

The Rockbridge County School Board held a special meeting on Thursday, May 30, 2024. The meeting was held at Maury River Middle School.

Present: Chairman Neil Whitmore; Trustees Corey Berkstresser, Catie Brown, Kathy Burant, Lenna Ojure; Superintendent Phillip Thompson and Deputy Clerk Timothy Martino.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Whitmore called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Ashley Rhodenizer, Director of Special Education, provided information on the Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) Plan. She explained that Rockbridge County Public Schools' was flagged because we have too many white students placed in alternative settings; therefore, Rockbridge County Public Schools must set aside fifteen percent of two of our special education grants to support these students return to public school.

Ms. Rhodenizer provided a brief overview of the requirements as follows:

- Our division is required to participate in the Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) due to having a disproportionate number of white students placed in alternative settings. The definition of Alternative Setting is: (2) Public Separate School, (3) Private Day School, (5) Private Residential School, (6) Home Placement (homebound and home-based).
- We are required to set aside 15% of the total of our Part B federal grants.
- We continue in the CCEIS until our 3 year average is not over 3%.
- Through guidance from the CCEIS workbook and learning sessions, our team completed multiple guided quantitative and qualitative activities to tease out data to get to the root cause of our disproportionality which is two-fold: we have a lack of the full continuum of settings in-house, and insufficient training for staff (especially for strategies helpful with students who have Autism and those exhibiting challenging behaviors). We also identified a critical need for a structured, comprehensive system to provide both academic and behavioral support within our public school setting. The absence of such a framework contributes to the over-reliance on alternate placements.
- The plan proposes a new classroom at Maury River Middle School. The CCEIS grant funds a teacher and teaching assistant and their benefits.
- Our additional overarching system is to start implementing MTSS/VTSS. The Tiered System of Supports gives a systemic structure for data-driven decision making.
- Our expected outcomes are: decrease disproportionality of discipline referrals and reduce alternate placement for white students.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Whitmore, motion by Trustee Burant, seconded by Trustee Brown, the board voted 5-0, to approve the Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) Plan.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Whitmore, motion by Trustee Ojure, seconded by Trustee Berkstresser, the board voted 5-0, to approve the revised Special Education Policy and Procedure Manual, as presented.

(Trustee Berkstresser left at 3:06 p.m.)

CLOSED MEETING

Under Section 2.2-3711.A (8) of the State Code, Chairman Whitmore recommended that the Board go into a ***Closed Meeting*** to discuss one personnel matter. Motion was made by Trustee Burant, seconded by Trustee Ojure, and passed by 3-0 vote.

The Board entered into the ***Closed Meeting*** at 3:09 p.m.

(Chairman Whitmore left at 4:30 p.m.)

The Board returned to open session at 4:38 p.m.

Trustee Brown 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 Vice-Chair Hostetter, and seconded by Trustee Burant, the motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Trustee Burant	- Aye
Trustee Ojure	- Aye
Trustee Brown	- Aye

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Ojure, and passed by 3-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.


Neil D. Whitmore, Chairman


Timothy J. Martino, Deputy Clerk of the Board