

The Rockbridge County School Board held a special meeting on Monday April 30, 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 4:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Work Session.

#### **FY19 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Superintendent Thompson stated that this has been an unusual year because of the General Assembly not yet adopting an approved FY19 budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He stated that the School Board will need to adopt a budget that will change because of the status of the General Assembly.

- The School Board has based the budget on the FY19 proposed budget created by the Governor of Virginia for Rockbridge County Public Schools in the amount of \$15,215,181.
- The categorical estimate of needs was given to the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors requesting resources to support total operating expenditures (Fund 50) in the amount of \$31,140,503.
- The request for local funds equated to an increase of \$285,488 in base of local funding over the FY18 local allocation.
- The Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors approved the Rockbridge County FY19 budget, which included approval to level fund the School Board to the same amount for FY19 that was appropriated in FY18 in the amount of \$14,214,834. The Board of Supervisors stated that they chose to level fund the School Board for FY19 because they want to wait until the General Assembly has adopted their FY19 budget and the School Board has received the resulting figures from the state. The Board of Supervisors agreed to make up any difference in funding that is not met by state funds up to the requested original School Board stated need amount of \$31,140,503.
- The Rockbridge County School Board must prepare a budget based on what the locality has approved, knowing that it will change because the General Assembly has not approved their budget. This will necessitate another School Board meeting to approve a revised budget in the coming weeks.

Chairman McDaniel stated that it is important to note that the School Board must approve a balanced budget while knowing that it does reflect the true needs of the Rockbridge County School Board in the amount of \$31,140,503.

Chairman McDaniel stated that he and Superintendent Thompson developed a Memorandum of Understanding reflecting how the Rockbridge County School Board understands how the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors will direct their allocation of funds and what will happen with whatever amount they approve, the bottom expense line for the Rockbridge County School Board is \$31,140,503. He feels it is important for future boards to understand the base funding from the locality. He emphasized that the need is \$31,140,503, but the School Board is having to approve a budget in the amount of \$30,855,015 because there must be a balanced budget. The needs of Rockbridge County Public Schools have not dropped and the need remains at the \$31,140,503.

- David Daniels, Director of Financial Services, clarified that \$31,140,503 includes the \$285,488 of local funding. The total current amount is \$30,855,015 that does not include \$285,488. This would reflect a total estimate of need in the amount of \$997,145 of which it is anticipated receiving from the state in the amount of \$711,000 over last year thus reducing the "ask" from the locality to \$285,488.
- Superintendent Thompson stated that if the state gives more funding than expected it would be reflected in a reduced "ask" from the Board of Supervisors.
- Trustee Hostetter inquired that the MOU is contingent upon the funding from General Assembly and what the Board of Supervisors will provide.
  - Chairman McDaniel confirmed that the Board of Supervisors are comfortable with the amount requested from the School Board but want to see what the General Assembly provides and that the Board of Supervisors will make up the difference, whether it be additional or less funding. He stated that the circumstances with budget approval are quite different this year and he felt it beneficial to have it in writing for future reference.
- Superintendent Thompson stated that the MOU will be discussed by the Executive Committee and brought back to both boards for a recommendation.

Superintendent Thompson stated that the purpose of this meeting is to approve the Categorical Budget in the amount of \$30,855,015, which is the same amount as the Categorical Estimate of Needs minus the \$285,488 “ask”. He stated that the next step is to wait for the General Assembly / Senate to return; fifteen days later the Virginia Department of Education must relay figures to school divisions. At that time, the school board will be able to calculate the state number, the locality number should be final, and Lexington City tuition will then be calculated. The Lexington City tuition is based on the budget at Rockbridge County High School. There will be a called school board meeting to approve another Categorical Budget and then administration will generate a line item budget. Once the revenues are known, a final line item budget will be available.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the Fund 50 – Categorical Budget – FY19 as presented.

Trustee Berkstresser inquired about the ITRT position for next year’s budget.

- Superintendent Thompson stated that it is the hope to keep that position in the budget, depending on funding.

Superintendent Thompson stated that at a meeting of the Executive Committee, Supervisor Higgins stated his sentiment that a 2% increase will not allow some support staff employees to receive a meaningful salary increase. The school board included a 2% raise for all contractual support staff employees. The compensation rate for teacher assistants, custodians, bus drivers (daily route transportation / field trips), car drivers, substitute bus drivers, teacher substitutes, coaching and club stipends, advanced educational degree stipends will be increased if funding sources provide funding totaling \$31,140,503 for FY19.

**CLOSED MEETING**

Under Section 2.2-3711.A (1) of the State Code, Chairman McDaniel recommended that the Board go into a *Closed Meeting* to discuss one personnel matter. Motion was made by Trustee Hostetter, seconded by Trustee Berkstresser, and passed by 5-0 vote.

The Board entered into the *Closed Meeting* at 4:25 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 5:03 p.m.

Trustee Lovell read the following motion to Certify the Closed Meeting:

WHEREAS, the Rockbridge County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712.D of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockbridge County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

Upon initial motion of Certification of Closed Meeting by Trustee Lovell, and seconded by Trustee Hostetter, the motion passed by the following roll call vote:

- Trustee Berkstresser - Aye
- Trustee Hostetter - Aye
- Chairman McDaniel - Aye
- Trustee Whitmore - Aye
- Trustee Lovell - Aye

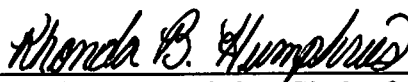
There was no action as a result of the Closed Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Trustee Hostetter, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.



David B. McDaniel, Chairman



Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board