

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at the County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes: 1) February 5, 2019 [Special Meeting]; 2) February 7, 2019 [Discipline Committee Hearing]; 3) February 12, 2019 [Public Hearing]; 4) February 12, 2019 [Regular Meeting]; 5) February 19, 2019 [Discipline Committee Hearing].

- Field Trip and Bus Use Requests
- Fundraiser Requests
- Application for Use of Facilities
- Enrollment Update
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Professional Staff

Alexis Honts, Elementary Teacher, 2019 – 2020 school year

Christina Imler, Elementary Teacher, 2019 – 2020 school year

Substitute Teachers

Mary Jolley

Kilee Ferguson

Substitute Nurse

Cynthia Maurice

Professional Staff

Resignations

Marisa Bouchelle, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, resigning end of 2018 – 2019 school year

Marcy Carpenter, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, resigning end of 2018 – 2019 school year

Retiring

Laura Harrawood, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, retiring end of 2018 – 2019 school year

Leave of Absence (not returning)

Mary Carson Worley, Teacher, not returning after second year leave of absence, resigning 06-30-2019

Support Staff

Resignations

Penny Lusk, Teacher Assistant, Mountain View Elementary School, resigned effective 2/15/19

- **Business Items**

- Approval of new grant appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$4,190.38.
- Approve Monthly Financials \$2,816,281.59.

BUDGET PLANNING:

Superintendent Thompson stated that he has received the numbers from the state for funding but is still waiting on health care plans and how it will tie into local funding.

- Chairman Lovell expressed her appreciation to the Rockbridge County School Board Administrative Staff for the work generated during the budget process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE**INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:**

Lindsey Flint, Elementary Teacher / Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Services, provided a report on the Gifted Program. She provided the following Division Statement of Philosophy for the Education of Gifted Students:

- We are committed to providing a continuum of services to students within the classroom and through a variety of enrichment and extended opportunities outside the regular classroom. Additionally, we are committed to developing the potential in all children in Rockbridge County Public Schools. We will actively seek ways to allow specific parts of the gifted curriculum to be offered to any child who exhibits talent or unusual interest in areas where gifted programs exist. We are committed to developing critical and creative thinking skills in all students, preparing them for more advanced course work.

Ms. Flint provided a brief summary of activities, while noting there are many other student activities taking place. The activities that were highlighted include:

- Field trips: The Natural Bridge Caverns, Virginia State Capital, and The Science Museum of Western Virginia.
- Destination Imagination Teams: Central Elementary School, Fairfield Elementary School, Maury River Middle School, and Rockbridge County High School teams participated in a regional tournament and will now be participating in the State Tournament on April 6, 2019 at Atlee High School in Mechanicsville, Virginia.
- Math 24 Challenge: Cards were developed which contain four numbers; the challenge of the game is to use all 4 numbers and any combination of +, -, x, / to reach 24.

Example: $5 \times 5 = 25$ $4 - 3 = 1$ $25 - 1 = 24$

There are 24 cards in each classroom grades 3-5 and there are 24 Clubs at each elementary school. Approximately 20 students at each school participated in tournaments in February and there will be a countywide tournament on March 14, 2019 at Central Elementary School with 33 students invited to participate.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Christine Wood, Director of Special Education, provided a first reading of the Rockbridge Area Special Education Advisory Council members who the Board is required to formally approve. This will be presented for approval at the April board meeting.

Christine Wood also provided information on the Special Education Annual Plan and Applications for Federal Funds. The Rockbridge Area Special Education Advisory Council will review all documents at their next meeting, as required. This will be presented for approval at the April board meeting.

Jason Kirby, Director of Personnel and Technology, provided information on the Early Retirement Incentive Program for 2019-2020. This program has been in place for a number of years, helps to control costs for Rockbridge County Public Schools, and allows employees an opportunity to have access to their health insurance when they retire and to give retirees an opportunity to come back to the school system and share their knowledge within our school system. He noted that there are two categories: 1) For employees with a retirement date prior to July 1, 2017 and; 2) For employees with a retirement date after June 30, 2017. This will be presented as an Action Item at the April board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Whitmore, seconded by Trustee Hostetter, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote, the Board approved the 2019 VSBA Business Honor Roll nominations of 1) Everbrite, LLC; 2) Lee Hi Travel Plaza; 3) Pink Cadillac Diner.

Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Hostetter, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved a Categorical Estimate of Needs – FY20 in the amount of \$32,178,115.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Lovell inquired if there is a Facilities Study Update.

- Superintendent Thompson stated that an RFP was sent out resulting in ten responses. He stated that administration met as a committee and narrowed it to the top five vendors based on who could best meet the needs of Rockbridge County Public Schools. The top vendor has now been chosen and negotiation has begun for discussion of cost. The vendor was chosen based on services that can be provided.
 - Chairman Lovell inquired for a start date.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that the vendor would ideally like to begin at Spring Break so work can begin while school is not in session.
- Trustee McDaniel inquired how long it is anticipated for the study to take.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that the time frame could be from three months to one year.
- Trustee McDaniel inquired to the escrow balance . He suggested that if the RFP comes back higher than expected, to see what funds are in escrow, if needed, to ensure the project is done correctly.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that \$60,000 has been earmarked for this project. He also stated that if more funding is needed, a request can be made to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors had previously stated that if there is valuable need, to request additional funds for the Facilities Study. He also noted that for a school division of our size, the cost could be \$150,000 - \$170,000.

SCHOOL BOARD

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 / 5:00 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia.

CLOSED MEETING

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

The Board entered into the *Closed Meeting* at 5:30 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 6:25 p.m.

Chairman 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 Chairman Lovell, and seconded by Trustee McDaniel, the motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee McDaniel, seconded by Trustee Berkstresser, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Wendy W. Lovell
Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman

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