

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at the County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION:

Dr. Jason Kirby, Chief Business Officer 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 eleven employees who were recognized:

Meagan Staton	-	Natural Bridge Elementary School
Wanda Schemehorn	-	Natural Bridge Elementary School
Isabelle Bushnell	-	Mountain View Elementary School
Matthew Schucker	-	Maury River Middle School
Karla Staton	-	Maury River Middle School
Farrah Erskine	-	Central Elementary School
Mary Holton	-	Rockbridge County High School
Zach Rhodenizer	-	Rockbridge County High School
Carlie Watterson	-	Fairfield Elementary School
Courtney Jarvis	-	Fairfield Elementary School / Natural Bridge Elementary School
Allison Breeding	-	Rockbridge County School Board Office

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) February 10, 2026 [Public Hearing]; 2) February 10, 2026 [Regular Meeting]; 3) February 19, 2026 [Discipline Committee Hearing]; 4) February 26, 2026 [Special Meeting]
- Field Trip Requests
- Fundraiser Requests
- Application for Use of Facilities
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Support Staff

Heather Murphy, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, effective March 11, 2026
Chasity Tomlin, Teacher Assistant, Mountain View Elementary School,
effective March 16, 2026

School Nurse Substitute

Katlyn Strecker

Food Service Substitute

Abigail Aldrich
Melissa Smith

Substitute

Katherine Kloepping
Mary Coady
Grace Fleshman

Spring Coaches 2025-2026

Rockbridge County High School

Baseball

Travis Roadcap, Head Coach
Nicholas Perlozzo, Assistant Coach
Brian Smith, JV Head Coach
Brandon Ramsey, JV Assistant Coach
Jamie Hostetter, Volunteer Coach
Justin Wenger, Volunteer Coach

Softball

Keston Pelter, Head Coach
Delmas Beverly, Assistant Coach
Eric Dudley, JV Head Coach
Heather Higgins, JV Assistant Coach
Cari Mayton, Volunteer Coach
Keith Moore, Volunteer Coach

Boys' Soccer

Jeffrey Tomlin, Head Coach
Mark Roeder, Assistant Coach
Gavin Fox, JV Head Coach
Bright Frimpong, Volunteer Coach
Michael Saunders, Volunteer Coach
Jacob Lee, Volunteer Coach
Jacob Cornejo, Volunteer Coach

Girls' Soccer

Carrie Dietz, Head Coach
Zachery Byrd, Assistant Coach
Bryn Bissinger, JV Head Coach
Helen Otteni, JV Head Coach

Boys' Lacrosse

David Jones, Head Coach
Ryan McCullough, Assistant Coach
Daniel Grimm, JV Head Coach
Thomas Stillwell, Volunteer Coach
David Jones, Volunteer Coach

Girls' Lacrosse

Susan Nye, Head Coach
Sammy Moore, Assistant Coach
Haiden Lancaster, Assistant Coach

Boys' Tennis

Scott Youngdahl, Head Coach
Brian Barney, Volunteer Coach

Girls' Tennis

Mark Sholes, Head Coach
Michael Moorman, Volunteer Coach

Outdoor Track

Julie Tisone, Head Coach
Zavery Wallace, Assistant Coach
Hallie McMurdie, Assistant Coach

Maury River Middle School

Outdoor Track

Daniel Shelton, Head Coach
Julie Tisone, Assistant Coach
Hallie McMurdie, Assistant Coach

Professional Staff

Retirement

Rebecca McFaddin, Teacher, Central Elementary School, retiring effective end of the 2025-2026 school year

- Business Items
 - Approved appropriation to Fund 70 for the purchase of a school bus in the amount of \$98,592.
 - Approved Monthly Financials in the amount of \$3,887,174.70.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BUDGET PLANNING: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:

Mr. Shaun Sparks, Principal, Rockbridge County High School, provided information on Summer School 2026. He stated that RCHS offers two summer school programs: Credit recovery, and new programming. This means that Health and PE 9, Health and PE 10, Economics, and Personal Finance will continue to run as it currently is. He stated that RCHS is moving to a skills-based summer school, specifically focusing on English and Algebra content recovery. The focus will be on skills gaps and deficits. The data will be reviewed at the end of the year, as well as having conversations with the two departments. Students will be identified who need to recover these classes and to be intentional about the gaps that they have, specifically in the areas of Math and English. These classes will be taught by our instructors and not via Edgenuity or online.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Dr. Jason Kirby presented the first reading of the updates for Policy DLB-R, Salary Deductions. He stated that there are updates to the voluntary deductions through payroll. This will be presented as an Action Item at the April meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board.

Mr. Paige Owens, Director of Technology and Career and Technical Education provided information on the application for the 2026-2027 Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Funds Grant. The Annual Performance Report should be received by early April. The information will be updated in the report before school board approval in April. The Board will be requested to approve the submission of the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Funds Grant at the April meeting.

- Trustee Whitmore inquired if there are any substantial changes from last year.
 - Mr. Owens stated that changes are not known yet, but he anticipates a change each year. He stated that the change is typically very low; anywhere from \$500-\$1,500.
 - Chairman Burant stated that the performance and assessment targets have been met and have even been exceeded. She also stated that the amount of productivity and student involvement has doubled, which reflects students taking advantage of some of the workplace learning opportunities.

Ms. Ashley Rhodenizer provided information on the Rockbridge Area Special Education Advisory Council for 2026 members who the Board is required to formally approve. The council is to include 51% parents; the current list contains parents who do not have current school children. The council is made up from the three school divisions of Rockbridge, Buena Vista, and Lexington City and meets four times a year. This council provides a leadership opportunity for parents. This will be presented for approval at the April board meeting.

Ms. Ashley Rhodenizer provided information on the 2026-2027 Annual Special Education Plan. This plan includes Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) Applications for Federal Funds. The 2026-2027 Local Special Education Annual Plan and Report serve as a formal agreement between our local School Board and the Virginia Department of Education for the implementation of federal and state laws and regulations that govern special education services. Disbursement of state and federal funds appropriated for the education of children with disabilities is contingent upon the approval of our plan and application. It is anticipated that updated information will be presented in April. The Rockbridge Area Special Education Advisory Council will review all documents at their next meeting, as required. This will be presented for approval at the April board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Dr. Kirby stated that the budget process is at a pivotal point. The House and Senate have both passed their respective bills and are now working through them together. The hope is that there will be more information in the next couple of weeks leading to a finalized General Assembly budget and then to government approval. He stated that the House version provides \$870,000 above the Governor and includes a 2% compensation supplement; most of the funding is a one-time flexible payment for FY27 only. He stated that the Senate version provides \$350,000 above the Governor and includes a 3% compensation supplement; funding extends to FY27 and FY28, adds at-risk student funds and includes increased sales tax distributions. He stated that they will continue to monitor what comes out of the General Assembly. Administration will continue to work with colleagues from Rockbridge County and the Board of Supervisors, and will be prepared to adjust the RCPS budget once more clarity is received.

Fund 50 – Categorical Estimate of Needs – FY27

Categories	FY27 Projected	Percent
Instruction – 61 (Fund 50)	\$29,132,980	72.0%
Administration & Health – 62 (Fund 50)	\$ 2,907,982	7.2%
Pupil Transportation - 63 (Fund 50)	\$ 2,955,011	7.3%
Operations & Maintenance – 64 (Fund 50)	\$ 3,869,242	9.6%
Facilities – 66 (Fund 50)	\$ 20,000	0.0%
Technology – 68 (Fund 50)	\$ 1,590,757	3.9%
Fund 50 Site Operating Budget	\$40,475,971	100.0%

Fund 50 – Expected Revenue Sources – FY27

Revenue Source	FY27 Projected	Percent
Estimated State Revenue Funding (FY27)	\$20,262,196	50.1%
Estimated Local Revenue Funding (FY27)	\$18,413,183	45.5%
Estimated Tuition Revenue Funding (FY27)	\$ 1,690,000	4.2%
Estimated Other Revenue Funding (FY27)	\$ 110,592	0.3%
Fund 50 Site Operating Budget	\$40,475,971	100.0%

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Ojura, the board voted 5-0, to approve the Categorical Estimate of Needs – FY27 in the amount of \$40,475,971.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote, the Board approved the 2026 VSBA Business Honor Roll nominations of 1) Rockbridge County Public Schools Foundation; 2)Rockbridge Regional Library.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Burant stated that the Rockbridge County School Board met with the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) to establish the plan and to establish the timeline for the Superintendent Search. Dr. Phillip Thompson, Superintendent, is retiring December 31, 2026. She stated that the entire community will have the opportunity for input on the qualifications of the next superintendent. Surveys will be available from April 13-27, 2026. Patrons will be able to access the survey via online, social media, on paper, and will be available via a scannable QR code. There will be a Public Hearing prior the regular meeting on May 12, 2026 for the purpose of hearing patrons who would like to address the board to share their wish list. Responses will be shared with VSBA who will create a master list of qualifications. VSBA will advertise the superintendent position throughout the state and the nation, as well as through publications such as Education Week. Applications will be accepted beginning June 1 through June 30, 2026. Rockbridge County School Board members will review the applications during the month of July with interviews to begin mid-August.

Chairman Burant expressed her appreciation, on behalf of the board, for the invitations extended to school board members to attend school functions.

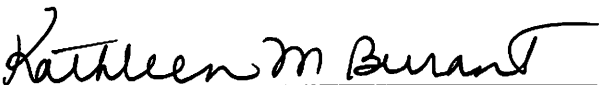
SCHOOL BOARD

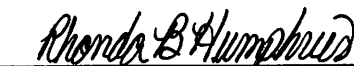
There will be a Joint Meeting with the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, March 19, 2026 / 5:00 PM / Location: Rockbridge Innovation Center.

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 / 5:30 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, Lexington, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.


Kathy M. Burant, Chairman


Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board