

The Rockbridge County School Board held a special meeting on Monday, February 17, 2020 at the Rockbridge County School Board Office.

Present: Chairman Wendy Lovell; Trustees, Corey Berkstresser, and Heather Hostetter; Superintendent Phillip Thompson and Deputy Haywood Hand. Absent: Trustees Kathy Burant, Neil Whitmore

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lovell called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive an update on the Division Wide Feasibility Study from Quinn Evans Architects, Inc.

DIVISION WIDE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Superintendent Thompson stated that the Division Feasibility Study has been anticipated for two years after determining the need, going forth with the process, receiving the RFP's, and the selection of Quinn Evans to conduct the study. A final presentation will be given at a future School Board meeting.

Mr. Roger Richardson, AIA, REFP, Quinn Evans, stated that the Scope Summary provides the following information:

- **Demographic Research:** determine potential changes in Rockbridge County Public Schools enrollment levels
- **Facility Assessments:** determine general conditions of the physical environments at each school and administration building for needed repairs/improvements/ maintenance to maintain the facility integrity and usability
- **Facility Assessments:** determine general conditions of the physical environments at each school to support projected enrollments, 21st century learning methodologies, and pedagogies that enhance development of skills that make Rockbridge students future-ready
- **Identification of potential capital improvements:** determine potential capital improvements to buildings and sites and establishment of priorities through stakeholder collaboration

Mr. Richardson stated that the following segments are now complete and reflect, "Where We are Now". He provided the following data:

❖ **Demographic Analysis:**

1. Enrollment history reflects that school enrollments have remained stable and relatively constant for the past ten years, with the exception of the year 2016, the number of babies born to residents of Rockbridge County has declined steadily over the past decade. However, the birth to kindergarten cohort survival rate has increased steadily over that same period of time. This has resulted in a countywide kindergarten class that is consistently larger than the size of the group when they were born five years earlier. The size of each incoming kindergarten class has been approximately 200 students over the past decade.
2. Elementary enrollments have decreased 147 students since peaking in 2013. The projection is that the elementary school population will continue to grow over the next decade.
3. In the middle school grades, the indication are a loss of students over the next decade reversing a trend that started in 2014. This is reflected in a projection of an average loss of 103 students by 2024 remaining stable into 2029. Projections estimate that losses during the next decade could be as low as 88 students and a high as 120 students.
4. The high school enrollment figures show essentially the same for the decade. Data reflects manageable growth of between 4% and 7% or 43 to 70 students in the next 5 years and a 10-year potential of -2 to +56 students.
5. With exception of current and continued pressure on Central Elementary School, the population trends indicate stable enrollments for the next decade that would not warrant school facility expansion to meet capacity limitations.

❖ **Stakeholders Surveys:**

1. There were 1,182 individuals surveyed which included: 758 students, 155 direct instructional school faculty, 54 school staff and administration, 190 parents and guardians, 12 community business members, 9 Lexington City School Board and City Council, 4 Rockbridge County School Board Members, 0 Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors.
2. The surveys reflected that patrons feel there is room for growth in the following areas: outdated facilities, need for real world experiences, need for collaboration spaces, view

sheds to the outdoors, more exposure to natural light, better furniture, free time, emphasis on student spaces, more exciting and engaging spaces, increased physical activity, social/emotional wellness support and class scheduling.

3. The surveys reflected that the strengths needing support are: Project Based Learning, Career and Technical Education, Soft Skills, Community Partnerships, and Community Facilities.
 4. The surveys reflected key areas of focus as: School Safety and Security, Social/Emotional Development, Project Based Learning, Individualized / Differentiated Education, Collaboration with the Community, Align Curriculum with Career Opportunities, and Cutting-Edge Technology.
 5. Overall, student responses focused on comfort, social/emotional support, and alternative education.
- ❖ School Program and Physical Assessments, which included the recommendations for all Rockbridge County Public Schools.

Mr. Richardson provided the following information:

- ❖ "Next Steps":
 - Review work to date with and engage stakeholders in verifying observations and prioritizing capital improvements.
 - Develop budget estimates and recommendations for implementation.
 - School Board / Board of Supervisors Presentation
 - Final Report
- ❖ Schedule for Completion of Division-Wide Study:
 - Week of March 2, 2020: Program meetings with Rockbridge County High School and Central Elementary School leadership
 - Week of March 9, 2020: Develop Program Improvements and Conceptual Plans with Budget Implications
 - Week of March 16, 2020: Review meeting with Rockbridge County High School and Central Elementary School leadership
 - Week of April 6, 2020: Final Report Draft
 - April 14, 2020: School Board / Board of Supervisors Presentation
 - Week of April 20, 2020: Final Report

Trustee Berkstresser inquired where the enrollment figures came from

- Mr. Richardson stated that they came from live birth data from Rockbridge County.

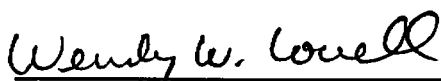
Trustee Berkstresser inquired if re-districting plans can be provided, if needed.

- Mr. Richardson stated that could easily be developed.

Trustee Hostetter inquired how many Buena Vista students attend Mountain View.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Hostetter, and passed by 3-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman



Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board