

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The meeting was held at Maury River Middle School.

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

RECOGNITION / SPECIAL PRESENTATION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

One patron addressed the board regarding awareness of home school groups who are not planning for their students to return to public school after covid restrictions are lifted and stated that these groups, including learning pods, are increasing in numbers. Patron has also been contacted for fundraisers in an effort to start K-12 learning curriculums in a private school setting. Patron stated support of the right of each parent to educate their child by either private or public education systems. Patron stated belief that the concern is because of certain changes to Virginia school policies relating to gender identification and white privilege and feels there is now an environment of confusion, concern, and division that is forcing parents to seek alternative education venues for their children. Patron implored the board to step forward and stop the division that is pecculating in the county and to work with the parents so that no child is singled out for scrutiny, discrimination, or condemnation.

Two patrons addressed the board regarding concern that schools are not open at one hundred percent capacity and concern that masks are ineffective in preventing the spread of airborne diseases, and are hazardous to health, citing OSHA, WHO, and CDC guidelines.

One patron addressed the board with concern regarding the meeting time of the school board meetings being moved to 6:00 PM. The patron expressed concern that the vision of the school board and administration, as stated on the website, should be totally academic, and should be preparing children to go into the work force to be an asset to society and doesn't feel that racial and political issues should be brought into the schools and allow it to cause division.

One patron addressed the board with concern regarding the inconvenient time of the meeting time of the school board meetings. The patron expressed concern that educators are indoctrinating students with their radical personal and political beliefs related to BLM, the Equality Act, critical race theory, and LGBTQ/transgender proposed policies.

One patron addressed the board with concern regarding the LGBTQ agenda, the critical race theory being taught.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, the board voted 4-0, the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: 1) March 2, 2021 [Special Meeting]; 2) March 9, 2021 [Regular Meeting]; 3) March 15, 2021 [Special Meeting]; 4) March 18, 2021 [Joint Meeting with Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors; 5) March 22, 2021 [Special Meeting]
- Field Trip / Bus Use Requests
- Fundraising Requests
- Application for Use of Facilities
- **Appointments and Resignations**

APPOINTMENTS

Professional Staff

Chelsea Castro, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, 2021 – 2022 school year

Adrienne "Blake" Cash, Elementary Teacher, 2021 – 2022 school year

Hillary Beristain, Elementary Teacher, 2021 – 2022 school year

Katherine Quigley, Special Education Teacher, 2021 – 2022 school year

Lindsay Wiedrich, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, 2021 - 2022 school year

Support Staff

Roy “Alex” Clark, Contracted Bus Driver, effective March 15, 2021
Robert Tomlin, Custodian, Mountain View Elementary School, effective March 29, 2021
Alesa Chaffin, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, effective April 14, 2021

Substitute Teachers

Jeremy Cosgiff
Kaileigh Henson

Spring Coaches

RCHS

David Miller, Boys’ Tennis Coach
John Whitelock, Volunteer Boys’ Lacrosse Coach

RETIREMENT

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Debra Hanson, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year
Davida Staton, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year
Nancy Baker, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, retiring end of the 2020 – 2021 school year
Davina Copsy, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year
Lynn McCrady, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year
Susan Petriella, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year
Julia Dudley, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, retiring end of 2020 - 2021 school year

RETIREMENT

SUPPORT STAFF

Theresa Bishop, Bus Driver, Transportation Department, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year
Carolyn Slagle, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year

RESIGNATION

Professional Staff

Chance Margheim, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, resigning end of the 2020 – 2021 school year
Lauren Hancock, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, resigning end of the 2020 – 2021 school year
Kellee Phillips, Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School, resigning end of the 2020 – 2021 school year
Yolanda Montague, Teacher, Elementary Schools, resigning end of the 2020 – 2021 school year

RESIGNATION

Support Staff

Sharon Garthwaite, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, resigning end of 2020 – 2021 school year

Professional Staff Approvals for Employment 2021 – 2022 School Year

Central Office Administrators on Continuing Contracts - Instructional

Crossman, Matthew	Director of School Services
Daniels, David	Director of Financial Services
Kirby, Jason	Director of Personnel & Technology
Martino, Timothy	Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Administration
Walters, Randall	Director of Transportation & Maintenance
Wood, Christine	Director of Special Education

School-Based Administrators on Continuing Contracts - Instructional

Craft, Mike	Principal
Owens, Paige	Supervisor of Career & Technical Education
Parker, Robin	Principal
Pollock, Kimberly	Assistant Principal
Secord, Diane	Principal
Stevens, Vicki	Assistant Principal
Thomas, William	Principal

School-Based Administrators completing year 2 or less

Breeding, Allison	Assistant Principal
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School-Based Administrators completing year 1 or less

Bain, Ricky	Principal
Fleshman, Scott	Assistant Principal
Gale, Mike	Athletic Director
Littleton, Cindy	Assistant Principal

Support Staff on Continuing Contracts – Instructional

Bennett, Rebecca	Supervisor of Technology
Bowden, Rebecca	Supervisor of Elementary Special Education
Cummins, Tamara	Psychologist
Falls, Melanie	Supervisor of Attendance, Truancy, & Support Services
Hinty, Tracy	Supervisor of Federal Programs
Mason, Jeffrey	Data Manager
McDonald, Joy	Coordinator of On-Line Learning
Wilder, Angela	Supervisor of Secondary Special Education

Support Staff Not on Continuing Contracts - Instructional

Allen, Penni	Coordinator of School Nurses
Campbell, Kirstie	Supervisor of Transportation
Gerow, Charles	Manager of Network Services
Stickley, Daphne	Supervisor of School Nutrition

Teachers/Counselors on Continuing Contracts - Alphabetized Listing

Alexander, David	Teacher (Classroom)
Allen, Erin	Teacher (Classroom)
Armstrong, Misty	Teacher (Classroom)
Bahhur, Ilham	Teacher (Classroom)
Bailey, Jeffrey	Teacher (Classroom)
Baucom, Sherry	Teacher (Classroom)
Beard, Jeanne	Teacher (Classroom)
Bennett, Kurt	Teacher (Classroom)
Black, Victoria	Teacher (Classroom)
Bowen, Bernadette	Teacher (Classroom)
Bowyer, Jessica	Teacher (Classroom)
Bradley, Patrick	Teacher (Classroom)
Brooks, Laurie	Teacher (Classroom)
Brooks, Lindsay	Teacher (Classroom)
Brown, Stuart	Teacher (Classroom)
Burks, Amanda	Librarian
Carter, Shelly	Teacher (Classroom)
Cauley, Sonya	Teacher (Classroom)
Chittum, Jessica	Teacher (Classroom)
Clark, Gail	Teacher (Classroom)
Clark, Stephanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Clay, Valerie	Teacher (Classroom)
Clemmer, Karen	Teacher (Classroom)
Coleman, Amy	Teacher (Classroom)
Cosgriff, Coleen	Teacher (Classroom)
Crance, Jessika	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers/Counselors on Continuing Contracts - Alphabetized Listing [Continued]

Davis, Maury	Teacher (Classroom)
Dietz, Carrie	Teacher (Classroom)
Dowless, Gretchen	Teacher (Classroom)
Dudley, Julia	Teacher (Classroom)
Dudley, Martha	Teacher (Classroom)
Duff, Karen	Teacher (Classroom)
Dull, Jacqueline	Teacher (Classroom)
Edwards, Sarah	Librarian
Erskine, Farrah	Teacher (Classroom)
Falls, Christina	Librarian
Fleshman, Rebecca	Teacher (Classroom)
Flint, Lindsey	Teacher (Classroom)
Floyd, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Fogleman, Ronald	Teacher (Classroom)
Fontenot, Tonya	Teacher (Classroom)
Fuller-Spears, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Funkhouser, Kristie	Teacher (Classroom)
Gallagher, Chris	Teacher (Classroom)
Gay-Milliken, Jacqueline	Teacher (Classroom)
Gerken, James	Teacher (Classroom)
Gilbert, Adam	Teacher (Classroom)
Glass, Heath	Teacher (Classroom)
Godfrey, Joan	Teacher (Classroom)
Hamelman, Brian	Teacher (Classroom)
Hardin, Ashley	Teacher (Classroom)
Hardin, Perry	Teacher (Classroom)
Harris, Andrea	Teacher (Classroom)
Haver, Sue	Teacher (Classroom)
Hayslette, Sandra	Teacher (Classroom)
Hellmuth, Elizabeth	Teacher (Classroom)
Henk, Kimberly	Teacher (Classroom)
Henson, Amy	Teacher (Classroom)
Hepner, Shannon	Teacher (Classroom)
Hess, Barbara	Teacher (Classroom)
Hickman, Melanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Higgins, Sherry	Teacher (Classroom)
Hinkle, Amy	Teacher (Classroom)
Hockman, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Hotchkiss, Ellen	Teacher (Classroom)
Huffman, Laura	Teacher (Classroom)
Huffman, Sean	Teacher (Classroom)
Hughes, Michelle	Teacher (Classroom)
Hundley, Forrest	Teacher (Classroom)
Jarvis, Alton	Teacher (Classroom)
Jennings, Patricia	Teacher (Classroom)
Johnson, Anne	Teacher (Classroom)
Jones, Kelly	Teacher (Classroom)
Jones, Robert	Teacher (Classroom)
Keesee, Lisa	Teacher (Classroom)
Kelly, Andrea	Teacher (Classroom)
Kimbler, Heather	Teacher (Classroom)
Kincaid, Candace	School Counselor
Kirby, Michelle	Teacher (Classroom)
Knepper, Ann	Teacher (Classroom)
Kocka, Heather	Teacher (Classroom)
Kostelni, Maria	Teacher (Classroom)
Leadbetter, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Lenoir, Robert	Teacher (Classroom)
Leonard, Katrina	Teacher (Classroom)
Lewis, Amber	Teacher (Classroom)
Little, Jean	Teacher (Classroom)
Losh, Gerald	Teacher (Classroom)
Loy, Kimberly	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers/Counselors on Continuing Contracts - Alphabetized Listing [Continued]

Mahood, Susan	Teacher (Classroom)
Marshall, Molly	Teacher (Classroom)
Martin, Andy	Teacher (Classroom)
Martin, Lisa	Teacher (Classroom)
Matsumoto, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Mazingo, Jason	Teacher (Classroom)
Mazingo, Kristyn	Teacher (Classroom)
McElroy, April	Teacher (Classroom)
McElroy, Elizabeth	Teacher (Classroom)
McFaddin, Rebecca	Teacher (Classroom)
McGrath, Christopher	Teacher (Classroom)
Milford, Drusilla	Librarian
Miller, David	Teacher (Classroom)
Mohler, Shanna	Teacher (Classroom)
Moore, Dennis	Teacher (Classroom)
Moore, Heather	Teacher (Classroom)
Moore, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Morris, Julie	Teacher (Classroom)
Nicely, Katelyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Nicely, Tamala	Teacher (Classroom)
Owens, Marsha	Teacher (Classroom)
Paxton, Ariadne	Teacher (Classroom)
Pedigo, Rhonda	School Counselor
Peters, Margaret	Teacher (Classroom)
Polly, Tasha	Teacher (Classroom)
Poston, Mark	Teacher (Classroom)
Powell, Rosemary	Teacher (Classroom)
Propst, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Rapoza, Kelly	Teacher (Classroom)
Rapoza, Mathew	School Counselor
Richarde, Robin	Teacher (Classroom)
Roadcap, Travis	Teacher (Classroom)
Runkle, Earnestine	Teacher (Classroom)
Schmidt, Elizabeth	Teacher (Classroom)
Schucker, Matthew	Teacher (Classroom)
Schultz, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Shank, Christine	Teacher (Classroom)
Sherman, Robyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Shomo, Tammy	Teacher (Classroom)
Smith, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Snyder, Cynthia	Teacher (Classroom)
St. Clair, Pamela	Teacher (Classroom)
Stolarz, Mary Curtis	Teacher (Classroom)
Straub, Donna	Teacher (Classroom)
Stutsman, Lindsay	Teacher (Classroom)
Tanner, Julie	Librarian
Tanner, William	Teacher (Classroom)
Thomas, Laura	Teacher (Classroom)
Thompson, Sandra	Teacher (Classroom)
Tomlin, Melissa	Teacher (Classroom)
Torrence, Teresa	Teacher (Classroom)
Traylor, Rebecca	Teacher (Classroom)
Troise, Kimberly	Teacher (Classroom)
Trombetta, Christina	Teacher (Classroom)
Tucker, Cynthia	Teacher (Classroom)
Tyree, Stephanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Vest, Jamie	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers/Counselors on Continuing Contracts - Alphabetized Listing [Continued]

Wallace, Corey	Teacher (Classroom)
Watts, Atlanta	Teacher (Classroom)
Wheeler, Kirk	Teacher (Classroom)
Wheeler, Terri	Teacher (Classroom)
White, Kelly	Teacher (Classroom)
Whitesell, Cathy	Teacher (Classroom)
Whitmer, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Whitmore, Gwendolyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Wilhelm, Nicole	Teacher (Classroom)
Williamson, Lauren	Teacher (Classroom)
Wood, Charlie	Teacher (Classroom)
Wood, Holly	Teacher (Classroom)
Woody, Amy	Teacher (Classroom)
Woody, Elizabeth	Teacher (Classroom)
Wright, Deborah	Teacher (Classroom)
Yobe, Amber	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers /Counselors Eligible for Continuing Contract (Completing Probationary Status)

Adair, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Blalock, Rachael	Teacher (Classroom)
Bryant, Rebecca	Teacher (Classroom)
Camden, Hillary	School Counselor
Corbo, Lisa	Teacher (Classroom)
Coffey, Ronald	Teacher (Classroom)
Diette, Courtney	Teacher (Classroom)
Donahue, Kiersten	Teacher (Classroom)
Folsom, Keith	Teacher (Classroom)
Gosney, Gwendolyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Gray, Tracey	Teacher (Classroom)
Guerdat, Amanda	Teacher (Classroom)
Hall, Tracey	Teacher (Classroom)
Harrington, Karon	Teacher (Classroom)
Harris, Kathryn	Teacher (Classroom)
Hawes, Joseph	Teacher (Classroom)
Hoehne, Susan	Teacher (Classroom)
Holton, Mary	Teacher (Classroom)
Jarvis, Teresa	Teacher (Classroom)
Loving, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Ludtke, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Lynch, Lacey	Teacher (Classroom)
McCoy Amanda	Teacher (Classroom)
Morris, Matthew	Teacher (Classroom)
Payne, Ashlee	Teacher (Classroom)
Rhodenizer, Zachary	Teacher (Classroom)
Rogers, Stuart	Teacher (Classroom)
Sandridge, Marilyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Simms, David	Teacher (Classroom)
Swisher, Karlie	Teacher (Classroom)
Truslow, Sommer	Teacher (Classroom)
Tuttle, Bradyn	Teacher (Classroom)
Tuttle, Stephanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Weidman, Jodie	Teacher (Classroom)
Williams, Jonathan	Teacher (Classroom)
Wills, Thomas	Teacher (Classroom)
Wise, Jessica	Teacher (Classroom)
Wiseman, Jeffrey	Teacher (Classroom)
Youngdahl, Scott	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers/Counselors Completing Year 2

Bell, Amanda	Teacher (Classroom)
Braun, Rachael	Teacher (Classroom)
Brooks, Stephanie	Teacher (Classroom)
Dietz, Brain	Teacher (Classroom)
Fitzgerald, Miranda	Teacher (Classroom)
Gale, Davian	Teacher (Classroom)
Genther, Anikka	Teacher (Classroom)
Imler, Christine	Teacher (Classroom)
Jarvis, Bobbie	School Counselor
Malloy, Cynthia	Teacher (Classroom)
Mastin, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
McKenzie, Rachael	Teacher (Classroom)
Mendenhall, Skyla	Teacher (Classroom)
Schemehorn, Wanda	School Counselor
Smith, Hayley	Teacher (Classroom)
Sobutka, Julie	Teacher (Classroom)
Watts, Ashton	Teacher (Classroom)
Weeks, Melissa	Teacher (Classroom)

Teachers/Counselors Completing Year 1 or Less

Armstrong, Sarah	Teacher (Classroom)
Balkey, Jennifer	Teacher (Classroom)
Breeding, Jason	Teacher (Classroom)
Buchheit, Janet	School Counselor
Butler, Rebekah	Teacher (Classroom)
Garrison, Keylea	Teacher (Classroom)
Grimm, Amanda	Teacher (Classroom)
Howald, Dana	Teacher (Classroom)
Lunsford, Cindy	Teacher (Classroom)
Palmer, Shauna	Teacher (Classroom)
Ritter, Theresa	Teacher (Classroom)
Steiner, Michelle	Teacher (Classroom)
Trombetta, Tamera	Teacher (Classroom)
Whitten, Jessica	Teacher (Classroom)
Winfield, Robert	Teacher (Classroom)
Vanderveer, Derek	School Counselor
Vest, Andrew	Teacher (Classroom)

Support Staff Recommendations for Employment 2021 – 2022 School YearTeacher Assistants

Aligood, Patsy	Teacher Assistant
Ashcraft, Sherita	Teacher Assistant
Bare, Lori	Teacher Assistant
Barry, Angel	Teacher Assistant
Bolen, Deborah	Teacher Assistant
Braddy, Mary	Teacher Assistant
Bryan, Shannon	Teacher Assistant
Chittum, Reneda	Teacher Assistant
Coffey, Stephanie	Teacher Assistant
Conner, Jennifer	Teacher Assistant
Cooper, Kerrilyn	Teacher Assistant
Crookshanks, Tiffany	Teacher Assistant
Day, Deborah	Teacher Assistant
Early, Mary	Teacher Assistant
Glass, Katelyn	Teacher Assistant
Harlow, Christina	Teacher Assistant
Harris, Theresa	Teacher Assistant
Hill, Krissy	Teacher Assistant
Hilliard, Virginia	Teacher Assistant
Hite, Jeannie	Teacher Assistant
Jarvis, Tricia	Teacher Assistant

Support Staff Recommendations for Employment 2021 – 2022 School Year – [Continued]

Kirk, Emma	Teacher Assistant
Messerich, Terry	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
Snider, Natasha	Teacher Assistant
Talley, Rebecca	Teacher Assistant
Teague, Deborah	Teacher Assistant
Thomas, Brookney	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
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
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
Staton, Cole	Technology Specialist

Food Service

Arthur, Mary (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Burrows, Heidi (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Campbell, Gwen	Food Service
Canellas, Sandra (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Coffey, Chelsea	Food Service
Coffey, Marlene	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
Kerr, Brenda	Food Service
Lilly, Paula	Food Service
Lotts, Pam	Food Service
Manspile, Catherine (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Martin, Teresa	Food Service
Robinson, Lezley (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Skipper, Kathryn (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Smith, Kathryn	Food Service
Snuffer, Whitney (Time Sheet)	Food Service
Snyder, Bonnie	Food Service
Sorrels, Roxie	Food Service
Sponaule, Kim	Food Service

Superintendent Thompson announced that, as part of the Consent Agenda, Mr. Tim Martino will be the successor to retiring Assistant Superintendent Haywood Hand, effective July 1, 2021.

- **Business Items**

- Approve Monthly Financials in the amount of \$3,004,523.50.

BUDGET PLANNING: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:

Mr. Tim Martino, Director of K12 Curriculum and Instruction, introduced Trina Leonard, Teacher, Fairfield Elementary School, and Kelly White, Teacher, Central Elementary School. Ms. Leonard and Ms. White provided information on the Teacher Advisory Council. The highlights are as follows:

- Purpose: The council discuss pressing issues or challenges that arise within the division that are diverse and relevant. Teacher feedback from all schools and school levels is provided which allow for all voices to be heard.
- Environment: Monthly meetings lead to a safe atmosphere that has been created for teachers to feel comfortable discussing the various topics as well as being honest with their feelings and opinions.
- The structure of monthly meetings, as well as possible discussion topics, were provided. Topics are selected by administration as matters arise within the division.
- Chairman Lovell expressed her sentiment that this is a great forum to collaborate and share with colleagues and asked if there will be opportunities ahead to continue.
 - Ms. Leonard expressed her sentiment that it is always beneficial talking with other teachers and going forward the outlook for this Council is positive.
 - Mr. Martino expressed his appreciation to Ms. Trina Leonard, Ms. Kelly White, and Dr. Melanie Falls for implementing the group at the division level for discussion of hot topics.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Ms. 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 May board meeting.

Ms. Christine Wood provided information on the Special Education Annual Plan and Applications for Federal Funds. The Rockbridge Area Special Education Advisory Council reviewed all documents at their meeting of March 31, 2021, as required. This will be presented for approval at the May board meeting.

Mr. Jason Kirby, Director of Technology, provided information on the VPSA Technology Resolution. This will be presented as an Action Item at the May board meeting.

- Chairman Lovell inquired if there are any changes this year.
 - Mr. Kirby stated that the amount of \$206,000 has been the same for the past eight years.

Mr. Haywood Hand, Assistant Superintendent, provided information on the VSBA Policy Manual Updates, which are now in effect.

Superintendent Thompson provided a report on the “2021 Final Grading Period and Moving Forward”. The highlights are as follows:

- Academic Standing
 - Elementary:
 - Potential Elementary Summer School Recommendations: Grade K=40; Grade 1=61; Grade 2=33; Grade 3=52; Grade 4=42; Grade 5=38; Total of 266
 - Potential Elementary Retentions: Grade K=16; Grade 1=10; Grade 2=10; Grade 3=5; Grade 4=2; Grade 5=7; Total of 50
 - Middle School:
 - Maury River Middle School Summer School Recommendations: Grade 6=7; Grade 7=50; Grade 8=68; Total of 125
 - Potential Maury River Retentions: Grade 6=7; Grade 7=25; Grade 8=63; Total of 95
 - High School:
 - 127 of Rockbridge County High School seniors are working to recover at least one class to meet graduation requirements.
 - RCHS summer recovery learners will be recommended during the fourth nine weeks.
- Chairman Lovell expressed her sentiment that the board has been updated throughout the year and is appreciative of all staff, students, and parents working together. She also expressed her hopes that families will consider retention if recommended and that it will be offered as a positive option.
- Superintendent Thompson reflected that there have been many different variables this past year and it is understandable that some students may be struggling.
- Trustee Whitmore inquired how many students at the high school level are in the danger zone at this time during a normal year.
 - Mr. Haywood Hand, Assistant Superintendent, stated that typically there may be 20 students struggling at this time.

- Superintendent Thompson stated that staff of Rockbridge County High School follows-up with students who may be struggling to help them meet requirements for graduation.
- Chairman Lovell reflected that struggling students are being experienced across the state.
 - Superintendent Thompson agreed that it across the Commonwealth and even nationally.
- Wins from a Pandemic Year
 - Applications of technology
 - Teachers and students have quickly become more adept at virtual teaching and learning
 - Proficient use of technology Learning Tools, Software Applications, and Digital Learning Platforms
 - Created of instructional video libraries at all grade levels and content areas
 - Discovering new ways to assess learning
 - Enhanced opportunities for individualized instruction in a virtual model
 - Deeper understanding of parent/student needs
 - Shift to virtual meetings which increased accessibility and participation between parents and schools (IEP meetings, Child Study, Parent Conferences)
- In-Person Learning - Spring 2021
 - Neighboring States - Uptick in Covid variants
 - Over 80% Employee Vaccinations
 - Dr. Kornegay, Director of Central Shenandoah Health District (VDH)
 - This slight increase in space will allow:
 - Principals to try to help more of our most needy students
 - Graduation Requirements or Academic Improvements
 - Case by Case Basis -- Those students with the highest need will have the opportunity to potentially attend in-person more often than the current two days/week.
 - This slight increase in space will not allow:
 - All students to return 4 or 5 days per week at this time.
 - This will officially begin on Monday, April 26, 2021.
 - 37 school days remaining (including virtual Fridays) until June 4, 2021.
 - May is testing/assessment season.
- Trustee Whitmore inquired who makes the determination on the case-by-case basis.
 - Superintendent Thompson confirmed that it is a decision of the building principal.
 - It is important to remember:
 - RCPS has led by having some sort of in-person learning nearly all year long
 - Many school divisions invited their first students back to their buildings for the very first time on March 15
- Fall 2021 - 2022
 - Hopeful that we will continue to see positive trends
 - If so, I would expect to regain some normalcy for the start of school and return all students five days/week.
 - However, it is still too early to say definitively.
- Chairman Lovell stated that students age 16 and up may now get the vaccine and offered the possibility of holding clinics within the division if the age is lowered.
- 2021-2022 Focus Points
 - Rejuvenate Positive School Climates
 - Project Based Learning (PBL) Best Practices Across the Curriculum
 - Create Professional Learning Communities
 - Writing Process
 - Reading Fluency
 - Math Vocabulary
 - Vertical Alignment
- Mr. Jason Kirby, Director of Personnel and Technology, provided information on the Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. This program has been in place for a number of years. He noted one change is that notice to enter the ERIP program must be given prior to the close of business on January 31 of each year beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. This will be presented as an Action Item at the May board meeting. Mr. Kirby also provided draft information on the Early Retirement Incentive Program for 2022-2023, which contains a tiered pay system. This was presented as informational only and action will be taken on both the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 plans at the May meeting.

- Trustee Berkstresser confirmed that the “old system” is active until the 2022-2023 school year and received confirmation from Mr. Kirby.
- Chairman Lovell clarified that the reason for the upcoming change is in response to trying to continue to make the program affordable for the school division.

ACTION ITEM:

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, the board voted 4-0, to approve the application for the Carl Perkins Grant as presented.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Whitmore, seconded by Trustee Berkstresser, the board voted 4-0, the Board approved authorization for the Superintendent/Designee to process payments as necessary at the end of May 2021 and June 2021. 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. The board also approved the Superintendent / Designee to close out the current fiscal year. This authorization would include payment of remaining accounts payable and payroll expenses and the preparation of necessary expenditure transfers, budget adjustments, appropriations of additional revenues and requests for category transfers from the Board of Supervisors, if needed. A final report summarizing these actions will be distributed during the month of July. All transactions will require signatures of two of the following three staff positions: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, or Director of Financial Services.

NEW BUSINESS: None

SCHOOL BOARD:

The next regular monthly meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Maury River Middle School, 600 Waddell Street, Lexington, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by 4-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.


Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman


Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board