridge County School Board Office, 2893 Collierstown Road, Lexington, VA 24450.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.


David B. McDaniel, Chairman


Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board