

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 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 4:52 p.m.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None

#### **RECOGNITION / SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

- School Board Appreciation Month: February 2021
- School Board Clerk Appreciation Week 2021

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were three patrons who addressed the board regarding:

- One patron addressed the board expressing his belief that the board acted dishonestly when they endorsed a letter of support for RCHS administration which appeared in a previous edition of the News Gazette which showed support for Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ, and critical race curriculum; disappointment in the implementation of gender neutral restrooms; not listening to parents; not providing appropriate funding for at-risk students and instead considering work on high school football field; and the format and time of school board meetings.
- Two patrons addressed the board regarding opposition of the implementation of gender-neutral restrooms and curriculum,

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes: 1) January 12, 2021 [Regular Meeting]; 2) January 20, 2021 [Special Meeting]; 3) January 21, 2021 [Joint Meeting with Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors]
- Fundraising Requests
- Application for Use of Facilities
- **Appointments and Resignations**

##### **Appointments**

##### **Support Staff**

Angel Barry, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, effective February 2, 2021

Terry Messerich, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, effective February 3, 2021

Brookney Thomas, Teacher Assistant, Maury River Middle School, effective February 2, 2021

##### **Football Coaches – RCHS**

Malik Dunn, Assistant Football Coach

Ben Rhodenizer, Volunteer Football Coach

##### **Professional Staff**

##### **Retirement**

Haywood Hand, Assistant Superintendent, Central Office, retiring effective June 30, 2021

Kimberly Huffman, Teacher, Natural Bridge Elementary School, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year

Lisa Vassar, Teacher, Natural Bridge Elementary School, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year

Joanna Irby, Librarian, Natural Bridge Elementary School, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year

Constance Donald, Teacher, Natural Bridge Elementary School, retiring end of 2020 – 2021 school year

##### **Professional Staff**

##### **Resignation**

Tina Wanovich, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, resigning end of 2020 – 2021 school year

**Support Staff****Retirement**

Elizabeth Camden, Teacher Assistant, Maury River Middle School, retiring effective January 18, 2021

- **Business Items**

- Approve new grant appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$3,094.00.
- Approve new grant appropriations to Fund 56 in the amount of \$50,000.00.
- Approve Monthly Financials in the amount of \$2,682,084.19.

**BUDGET PLANNING:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:**

Dr. Angie Wilder, Supervisor of Secondary Special Education, provided information on the policy and regulation for RCPS 140 Clock Hour. She provided the following highlights:

- **Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit**

The 2015 General Assembly expanded the opportunities for students to earn standard units of credit by passing HB 1675/SB 982, which permits school boards to waive the requirement that students receive 140 clock hours of instruction to earn a standard unit of credit. In October 2015, the Board of Education (BOE) adopted Guidelines for Graduation Requirements: Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit (Alternatives to the 140-Clock-hour Requirement) to address how school boards may implement this option, provide latitude for innovative practice and ensure that rigor and quality are maintained and explained.

- The Guidelines identify three paths by which school boards may award standard credits via waiver: 1) courses that have less than 140 clock hours of instruction, 2) independent study, work sample portfolio, demonstrated performance and locally developed or Standards of Learning assessment and 3) demonstrated achievement on national or international assessments.

- Chairman Lovell expressed her appreciation for the policy reflecting that not every child learns the same way.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Burant, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote, the Board approved the Resolution Requesting Issuance of General Obligation School Bonds for HVAC Replacement at Central Elementary School and Fairfield Elementary School.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, the board voted 5-0, to approve the Rockbridge County High School Program of Studies, as presented.

- Chairman Lovell stated that she had heard from constituents that the Virtual Curriculum Night was very beneficial and appreciated.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Burant, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, the board voted 5-0, to approve the Maury River Middle School Program of Studies, as presented.

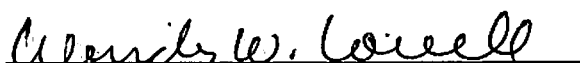
**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**SCHOOL BOARD:**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 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 Hostetter, seconded by Trustee Berkstresser, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

  
Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman

  
Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board