

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. The meeting was held using a virtual format.

Present: Remote participation from individual locations: Chairman Wendy Lovell; Trustees Kathy Burant, Heather Hostetter, and Neil Whitmore; Superintendent Phillip Thompson and Clerk Rhonda Humphries. *Note: Trustee Corey Berkstresser arrived at 5:05 p.m.*

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lovell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Lovell stated that the format for the May 12, 2020 meeting of the Rockbridge County Board was modified to help mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus or COVID-19. The changes were designed to accommodate public input while encouraging residents to continue to stay at home and practice social distancing, as ordered by the Governor and state health officials.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

RECOGNITION / SPECIAL PRESENTATION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes: 1) April 14, 2020 [Regular Meeting]
- Fundraising Requests
 - Trustee Burant inquired as to the safety of when fundraising efforts will take place.
 - Superintendent Thompson confirmed that he had approved the fundraising, pending social restrictions being lifted by Governor Northam. He stated that fundraising requests will be evaluated case by case, while noting that he truly does not anticipate teachers submitting requests until the restrictions have been lifted.
- **Appointments and Resignations**

Appointments

Professional Staff

Mike Gale, Athletic Director, Division, effective 2020 – 2021 school year
Ricky Bain, Principal, Natural Bridge Elementary School, effective 2020 – 2021 school year
Dana Howald, Special Education Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, effective 2020 – 2021 school year

Support Staff

Theodore Van Ravenswaay, Custodian, Mountain View Elementary School

Support Staff Recommended for Employment 2020-2021 School Year

Teacher Assistants

Aligood, Patsy	Teacher Assistant
Bare, Lori	Teacher Assistant
Bolen, Deborah	Teacher Assistant
Braddy, Mary	Teacher Assistant
Bryan, Shannon	Teacher Assistant
Camden, Elizabeth	Teacher Assistant
Chittum, Reneda	Teacher Assistant
Coffey, Stephanie	Teacher Assistant
Conner, Jennifer	Teacher Assistant
Cooper, Kerrilyn	Teacher Assistant
Day, Deborah	Teacher Assistant
Early, Mary	Teacher Assistant
Garthwaite, Sharon	Teacher Assistant
Hamilton, Nancy	Teacher Assistant
Harlow, Christina	Teacher Assistant
Harris, Theresa	Teacher Assistant
Hill, Krissy	Teacher Assistant
Hilliard, Virginia	Teacher Assistant
Hite, Jeannie	Teacher Assistant

Teacher Assistants - Continued

Kerr, Ashley	Teacher Assistant
Koval, Amber	Teacher Assistant
McCormick, Peggy	Teacher Assistant
Montgomery, Brandy	Teacher Assistant
Nelson, Jennifer	Teacher Assistant
Pufahl, Maria	Teacher Assistant
Ramsey, Linda	Teacher Assistant
Runkle, David	Teacher Assistant
Sheltman, Brian	Teacher Assistant
Slagle, Carolyn	Teacher Assistant
Snider, Natasha	Teacher Assistant
Talley, Rebecca	Teacher Assistant
Taylor, Pauline	Teacher Assistant
Teague, Deborah	Teacher Assistant
Trombetta, Tamara	Teacher Assistant
Wiley, Caryn	Teacher Assistant
Wilhelm, Lorin	Teacher Assistant
Williams, Jeremy	Teacher Assistant
Zickafoose, Amy	Teacher Assistant
Ziegler, Christy	Teacher Assistant

Custodians

Barbour, Bryan	Custodian
Brown, Louis, (Time Sheet)	Custodian
Forren, Skylar	Custodian
Hostetter, Jamie	Custodian
Hostetter, Joey	Custodian
Hostetter, Michael	Custodian
Jenkins, Joseph (Time Sheet)	Custodian
Kirby, Bernie	Custodian
Reed, Melissa	Custodian
Richards, Carson	Custodian
Riley, Jack	Custodian
Riley, Jackie	Custodian
Shanks, Gregory	Custodian
Smith, Calvin	Custodian
Staton, Karla	Custodian

School Secretaries/Bookkeepers/Clerical Assistants

Bauernfeind, Tina	Clerical Assistant
Cash, Phyllis	Bookkeeper
Chism, Donna	School Secretary
Coffey, Joan	School Secretary
Emrey, Karen	School Secretary
Floyd, Kristi	Clerical Assistant
Harris, Barbara	School Secretary
Jones, Elizabeth	School Secretary
McCaleb, Bonnie	School Secretary
Miller, Lisa	Bookkeeper
Rogers, Travis	School Secretary
Shafer, Erica	Clerical Assistant
Swartz, Jane	School Secretary
Van Ravenswaay, Lisa	School Secretary
Vest, Violet	School Secretary
Zitmore, Lisa	School Secretary

Maintenance

Beard, Kenneth	Maintenance
Cash, Gary	Maintenance
Floyd, Edward	Maintenance
Kessinger, William	Maintenance
Lilly, David	Maintenance

Maintenance - Continued

Mahood, Todd	Maintenance
Moore, Lewis	Maintenance
Pruett, Daniel	Maintenance
Staton, Roy	Maintenance

Central Office Support Staff

Armentrout, Alecia	Payroll Specialist
Church, Ana	School Nutrition Services Secretary/Finance Assistant
Cox, Kelly	Receptionist/Records
Humphries, Rhonda	Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board
Johnson, Carolyn	Secretary for Facilities
Leonard, Melissa	Transportation Clerk
Loope, Dana	Accounts Payable Specialist
Luck, Cindy	Secretary for Special Education
Rexrode, Monica	Personnel Specialist

School Nurses

Bennington, Melissa	School Nurse
Fix, Dylan	School Nurse
Marcum, Katina	School Nurse
Sheltman, Heidi	School Nurse
Staton, Meagan	School Nurse

Technology

Bundy, Justin	Technology Specialist
Coleman, Mark	Technology Specialist
Kerr, J.D.	Technology Specialist
Patterson, Mike	Technology Specialist

Food Service

Arthur, Mary (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Blackwell, Mary (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Bowman, Chastity	Food Service
Burrows, Heidi (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Campbell, Gwen	Food Service
Campbell, Phyllis (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Canellas, Sandra (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Clark, Brenda	Food Service
Coffey, Marlene	Food Service
Coleman, Ruth	Food Service
Conner, Natasha	Food Service
Cruz, Becky	Food Service
Emore, Kassandra (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Fauber, Marla (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Harris, Amy (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Hetrick, Dawn	Food Service
Llewellyn, Margaret (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Lotts, Pam	Food Service
Manspile, Catherine (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Martin, Teresa	Food Service
Pennine, Ellen	Food Service
Robinson, Lezley (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Shumate-Clark, Amy (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Smith, Kathryn	Food Service
Snuffer, Whitney (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Snyder, Bonnie	Food Service
Sorrels, Roxie	Food Service
Sponaugle, Kim	Food Service
Tomlin, Frances	Food Service
Wilson, Paula	Food Service

Resignations**Professional Staff**

Jeffrey Boyd, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, resigning end of 2019 – 2020 school year

Aaron Grabinski, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, resigning end of 2019 – 2020 school year

Richard Miller, Assistant Principal, Rockbridge County High School, resigning effective June 30, 2020

Lindsey Bateman, School Counselor, Fairfield Elementary School, resigning end of the 2019 - 2020 school year

Retirement**Support Staff**

Valerie Mikels, Bus Driver, Transportation Department, retiring end of 2019 – 2020 school year

- **Business Items**

- Approve Debit service payment of \$159,375.00 due June 1, 2020, to US Bank for Rockbridge County Public Schools VPSA QSCB General Obligation School Bond Series 2011-2. The Treasurer's office will wire the funds to US Bank.
- Approve appropriation of the expected National Forest Reserve Funds in the amount of \$61,915.17.
- Approve Monthly Financials in the amount of \$3,149,426.35

BUDGET PLANNING: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:

Mr. Tim Martino, Director of K12 Curriculum and Instruction, provided information on the Continuity of Learning Plan. Excerpts of his report are as follows:

- On Friday March 13, 2020, educators across the Commonwealth of Virginia faced a unique challenge, the closing of the 19-20 academic year. Rockbridge County immediately moved into "mission mode". The administrative team meeting was held on a Saturday and many ideas were collaboratively shared, discussed, and evaluated. Teachers were eagerly awaiting direction as to how and when to begin delivering instruction.
- 4th Quarter, A Virtual Experience :
 - Virtual learning packets were distributed in March, April, and May (hard copies available on request).
 - Virtual Office Hours were established at the secondary level.
 - Google Hangouts with teachers and students were used for checking-in not only on academics but also on student well-being.
 - Online professional development focusing on various forms of technology has been provided to the teachers of Rockbridge County Public Schools, courtesy of the technology department.
- Professional Development, Summer 2020
 - Virtual PBL 101, approximately 75 participants (Two Cohorts)
 - K-8 Science Curriculum Work
 - 6-12 History and Social Science Assessment Work
 - 6-9 English Alignment, Pacing, Assessment
 - 7-10 English Alignment, Pacing, Assessment
- Summer School 2020
 - Virtual Virginia PE 9 and 10 (No Behind the Wheel Included)
 - Econ. and Personal Finance Offered Virtual through Edgenuity
 - Credit Recover Offered Virtually in English, Math, Science and Social Science
 - Trustee Burant inquired if students will be taking courses at home on their computers or in their community on hot spots.
 - Mr. Martino confirmed that students will participate in class online and will have a teacher of record.
- Opening Year Check-In
 - All elementary grade levels are developing reading and math plans for a two-week review of the 2019-2020 fourth quarter.
 - Maury River Middle School and Rockbridge County High School are developing two-week review plans for courses in succession.

- Chairman Lovell expressed her appreciation to all staff and added that teachers have expressed excitement at what is being accomplished. She also stated that teachers have conveyed to her that they feel they have worked harder during these days than when they are in the school building. She inquired how much the future continuity of learning will be dictated by the Virginia Department of Education for the next school year and how much will be a local decision.
 - Mr. Martino responded that Governor Northam plays a role based on the restriction phases, with the third phase being no more than 100 people gathering; there will have to be a decision to allow mass gatherings.
 - Superintendent Thompson added that whenever restrictions are lifted, the Virginia Department of Education will set the parameters, which will allow localities to focus on what will work within those parameters. He anticipates that there will be a directive from the Virginia Department of Education in the coming weeks and realizes that this makes it more difficult for summer preparation for staff and families.
- Trustee Whitmore inquired if there is a push from the Virginia Department of Education for adjacent divisions utilize the same format.
 - Superintendent Thompson responded that it will vary between school divisions because capabilities and resources are so different, which may prove difficult for all divisions to utilize the same format.
- Trustee Burant inquired if there has been feedback from staff on engagement from the students. She also inquired if there has been any indication of status of technology devices; I.E., broken devices.
 - Mr. Martino stated that feedback indications vary in that some teachers have had very good engagement, and some have had to work more with students who were not connected in the beginning. The hope is to gain a better idea this summer on engagement. He addressed the inquiry of status of devices by saying that it is unknown at this time because devices have not been returned. He expressed concern that internet access may hinder some students because of dead spots in the county and noted that internet access has been a challenge for the region. He expressed appreciation to BARC for internet hot spots set up at Fairfield Elementary School, Mountain View Elementary School, Natural Bridge Elementary School, and Rockbridge County High School.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that the Small Rural Coalition is advocating that not all families have internet and may not have electronic devices. This pandemic has pointed out weaknesses on several levels, one of which could be a family with five students and one electronic device. He stated that a survey will be sent to families and staff to gather feedback about the impact of the pandemic and early school closure.
- Chairman Lovell inquired if there is anticipation that more summer course offerings will be taken by students.
 - Mr. Martino responded that it is anticipated that there will be good participation because it offers families flexibility of being virtual. He noted that there are currently 100 students registered for PE 9 and 10.
 - Assessment teams have been created to develop formative assessments to gauge learners' knowledge at the conclusion of the review period.
- Preparing for a Virtual Opening
 - Teachers are working diligently to create four-week virtual plans across the K-12 curriculum. This will allow teachers to begin direct instruction immediately after the two-week review period in the event of a delayed opening.
 - Mr. Kirby has created a distribution plan to ensure all high school students have a Chromebook. The distribution plan may also extend in the upper grades of our elementary schools.
- "All In, All Day, Every Day!"
 - Building leaders and teachers are to be commended for their outstanding work over the last several weeks! In the midst of a pandemic, the Rockbridge County Public Schools team has continued to meet the needs of our learners. Teachers are online with students daily answering questions and providing guidance and reassurance that we are all going to get through this challenging time. Over the past several weeks, the entire division has grown in technology proficiency and learned how to deliver high quality instruction in alternate formats.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Mrs. Tracy Hinty, Coordinator for Federal Programs, provided information on the Federal Grants, which will become available on July 1. She provided information on the Competitive Grants (which is the 21st CCLC), and the competitive grants, which are Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, and the Virginia Preschool Initiative Grant. Federal Grants will be presented as an Action Item at the June board meeting.

- Trustee Burant offered congratulations to Mrs. Hinty on her accomplishments with the Competitive Grants during the current pandemic crisis.
- Chairman Lovell inquired if, in this time of uncertainty, the decisions by the grantees are being conducted with a “business as usual” attitude and then determine status later.
 - Mrs. Hinty responded that the deadlines are the same and that Rockbridge County Public Schools are in good shape.

Mr. Paige Owens, Supervisor of Career and Technical Education, provided information on the application for Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Funds Grant. The Board will be requested to approve the submission of the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Funds Grant at the June meeting.

- Trustee Burant inquired if the Cooperative Education course will be offered next year with the retirement of Donna Wallace who taught Cooperative Education. She offered appreciation to the school division to be paying for supplies or arranging for students who need financial assistance with tools, clothing, or equipment. She also expressed her appreciation for the division to offer assistance for licensure.
 - Mr. Owens stated that it will be offered and added that there is a new initiative to expand and improve the workplace-learning program.

Mr. Tim Martino, Director of K12 Curriculum and Instruction, provided information on the Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted, which was updated February 2020, following the Technical Review of the Rockbridge County Public Schools Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted. He offered commendations to Lindsey Flint for the work completed on the plan. This will be presented as an Action Item at the June board meeting.

Dr. Matthew Crossman, Director of School Services, provided a Food Service Update. He offered the following data as of May 12, 2020 regarding the Rockbridge County Public Schools Meal Distribution Program that began March 30, 2020: 22 food service staff; 44 bus drivers; and 30,388 meals. He expressed his appreciation to Daphne Stickley, Supervisor of School Nutrition Services, and to Kirstie Campbell, Supervisor of Transportation, who coordinate the daily meals needed and to coordinate the driving routes. He expressed his appreciation to the staff who tirelessly assist daily with the program, and to the Technology Department for their assistance in coordinating the electronic order form. He stated that a USDA waiver will allow the program to continue until June 30, 2020, as long as the program is needed. The program has also allowed for a “Pony Express” to assist in delivering items to student homes such as school materials, etc. He stated that the USDA and Social Services Department will issue a Pandemic EBT card to families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school. The purpose of the card is to supplement the meal distribution program.

- Superintendent Thompson reiterated that the EBT card does not replace the meal distribution program.
- Trustee Burant inquired if new applications can be made for the free and reduced program.
 - Dr. Crossman stated that forms will be sent out next week to allow for summer and back to school.

Dr. Mike Craft, Principal, Rockbridge County High School, expressed his appreciation to the staff of Rockbridge County High School who are working so diligently to make the graduation events successful for the 2020 Seniors. He provided the following information being planned for the Class of 2020 graduating class of Rockbridge County High School:

- Academic Awards video will be available in a YouTube format on May 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
- Scholarship Awards video will be available in a YouTube format on May 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

- Rockbridge County High School will hold a parade for the graduating class of 2020 on the evening of May 22, 2020. Graduates riding inside their family vehicles will proceed from Rockbridge County High School parking lot to Hull's Community Drive-In, located on U. S. Route 11. Hull's Drive-In will show the graduates and their family the RCHS virtual graduation that was filmed early this month. The community may park along the parade route and cheer on the graduates as they proceed to Hull's Drive-In, making sure vehicles are completely off the road. The parade will start at 7:45 p.m. at the high school parking lot. The Hull's Drive-In Virtual Graduation Show is private, only for graduates and their family. The graduation video will be released to the general public after the showing at Hull's Drive-In on May 22, 2020. A link to the video will be on the Rockbridge County High School webpage, the Rockbridge County High School Facebook page, and YouTube.
- Superintendent Thompson expressed his appreciation to Dr. Craft for his leadership in all that he and his team are doing to make this a memorable graduation for the 2020 Seniors of Rockbridge County High School.

Superintendent Thompson introduced Mr. Roger Richardson, AIA, REFP, Quinn Evans Architects, who provided the Feasibility Study. Mr. Richardson, Ms. Erin Richardson, CID, IIDA (Quinn Evans); and Ms. Susan Koch, GIS Assessments/Demographer (K&C Associates) provided an overview as follows:

- Scope Summary:
 - Demographic Research
 - Facility Assessments – Physical
 - Facility Assessments – Programmatic
 - Identification of potential and capital improvements.
- Executive Summary Review:
 - Your Vision:
Partnering with families and the community to prepare students for a changing world through project-based learning, technology, and innovative teaching.
 - Your Goals:
 - Provide a safe and secure environment that promotes and nourishes student learning.
 - Expand student-center learning opportunities by including project-based teaching strategies throughout the curriculum.
 - Promote diverse educational opportunities for middle and high school students that prepare them for higher education or skilled workforce entry.
 - Our Observations:
 - All existing administrative and school facilities have been well maintained internally and externally.
 - Successful updates have been completed over the past 15 years at all of the facilities except Rockbridge High School.
 - Safety and security improvements focused on access management have been incorporated at all schools.
 - All improvements at the elementary and middle schools continue to sustain an atmosphere supporting current pedagogies and creating an inviting and inspiring place to learn and work.
 - Based on current enrollments, Virginia DOE program and facility design guidelines, and design capacity averages for the past 10 years, all facilities, except Central Elementary School, are well within educational facility planning industry utilization rates.
 - Based on demographic data collected for the Division for the past the 10 to 15 years and projected for the next 5 and 10 year timeframes existing facilities, except Central Elementary School, will provide adequate space to deliver educational programs that will prepare the County's children to be future-ready.
- Programmatic and Facilities Assessments:
Methods of Information Gathering: site visits, staff interviews, and stakeholder surveys completed by 1182 individuals.

- School Program and Physical Assessments: building systems, accessibility
 - Programmatic Adequacy
 - Building Envelope
 - Site Evaluation
 - Safety and Security
 - Chairman Lovell noted that Central Elementary School, when compared to other Rockbridge County elementary Schools, has little opportunity to offer what other elementary schools are doing, because of space.
 - Mr. Richardson suggested that spaces be reclaimed for the intended use; i.e., art room, teacher collaboration room.
 - Trustee Burant inquired how the enrollment at Central Elementary School is affected by the enrollment of transfer students.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that Central Elementary School is popular because it is centrally located. The student transfer requests are controlled by managing the approval of non-resident students on a case-by-case review.
- Recommended Improvements:
 - All Facilities:
 1. Continue maintenance protocols.
 2. Upgrade mechanical systems on current schedule.
 3. Repurpose existing spaces to support changing pedagogies.
 4. Consider additional modifications for internal and external visibility and access.
 5. Continue incorporation of project-based learning in shared and "owned" spaces.
 6. Continue drive towards interdisciplinary learning through use of shared spaces, both indoor and outdoor
 - Individual School Recommendations.
Based on largest needs / issues with recommended solutions.

Chairman Lovell expressed her appreciation for the work put into the Feasibility Study and expressed appreciation for engaging the community in the process.

Trustee Whitmore reflected that a wide spectrum of information has been presented which includes demographics, as well as the brick and mortar side of the study.

Mr. Richardson expressed his appreciation to Randy Walters, Director of Transportation and Maintenance, Superintendent Thompson, and to the staff at schools for their sharing of information.

Superintendent Thompson echoed appreciation to Quinn Evans and stated that the information will be relayed to the funding body (Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors) and to the community so the recommendations can be incorporated into the Capital Improvements Plan. He also expressed his sentiments that it is refreshing to have someone outside of the school division who sees similar needs as what the school division sees. He reflected his belief, as well as the board members, that education is an investment, it is not an expense, and it needs to be done for the students and community and that the division will continue working toward that.

ACTION ITEMS:

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Burant, seconded by Trustee Berkstresser, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved for the Superintendent/Designee to process GRANT payment and other accounts payables as necessary at the end of May 2019. A final report summarizing these actions will be distributed during the month of June. All transactions will require signatures of two of the following three staff positions: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, or Director of Financial Services.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Hostetter, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the updated FY21 Line Item Budget in the amount of \$31,508,059.

- Superintendent Thompson stated that there had been good conversations with the funding body of the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors regarding school priorities prior to COVID-19 pandemic, which included: 1) investment in employees in respect to salaries; 2) an additional counselor at Rockbridge County High School; 3) a first instructional coach; 4) an additional elementary classroom teacher. The economic crisis has led to the question of how to cut the FY21 budget to allow for a balanced budget. He stated that the information

presented is based on what is currently known. He cautioned that tax revenues are not known at this time, referencing that the school board budget and the county budget, for a large part, are based on tax revenue. The presented budget does not reflect revenue changes and that it is likely that once changes and the effect on the school board budget is known, the balanced budget will likely be updated and presented to the school board for approval. The presented budget represents a reduction of \$630,000 compared to overall budget from last year. Approximately ninety percent of the budget represents personnel costs. In order to get to this point, many cuts have taken place including the reducing of ten positions across the division from current to next year, and reducing non-personnel across the division. He stated that the school division has not had to enter into RIF policy, as no one has lost their job and that attrition has allowed for not having to refill positions. This could lead to possible larger class sizes and fewer services, all this in a time of social distancing and areas of unknowns of what will happen in the fall when we try to come back to school. He noted that it is extremely unfortunate that, while raises will not be available for employees next year, the hard work the board has done in respect to health insurance, there is a relatively small increase in health insurance this coming year, the options available to employees will allow for no employee going home with less in their pocket this year. He also cautioned that further cuts may come during this unprecedented time but that there are plans in progress, if needed. Superintendent Thompson stated that as a school division, the economic downturn will not be used as an excuse for next year. He expressed his sentiment that the students of Rockbridge County deserve staff to be positive and to be ready to roll out with the best education that we can provide them, whenever we are allowed to begin school again. He stated that the great strides that have been accomplished since the economic downturn of 2008-2009 to 2019 will resume; it will be challenging and he offered assurance that staff have the right mentality and will be ready to start seeing students and begin once again educating our students.

- Chairman Lovell stated that it has been proven that you don't have to have students in the building to impact them and staff has done a great job in getting through pandemic and the board has full faith that even though there may be tough choices ahead, that our schools are part of the recovery.
- Superintendent Thompson expressed his sentiment that schools are part of the solution and recovery, not only in education, but food services, and instructional practices. Our families need us, want us there, are asking for our help, and so far the school division has been there for the families and will continue for as long as we possibly can.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Berkstresser inquired if there is a comprehensive list of places where free Wi-Fi is available throughout Rockbridge County, other than schools. He expressed his interest in possibly creating a base in Goshen. He suggested that it may be beneficial to identify the worst dead spots and try to find a solution for families.

- Superintendent Thompson stated that he is unsure if there is a current list. He will contact the Chamber of Commerce to see if there is a current listing available. He has been in communication with Randy Walters, Director of Transportation and Maintenance, about the possibility of using buses with a hotspot in the county. He also stated that he will communicate with Mike Keyser, CEO of BARC to see if there are any options available. He referenced that Dr. James Lane, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction, stated that there may be some broadband companies that may allow for anyone who has capability for a hotspot on their cell phone to obtain internet service.
- Trustee Berkstresser expressed his sentiment that the Chromebook Initiative has proven to be very beneficial during this time of stay-at-home education.
 - Chairman Lovell expressed her sentiment that appreciation needs to be relayed to several former board members for the insight of the initiative.
- Trustee Burant asked if the survey to parents, students, and teachers can include a question on the level of connectivity with internet. She also stated that she will check with local businesses in her district to see if they may allow free access if there is a need.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that the draft survey includes a poll on internet access, not pertaining to their ability to pay for the cost of their internet. He has heard of some companies already offering free access when needed and that it would be good to promote the companies.

SCHOOL BOARD

The next regular monthly meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting location and format will be determined and advertised.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Hostetter, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Wendy W. Lovell
Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman

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