

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The meeting was held at Maury River Middle School.

Present: Chairman Wendy Lovell; Trustees Corey Berkstresser, Kathy Burant, Heather Hostetter, 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

RECOGNITION / SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

One patron addressed the board expressing belief that the public documents provided for the Equity Initiative does not fully represent the Equity Initiative. Patron express belief that it is about race and referenced expectation that board members are charged to know more about what is going on.

One patron addressed the board with concerns of the meeting time, agenda content provided and stated belief that the school system is not the place for politics or to push an agenda for BLM movement.

One patron addressed the board expressing the sentiment that for each action taken by the board members causes a reaction, either negative or positive, and asked the board members to think about how their actions as a board impact people's lives.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Burant, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, the board voted 5-0, the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: 1) February 9, 2021 [Public Hearing]; 2) February 9, 2021 [Regular Meeting]
- Field Trip / Bus Use Requests
- Fundraising Requests
- Application for Use of Facilities
- Appointments and Resignations

APPOINTMENTS

Professional Staff

Alli Axline, Teacher, Central Elementary School, 2021 – 2022 school year
Hannah Nelms, Teacher, Natural Bridge Elementary School, 2021 – 2022 school year
Cynthia Spangler, Special Education Teacher, 2021 – 2022 school year
Paul Spangler, Special Education Teacher, 2021 – 2022 school year
Constance Hadley, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, 2021 - 2022 school year

Substitute Teachers

Becky Herndon
Mary LeGrys
Ann Schrader

Car Driver

Amanda Thompson
Jacob Hamilton

Spring Coaches

Rockbridge County High School

Baseball

Travis Roadcap, Head Varsity Baseball Coach
Nick Perlozzo, Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach
Andy Coffey, JV Baseball Coach
Stuart Rogers, Volunteer Baseball Coach
Mat Rapoza, Volunteer Baseball Coach

Softball

Keston Pelter, Head Varsity Softball Coach
 Cari Floyd, Assistant Varsity Softball Coach
 Hannah McDaniel, JV Softball Coach
 Krista McDaniel, Volunteer Softball Coach
 Madison McKemy, Volunteer Softball Coach

Boys' Soccer

Scott Youngdahl, Head Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach
 Paul Gregory, Boys' JV Soccer Coach
 Josh Elrod, Volunteer Boys' Soccer Coach
 Jim Kahn, Volunteer Boys' Soccer Coach

Girls' Soccer

BJ Flack, Head Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach
 Elena Correa, Girls' JV Soccer Coach
 Dirk Van Assendelft, Volunteer Girls' Soccer Coach

Boys' Lacrosse

Robert Hull, Head Boys' Lacrosse Coach
 Scott Winterton, Assistant Boys' Lacrosse Coach
 Ryan Larsen, Volunteer Boys' Lacrosse Coach

Girls' Lacrosse

Susan Nye, Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach
 Rebecca Stratton, Assistant Girls' Lacrosse Coach
 Sammy Moore, Volunteer Girls' Lacrosse Coach
 Jim Coleman, Volunteer Girls' Lacrosse Coach
 Amanda Green, Volunteer Girls' Lacrosse Coach

Girls' Tennis

Mallory Bane, Girls' Tennis Coach

Outdoor Track

Jennifer Showalter, Head Outdoor Track Coach
 Julie Tisone, Assistant Outdoor Track Coach
 Gloria Brown, Volunteer Outdoor Track Coach
 Mike Brown, Volunteer Outdoor Track Coach

RETIREMENTS**Professional Staff**

Lori Teague, Principal, Mountain View Elementary School, retiring June 30, 2021
 Carl "Eddie" Brown, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, retiring end of the 2020 - 2021 school year

Support Staff

Ellen Campbell, Teacher Assistant, Elementary Schools, retiring end of the 2020 - 2021 school year

RESIGNATION**Support Staff**

Amber Koval, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, resigning effective March 16, 2021

- **Business Items**

- Approve new grant appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$4,118.00.
- Approve Monthly Financials in the amount of \$2,684,787.19.

BUDGET PLANNING:

Superintendent Thompson stated that the administration is in a bit of a holding pattern because school divisions have been waiting for the General Assembly to finish and they did so last week. The Governor has not yet approved the budget. The VDOE has been working on a calculation tool to determine how much school division funding will be at the state level for next year. The calc tool was released an hour before this school board meeting. Superintendent Thompson stated that he anticipates that within the next couple of days, he will be able to relay to board members what the state funding will look like moving forward. He stated that the Board of Supervisors have requested the Categorical Estimate of Needs by March 15, 2021, which in turn, requires the School Board to approve the Categorical Estimate of Needs as soon as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:**

Mr. Tim Martino, Director of K12 Curriculum and Instruction, provided a presentation of "Our Equity Journey". Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Equality: Every learner has access to a math textbook, calculator, and teachers.
- Equity: Specific learners have access to a math textbook, calculator, teacher, and tutor. Equity is about providing the necessary tools to level the playing field for ALL learners no matter the race, gender, social-economic status, or any other classification.
- An Equity Survey was provided to RCPS employees in February with 59% of professional staff participating with the data serving as a starting point for the division work.
- The equity journey is a continuous self-reflection and focused work to continue to build equitable schools for all learners, teachers, staff, parents, and stakeholders. The work can be challenging, as the topics are often sensitive yet critical to ensure the playing field is leveled for all learners.

Mr. Tim Martino, Director of K12 Curriculum and Instruction, provided information the K12 Summer Instructional Recovery Program. Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

Components of the Instructional Calendar, Instructional Day, and Teacher Day

- Administrative Interns at the elementary and secondary level will supervise the summer programs at the two respective sites. Interns have to apply and participate in an interview process with ECO staff.
- Offerings: RCHS: English, Math Science, and Social Science
 MRMS: English and Math
 Elementary: English and Math
- Teacher and Intern Compensation: \$35 per hour. The number of teachers needed will be determined by the number of learners enrolled in each summer session.
- Funding allotment for targeted materials to support instruction may be requested up to \$200 to the administrative intern for consideration.
- Delivery Models:
 - Central Elementary School will host all elementary students participating in Early Back. Grades K-5 will receive direct instruction from licensed teachers in reading and math. Transportation will be provided to any learners participating in the summer program.
 - Maury River Middle School will house the secondary summer program. English and Math remediation classes will be offered to learners currently in grades 6-8. English, Math, Science, and Social Science classes will be offered through the use of Edgenuity and in-person teachers for current 9th-12th grade learners. Transportation will be provided to any learner participating in the summer program.
- Additional Services: Breakfast and snack will be provided to all learners attending the summer program. A school nurse will be available at each summer site.

Virtual Summer School 2021

- Virtual Offerings: Physical Education / Health 9
 Physical Education / Health / Drivers Education 10
 Economics and Personal Finance
- Virtual Delivery Model:

- The three virtual delivery models will be delivered primarily through Google Classroom. There is a cost of \$100.00 associated with the classes.

Mr. Martino stated that this format is 80% of the direction of the program but that some things may still change.

- Trustee Burant inquired if students will have the opportunity to sign up in guidance.
 - Mr. Martino stated that summer school is not used to get ahead, but is used for credit recovery. There are recommendations criteria for grades K-8. School staff identify learners who would benefit and will be dedicated to meet. A recommendation does not mean that students will come. He stated that parents will be notified via letter of recommendations for the program. He expressed his belief that teachers are willing to participate and get students back on track.
- Chairman Lovell inquired if the division will have to wait in order to know how many teachers will be needed.
 - Mr. Martino stated that recommendations are currently being determined for grades K-8 and that the RCHS staff are working on recommendations. He stated that this also includes current seniors who need recovery.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

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 April meeting.

- Trustee Berkstresser inquired if the grant will increase if the school funding is increased.
 - Mr. Owens stated that the grant is based on enrollment of the school as a whole, not just the CTE program, and adjusts annually. The state gets a certain allotment and then distributes to school divisions based on enrollment.
- Chairman Lovell commended Mr. Owens for looking after the local needs in building our workforce program, which could mean potential jobs for our students upon graduation.

ACTION ITEM:

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Berkstresser and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the request to submit a renewal application for the 21st Century Community Learning Center – Natural Bridge Elementary School, which is a three year cycle.

- Chairman Lovell inquired if Natural Bridge Elementary School is currently ending the first cycle of a three-year program.
 - Superintendent Thompson confirmed that this is the first three-year cycle for Natural Bridge Elementary School and does need to be renewed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Berkstresser requested that board members consider a later start time of 6:00 p.m. for monthly meetings.

- Chairman Lovell stated that the request will be considered but reminded board members that it lengthens the workday for the administrative staff.
- Trustee Berkstresser expressed his sentiment that if a later start time is begun and there are more patrons who participate in public comment, or more items on the agenda, the start time may need to return to a 5:00 p.m. to accommodate a longer meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD:

There will be a Joint Meeting with Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 5:00 PM. The meeting will take place at Maury River Middle School, 600 Waddell Street, Lexington, Virginia.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Maury River Middle School, 600 Waddell Street, Lexington, Virginia.

There will be a called meeting for the purpose of a budget work session, with a date to be determined and announced.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Wendy W. Lovell
Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman

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