

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at the County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 4:43 p.m. and requested that everyone rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION:

- Scott Frasier and Grace Huffman were awarded the REACH Award for their involvement with the local PGA First Tee Program that provides instruction and equipment to allow local children to learn the game of golf.
- School Board Appreciation Month: February 2018
- Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week: January 22-26, 2018

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Hostetter seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the board approved the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: 1) January 9, 2018 [Regular Meeting]; 2) January 15, 2018 [Special Meeting]; 3) January 18, 2018 [Joint Meeting with Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors]; 4) January 24, 2018 [Public Hearing Walkers Creek Voting Magisterial District Vacancy]; 5) February 1, 2018 [Special Meeting]
- Field Trips / Bus Use Requests
- Fund Raiser Requests
- Enrollment Update
 - Trustee Lovell inquired about the high enrollment of 530 students at Central Elementary School while noting that she is concerned about space for teachers and students.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that he and Haywood Hand, Assistant Superintendent, have met with Robin Parker, Principal, Central Elementary School regarding the increase of students at Central Elementary School. Thirty students have moved into the Central Elementary School attendance area in the past couple of months. He stated that a letter will be sent to families who reside out-of-zone to make them aware that their student may have to return to their home attendance school beginning with the 2018-2019 school year if the trend of increasing student enrollment continues. The letter is precautionary but the purpose is to make families aware six months in advance that this may be a possibility. The building capacity is 500. The hope is that the student enrollment numbers will level out within the next three years as student transfer requests are monitored more closely.
 - Chairman McDaniel confirmed that the letter is precautionary but is necessary so that families can begin making plans. He inquired how the tuition rate of Rockbridge County compares to other surrounding school divisions.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that the current non-resident tuition rate is \$200 for the year, \$100 per semester, while noting that other divisions may be higher.
 - Chairman McDaniel requested that the Administrative Team research how Rockbridge County compares to other school divisions and provide data to the School Board at a future meeting.
 - Chairman McDaniel stated that the school system wants to be as convenient as possible for families, but must be aware of the needs of the students who live in the district.

Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Substitute Teachers

Joshua Holton

Virginia Scott

Substitute School Nurse

Stephanie Dameron

Substitute Food Service Workers

Donna Clark

Rebecca Cruz

Florence Herring

Spring Coaches**Rockbridge County High School****Girls' Lacrosse**

Taylor Riccardi – Volunteer Coach

Amanda Greene – Volunteer Coach

Resignations**Professional Staff**

Patricia Abell, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, resigning end of 2017 – 2018 school year

Support Staff**Retiring**

Wayne Lemon, Maintenance Department, Central Office, retiring effective June 30, 2018

- **Business Items**

Appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$85,192.00.

Monthly Financials in the amount of \$2,623,614.07.

BUDGET PLANNING:

Chairman McDaniel stated that no patrons addressed the board during the Public Hearing held prior to the meeting. He stated that the three priorities of the Rockbridge County School Board are as follows:

1. Pay raises for all RCPS Contracted Employees.
2. Chromebooks Funding Transferred from CIP Escrow to Operating Budget.
3. Funding for Instructional Technology Resource Teacher (ITRT) at Rockbridge County High School.

Chairman McDaniel stated that while there are reductions this year because of Performance Contracting for utilities and maintenance, and VRS, the school board is trying to provide an increase for other employees such as teacher assistants, custodians, bus drivers, coaching, stipends, etc. The total amount that will be needed is \$1.2 Million additional funding to the budget. He emphasized that this amount does not include any additional state funding as we are in the current year. It is anticipated that with a new government in place, budgets will be available by February 18-19. There are early indications that we may receive additional state funding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE**INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:**

Steven Wilder, Supervisor of Career and Technical Education, provided a CTE update. He focused on the STEM perspective of the program. He noted that STEM instructors begin at the elementary level getting students engaged and interested in the program, while continuing at the middle school level. The STEM Academy will launch in the fall of 2018 with the 21st Century Agriculture; Energy and Power the next year; Environmental Technology the year after that.

- Trustee Whitmore inquired what grades are involved in the academy.
 - Dr. Wilder responded that the program begins with grade 10. The program is introduced in grade 9 to generate interest. It is a three-year program with a three-hour block of instruction.
- Trustee Lovell inquired what the enrollments are in classes noting that there are so many new opportunities.
 - Dr. Wilder responded that student enrollment numbers are being confirmed now with spaces filling up. He stated that it requires the same number of teachers, no additional staff.
 - Chairman McDaniel expressed his appreciation to Dr. Wilder for all the work on grants and to the CTE Teachers for all that is being done with the program.

Superintendent Thompson stated that he attended a meeting with Dr. John Rainone, President, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College; Dr. John Keller, Superintendent, Buena Vista City Public Schools; Mr. Spencer Suter, Rockbridge County Administrator; and other administrators with respect to how the local entities can work together with discussion centering around drones and the STEM Programs. Drones were discussed in regards to growth and job opportunities worldwide. The goal of the program that Dr. Wilder referenced is so students can leave Rockbridge County High School and enter Dabney S. Lancaster Community College or another institute of higher learning to continue their education to lead into a high paying job. The goal should be to engage students to stay local, but in order for that to happen, industry and local economic growth needs to occur.

- Chairman McDaniel stated that there have been meetings in the past with regards to economic growth and how to teach students job skills, working hand-in-hand with the county to bring industry to the area. He expressed his appreciation to Dr. Thompson for all that is being done to benefit our students and our community.

Dr. Thompson stated that this is School Counselor Week February 4-9, 2018 expressing appreciation to all they do for staff, administrators, and students for all they do.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: NONE

ACTION ITEMS:

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lovell, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the School Improvement Plans of Rockbridge County Public Schools and Maury River Middle School.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Hostetter, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board provided permission to Tracy Hinty, Coordinator for Federal Programs, to write the applications for individual and consolidated state and federal entitlement grants as they become available. The Coordinator for Federal Programs will present the written applications individually for board approval prior to submission.

- Chairman McDaniel stated that this is a change in process for grants approval and requested Dr. Thompson to explain the process.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that traditionally each grant has been brought before the board as an informational item one month and presented the next month as an action item. Ms. Hinty requested permission for the remainder of the current fiscal year to apply for grants as they become available. It is anticipated that beginning with the beginning of the fiscal year, July 2018, Ms. Hinty will request approval to apply for grants as they become available and then return to the board to request approval for submission of grants.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman McDaniel recognized Neil Whitmore, newly appointed school board member for the Walkers Creek District.

SCHOOL BOARD

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 / 5:00 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Lovell, seconded by Trustee Hostetter, and passed by 4-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.



David B. McDaniel, Chairman



Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board