

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 09, 2026, at the County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

Present: Chairman Kathleen Burant; Trustees Corey Berkstresser, Lenna Ojure, Neil Whitmore; Superintendent Phillip Thompson and Clerk Heather Bennington.

Absent: Trustee Catie Brown

CALL TO ORDER

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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

ORGANIZATION: None

RECOGNITION / SPECIAL PRESENTAION:

Moment of Recognition for Retirees

Superintendent Thompson honored 16 Retirees representing 282 years of service with Rockbridge County Public Schools.

- 2025: Michael Craft, Deborah Day
- 2026: Kelly Cox, Andrea Harris, Sherry Higgins, Jennifer Houck, Rhonda Humphries, Carolyn Johnson, Jean Little, Susan Mahood, Rebecca McFaddin, David Miller, Stacey Payne, Wanda Schemehorn, Calvin Smith, Lisa van Ravenswaay

Ms. Charity Smith, Prevention Educator, with Rockbridge Area Community Services provided a summary of the activities and partnerships with Rockbridge County Schools over the past year. The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health provided funds to Rockbridge Area Community Services for staff registrations to attend the Virtual Trauma-Sensitive Conference; Rockbridge County Public Schools sent 9 attendees. Tracy Hinty, Supervisor of Federal Programs, actively recruited attendees for the conference. Thanks to her efforts and strong support of the Rockbridge Area Prevention Coalition, she was named RAPC Prevention Champion for this quarter.

Ms. Smith highlighted the numerous initiatives designed to enhance student resilience and deepen their understanding of mental health and wellness. In her role as a prevention educator, she directs both the Live Healthy Rockbridge Kids Coalition and Catch My Breath, a school-based nicotine and vaping prevention program. To date, 230 elementary and middle school students across Rockbridge County Public Schools have successfully completed the full Catch My Breath curriculum.

Ms. Smith noted that the Rockbridge Area Prevention Coalition's 9th Annual Prevention Forum is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026. The recurring event brings together nationwide experts to speak on vital topics including wellness, mental health, and addiction and suicide prevention.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes: 1) May 07, 2026 [Discipline Committee Hearing] 2) May 12, 2026 [Public Hearing] 3) May 12, 2026 [Regular Meeting]
- Field Trip Requests
- Fundraising Requests
- Application for Use of Facilities
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Professional Staff

Lynnsey Oswald, Teacher, Central Elementary, Effective 2026-2027 School Year

Sara Mumbauer, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, Effective 2026-2027 School Year

Sydney Evans, Teacher, Central Elementary, Effective 2026-2027 School Year

Megan Feldman, Teacher, Central Elementary, Effective 2026-2027 School Year

Meredith Lawhorn, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, Effective 2026-2027 School Year

Appointments**Support Staff**

Danny Little Jr., Teacher Assistant, Natural Bridge Elementary, Effective 2026-2027 School Year

Richard Townsend, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Central Office, Effective 6/10/2026

Resignations**Professional Staff**

Melissa Wallace, Media Specialist, Mountain View Elementary, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Rebekah Kingsley, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Robert Winfield, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Kinley Thomas, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Colter Bennett, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Dylan Thompson, Teacher, Central Elementary, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Michelle Oehmke, Teacher, Natural Bridge Elementary, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Resignations**Support Staff**

Luann Dongilli, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Jennifer Rattigan, Teacher Assistant, Fairfield Elementary, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Carolyn Ramsey, Teacher Assistant, Mountain View Elementary, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Ashley Lotts, Teacher Assistant, Maury River Middle School, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

Resignations**Food Service**

Cheryl Noble, Food Service, Maury River Middle School, Effective after 2025-2026 School Year

- Business Items
 - Approved Monthly Financials in the amount of \$320,766.98

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BUDGET PLANNING: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Ms. Lindsey Flint, Coordinator for Gifted Programs, reported at the end of the 2025-2026 school year Rockbridge County Public Schools had identified 12 students at the elementary level, 23 students at MRMS, and 75 students at RCHS, for a total of 110 gifted learners in the division. The Gifted Education Local Plan for 2026 through 2030 was submitted for review. This comprehensive plan outlines all the parts of the local services for gifted students, including areas of giftedness, identification procedures, program services, professional development, curriculum development, and parent and community involvement. The Gifted Education Local Plan will be presented as an Action Item at the August meeting.

Mr. Jason Breeding, Division Safety Coordinator, provided drafts of the 2026-2027 School Crisis Plans, stating “there is no significant overhaul compared to last year. The processes are up to date and are being reviewed by our SROs, Nathan Ramsey, and Trent Roberts to ensure all components and factors include everything needed for the crisis plans.” Any possible changes are expected by July 1 and will be made from a legal standpoint.

A tentative drill schedule was provided to demonstrate that Rockbridge County Public Schools align with the Code of Virginia and meets state requirements. These items will be presented as Action Items at the August meeting.

Mr. Jason Breeding, Division Safety Coordinator, continued with a presentation of the Student Health and Safety Handbook for Families. This resource provides guidance to help families identify warning signs, address mental health challenges, and maintain safer home environments for youth. The Student Health and Safety Handbook for Families will be posted online; paper and/or digital copies will be provided as incidents arise. This will be presented as an Action Item at the August meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Ojure, the board voted 4-0, to approve the Early Retirement Incentive Program as presented.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Ojure, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, the board voted 4-0, to approve GCBD-R and GCBEA Policy Updates.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Whitmore, seconded by Trustee Ojure, the board voted 4-0, to forgo the July School Board Meeting.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Ojure, the board voted 4-0, to approve for the Superintendent/Designee to process July 2026 financials, accounts payable, payroll, fund appropriations, and fund transfers as necessary for the month of July 2026. A final report summarizing these actions will be distributed during the month of August 2026. 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 Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Ojure, the board voted 4-0, to approve, 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 Whitmore, seconded by Trustee Ojure, the board voted 4-0, to approve the Title 1 Family Engagement Plan for the school division.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Burant, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Ojure, the board voted 4-0, 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 Ojure, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, the board voted 4-0, to approve an amendment to the Acceptable Use Policy as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Burant commended all spring athletes and coaches for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. Additionally, she extended her warmest congratulations to the Rockbridge County High School graduating class, noting that the commencement ceremony was a fabulous evening filled with inspiring speeches and tremendous support from families, friends, and the community.

Chairman Burant announced that the superintendent search application is now live on the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) website. The application window will close on June 30, 2026. In July, the Board will meet with the VSBA to review applications and select candidates for interviews in September. The target start date for the new superintendent is January 1, 2027.

Chairman Burant, along with Trustees Berkstresser, Whitmore and Ojure took a moment to honor the retiring Clerk of the Board, Rhonda Humphries. “Rhonda exemplifies what it takes to be successful in her role of not only assisting our Superintendents, but also the needs of a sometimes-challenging School Board. We wish you special times with Larry and your growing family, good health, good fortune, but mostly the satisfaction in knowing you’ve done everything in your power to serve our community. We love you; we thank you, and we will miss you.”

SCHOOL BOARD

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 / 5:30 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, Lexington, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Whitmore, seconded by Trustee Ojure, and passed by 4-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Kathleen M. Burant, Chairman

Heather W. Bennington, Clerk of the Board