

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at Maury River Middle School.

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION:

Mr. Rick Bain, Supervisor of Human Resources, introduced employees who received the REDOT Award, [Rockbridge Employees Doing Outstanding Things]. This is an award designed to highlight the great things our employees are doing. This award is given quarterly, with nominations by a co-worker or an administrator. There are twelve employees who were recognized this quarter:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Erin Poulin | - Maury River Middle School |
| Courtney Diette | - Maury River Middle School |
| Stephanie McRae | - Maury River Middle School |
| Robyn Sherman | - Rockbridge County High School |
| Stephanie Brooks | - Rockbridge County High School |
| Lisa van Ravenswaay | - Rockbridge County High School |
| Samantha Cramer | - Rockbridge County High School |
| Kristyn Mazingo | - Elementary Special Education Diagnostician |
| Jennifer Houck | - Elementary Special Education (Central Office) |
| Cynthia Sparks | - Elementary Teacher Support (Central Office) |
| Jennifer Ludtke | - Central Office |
| Ana Church | - Central Office |

Superintendent Thompson recognized Ms. Jessika Crance, outstanding educator at Rockbridge County High School. The following are his words of recognition:

Each year, the Lexington-Rockbridge Chamber of Commerce hosts The People's Choice Awards to honor individuals who make an exceptional impact in our community. Among many deserving nominees, Jessika was selected as this year's Educator of the Year.

Jessika embodies everything we value in an educator—dedication, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to helping every student reach their full potential. She is known not only for her skill in the classroom but also for the positive relationships she builds with students, families, and colleagues alike. Jessika is seemingly always at RCHS—sponsoring events, working with students, selling tickets at games, and lending a hand wherever she's needed.

We are incredibly proud to have Jessika representing Rockbridge County Public Schools, and we congratulate her on this well-deserved honor.

Mr. Eric Wilson, Executive Director, Rockbridge Historical Society, provided information on VA250. Below are highlights of his presentation:

- The VA250 commemorates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the United States' independence in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Throughout 2025-2028, Rockbridge-VA250 will aim to encourage local, community-sourced initiatives to advance state and national efforts in celebrating the 250th anniversaries of America's Revolutions, which echo and build upon the commemorations and celebrations of "The Spirit of '76".
- The Rockbridge-VA250 Advisory Committee aims to empower the community to creatively connect and advance the mission of "Our Common Cause". In the following years, our community's distinctive stories and shared experiences will honor and add to the foundational and revolutionary history. This will include Buena Vista, Lexington, and Rockbridge to host events and create sustained programming that encompasses our diverse communities, heritages, and interests.
- Rockbridge-VA250 encourages the participation and creativity of all Rockbridge citizens, with hopes of engaging all ages and occupations.
- More information can be found at: VA250.org/rockbridge

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes: 1) October 14, 2025 [Regular Meeting]; 2) October 22, 2025 [Discipline Committee Hearing]
- Field Trip Requests
- Fundraiser Requests
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments**Support Staff**

Sydney Taylor, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, effective November 12, 2025

Sydney Bowen-Sweet, Teacher Assistant, Maury River Middle School,
effective November 12, 2025

Destiny Thomas, Teacher Assistant, Maury River Middle School, effective November 12, 2025

Isabelle Bushnell, Teacher Assistant, Mountain View Elementary School,
effective November 17, 2025

Substitutes

Carolyn Phillips

Angela Assaoui

Raymond Higgins

Jennifer Rattigan

Marie Fink-Mohler

Substitute Bus Driver

John Delaney

Substitute Food Service

Chastity Berkstresser

Winter Coaches 2025-2026**Rockbridge County High School****Boys' Basketball**

Robert Winfield, Head Coach

Dylan Thompson, Assistant Coach

Gary Randall, Assistant Coach

Scott Rogers, JV Head Coach

Girls' Basketball

Darrell Plogger, Head Coach

Monica Schaus, Assistant Coach

Tyler Falls, JV Head Coach

Paul Pelter, Volunteer Coach

Ricky Haston, Volunteer Coach

Seth Clark, Volunteer Coach

Andrew Rowsey, Volunteer Coach

Wrestling

Mike Wood, Head Coach

Logan Davis, Assistant Coach

Aaron Bruce, Volunteer Coach

Kage Tomlin, Volunteer Coach

Swimming

Erica Bisailon, Head Coach

Ellie Tomlinson, Assistant Coach

Allison Gigante, Assistant Coach

Leslie Ayers, Volunteer Coach

Brian Barney, Volunteer Coach

Cheerleading

Shannon Bryan, Head Coach
Alli Thomas, Assistant Coach

Indoor Track

Jennifer Showalter, Head Coach
Zavery Wallace, Assistant Coach
Katie Showalter, Volunteer Coach

Maury River Middle School

Boys' Basketball

Ron Clark, Head Coach

Girls' Basketball

Misty Armstong, Head Coach
Graceon Whitesell, Assistant Coach
Emily Mahood, Volunteer Coach

Wrestling

Josh Holton, Head Coach
Nate Schear, Volunteer Coach
Jackson Todd, Volunteer Coach
Camilla Wood, Volunteer Coach
Dan Taylor, Volunteer Coach
Rocky Trogen, Volunteer Coach

Cheerleading

Liz Clarke, Head Coach

Support Staff

Resignation

Richard Skipper, Custodian, Central Elementary School, resigning effective November 3, 2025
Michael Taylor, Teacher Assistant, Maury River Middle School, resigning effective October 23, 2025

Professional Staff

Resignation

Jocelyn Robbins, Instructional Coach, Division, resigning effective October 31, 2025
Cheryl Hong, School Nurse, Maury River Middle School, resigning effective December 19, 2025

- Business Items
 - Approved appropriations for RCHS Ball Field Lights in the amount of \$656,766. In October 2025, Board of Supervisors approved funding the project in FY26.
 - Approved Monthly Financials in the amount of \$4,183,096.85.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BUDGET PLANNING:

Mr. Jason Kirby, Chief Business Officer, reported that the Rockbridge County School Board will hold a Budget Work Session on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 5:00 PM at the Rockbridge County School Board Office. He stated that the VRS is moving down approximately 2%. This will take affect July 1, 2026, if approved by the General Assembly and the Governor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:

Mr. Timothy Martino, Assistant Superintendent, provided an instructional update with various happenings in the division, as listed below:

- The Program of Studies for Maury River Middle School and Rockbridge County High School will be presented for information at the December SB meeting. We will be asking for action in January.
- Virginia Growth Assessments were recently administered in grades 3-5.

- Maury River Middle School will host the 5th grade State Fair on Monday, November 24, 2025 beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- Rockbridge County High School had an enjoyable fall sports season. RCHS Cross Country team went to states.
- Rockbridge County High School had a safe and enjoyable Homecoming.
- Veterans were honored at the last home RCHS football game.
- RCPS had learners walked in the Veterans Day parade earlier this morning.
- RCPS was an active participant in the Thanksgiving feeding program.
- Fall Festivals were held successfully throughout the division.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Superintendent Thompson provided information on the 2026-2027 Calendar. This will be presented as an Informational Item at the December meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board.

ACTION ITEMS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Burant expressed her appreciation to parents, students, and staff who spoke during public comment at the October meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board.

Chairman Burant stated that she attended the Veterans' Day Parade in Lexington and was pleased to see some employees of Rockbridge County Public Schools participating and being recognized as Veterans.

Trustee Berkstresser stated that the Fairfield Elementary School held their annual Veterans Day Program. He stated that it was a wonderful event which reflects the pride of students have for their family members who are veterans.

SCHOOL BOARD

The Rockbridge County School Board members will attend the 2025 VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia; November 19-21, 2025.

There will be a Joint Meeting with the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM at the Rockbridge Innovation Center.

There will be a Budget Work Session on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 5:00 PM at the Rockbridge County School Board Office.

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 / 5:30 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia.

CLOSED MEETING

[Trustee Brown joined the Closed Meeting electronically via telephone]

Under Section 2.2-3711.A (1) of the State Code, Trustee Berkstresser recommended that the Board go into a *Closed Meeting* to discuss one personnel matter. Motion was made by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by 4-0 vote.

The Board entered into the *Closed Meeting* at 6:20 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:33 p.m.

Trustee Berkstresser 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;

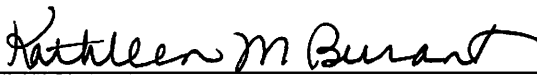
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockbridge County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

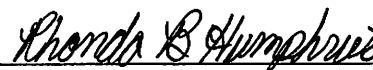
Upon initial motion of Certification of Closed Meeting by Trustee Berkstresser, and seconded by Trustee Whitmore the motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Trustee Brown	- Aye
Chairman Burant	- Aye
Trustee Ojure	- Aye
Trustee Whitmore	- Aye
Trustee Berkstresser	- Aye

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Ojure, and passed by 4-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.


Kathy M. Burant, Chairman


Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board