

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at the Maury River Middle School.

Present: Chairman Kathy Burant; Trustees Catie Brown, Lenna Ojure; Superintendent Phillip Thompson and Clerk Rhonda Humphries. Absent: Trustee Corey Berkstresser, Neil Whitmore.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burant called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Superintendent Thompson requested that an Action Item be added for Superintendent’s Contract.

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION:

Moment of Recognition for Retirees

- 2024: Jeffrey Bailey
- 2025: Patsy Aligood, David Daniels, Karen Duff, Kristie Funkhouser, Rebecca Fleshman, Mike LeNoir, Roxie Sorrels, Terri Wheeler

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Ojure, seconded by Trustee Brown, the board approved the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: 1) May 13, 2025 [Regular Meeting]; 2) May 15, 2024 [Discipline Committee Hearing]
- Field Trip Requests
- Fundraiser Requests
- Surplus Vehicles
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Professional Staff

- Maggie Moore, Teacher, Natural Bridge Elementary School, effective the 2025-2026 school year
- Matthew Heinrich, Teacher Maury River Middle School, effective the 2025-2026 school year
- Christine Szarzynski, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, effective the 2025-2026 school year
- Dylan Thompson, Special Education Teacher, Central Elementary School, effective the 2025-2026 school year
- Tristan Ayers, Teacher, Natural Bridge Elementary School, effective the 2025-2026 school year
- Joseph Salinetto, Special Education Teacher, Maury River Middle School, effective the 2025-2026 school year
- Brandon Cash, Teacher, Central Elementary School, effective the 2025-2026 school year
- Karen Swortzel, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, effective the 2025-2026 school year
- Judith Hensley, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, effective the 2025-2026 school year
- Rebecca Holland, School Counselor, Central Elementary School, effective the 2025-2026 school year
- Anthony Marasco, Athletic Director, Rockbridge County High School, effective the 2025-2026 school year

Support Staff

- Melissa Wilhelm, Food Service, Rockbridge County High School, effective the 2025-2026 school year

Professional Staff

Resignation

- Ashley Bailey, Guidance Counselor, Rockbridge County High School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year
- Kathryn Sheets, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year
- Emily Jenkins, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Support Staff

Resignation

- Hailey Crotty, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Professional Staff Retirees

Jeffrey Bailey, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 School year

Mike LeNoir, Teacher, Rockbridge County School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 School year

Rebecca Fleshman, Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 School year

Kristie Funkhouser, Reading Specialist, Natural Bridge, Elementary School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 School year

Karen Duff, Teacher, Central Elementary School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 School year

Terri Wheeler, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 School year

David Daniels, Central Office, Director of Finance, effective the end of the 2024-2025 School year

Support Staff Retirees

Patsy Aligood, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 School year

Roxie Sorrels, Food Service, Maury River Middle School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 School year

- **Business Items**

- Approved debt service payment due July 1, 2025 to US Bank for Rockbridge County Public Schools lease for Energy Performance Contract at Rockbridge County High School in the amount of \$414,670.96.
- Approved debt service payment due July 15, 2025 to US Bank for Rockbridge County Public School VPSA bonds in the amount of \$2,048,344.38.
- Approved the Finance Department of Rockbridge County Public Schools to wire debt service in the amount of \$344,371.88 for duly appropriated 2023 VPSA Bond funds.
- Approved appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$8,833.00
- Approved appropriation in the amount of \$262,000 from the county's escrow fund to pay for the high school gym bleachers.
- Approved Monthly Financials in the amount of \$3,627,140.10

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BUDGET PLANNING: No reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Brown stated, on behalf of the Rockbridge Public Schools Foundation, that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony received a great turn-out and that it was wonderful to open the doors so that the community could see what we have to offer. Two new donors joined during the event. She expressed appreciation to EverBrite for the signage that will be placed at the front of the building. She also shared the amount of \$520,000 has been donated, not including the two new donors.

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None

ACTION ITEMS:

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Ojure, the board voted 3-0, to approve the Early Retirement Incentive Program as presented.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Ojure, seconded by Trustee Brown, the board voted 3-0, to approve for the school division to apply for individual and consolidated state and federal entitlement grants.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Ojure, seconded by Trustee Brown, the board voted 3-0, to forgo the July meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Ojure, the board voted 5-0, to approve for the Superintendent/Designee to process July 2025 financials, accounts payable, payroll, fund appropriations, and fund transfers as necessary for the month of July 2025. A final report summarizing these actions will be distributed during the month of August 2025. All transactions will require signatures of two of the following staff positions: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Business Officer, Chief Operations Officer, or Supervisor of Financial Services.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Ojure, seconded by Trustee Brown, the board voted 3-0, to approve a request for reimbursement from the state in the amount of \$206,000 for technology purchases made by Rockbridge County Public Schools.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Ojure, and passed with an email vote prior to the meeting by a 5-0 roll call vote, and a 3-0 roll call vote from Trustees who were present. The Board approved to waive the required thirty (30) days advance notice and agree to vote on the renegotiated Superintendent’s contract during this meeting.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Brown, and passed by a 3-0 roll call vote, in recognition of Dr. Thompson’s exemplary performance as Division Superintendent and with his concurrence, the Board terminate his current appointment and agreement effective June 30, 2025, and simultaneously reappoint and employ him for a new term of four (4) years as division Superintendent beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2029, and direct and authorize the Chair to execute the employment contract on behalf of the board according to the terms and conditions agreed to by the parties.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Burant expressed her appreciation to Superintendent Thompson and staff for the retention bonus that will be given to employees; \$1,000 to full-time employees and \$500 to part-time employees.

Chairman Burant expressed her appreciation to all for the work done for the Rockbridge Innovation Center as it was a community effort with education as the focus.

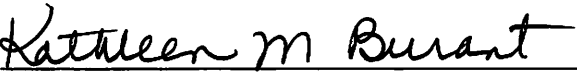
Chairman Burant expressed appreciation to Jennifer and Eddie Brown who donated iris bulbs to be planted around the campus of the Rockbridge Innovation Center.

SCHOOL BOARD

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 / 5:30 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Ojure, seconded by Trustee Brown, and passed by 3-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.


Kathy M. Burant, Chairman


Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board