

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at the County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

Present: Chairman David McDaniel; Trustees Kevin Brooks, Wendy Lovell, Laurie Strong; Superintendent Phillip Thompson; Clerk Rhonda Humphries. Absent: Trustee Albert Lewis.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and requested that everyone rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION:

Molly Marshall, Agriculture Education Teacher, Maury River Middle School; Members of MRMS FFA James Duncan, Grace Shaw, Ashley Hostetter, Maela Potter, Tori Lilly, provided information on their fundraising efforts to raise funds to donate to the Texas Farm Bureau to help farmers who were effected by Hurricane Harvey.

Kurt Bennett provided information on the Lowe's Community Service Grant 2017 that Rockbridge County High School received in the amount of \$25,000. Lowe's of Lexington representatives Brandon Patton, Manager, and Justin Thompson, Pro Sales Specialist were also recognized.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lovell seconded by Trustee Brooks, the board approved the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: 1) October 10, 2017 [Discipline Committee Hearing 1]; 2) October 10, 2017 [Discipline Committee Hearing 2]; 3) October 10, 2017 [Regular Meeting]; 4) October 10, 2017 [Special Meeting]; 5) October 17, 2017 [Discipline Committee Hearing]
- Field Trip and Bus Use Requests
 - Trustee Lovell expressed her sentiments that students are going on amazing field trips and expressed appreciation to teachers and administrators for making these experiences possible.
- Fund Raiser Requests
- Enrollment Update
 - Trustee Brooks stated that Central Elementary School is being monitored very closely as it is nearing capacity.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that the feasibility study may result in the best way to manage attendance zones. He also stated that grade level numbers are considered also when looking at enrollment numbers.
 - Chairman McDaniel reminded the board that the fourth grade is the largest class at Central Elementary at the moment.
 - Superintendent Thompson confirmed that the fourth grade is the largest class and has been monitored since kindergarten. He also noted that student transfers have been monitored, while having to turn away some students for the fourth grade because of class size.

- **Appointments and Resignations**

Appointments

Support Staff

Ida Manspile, Contracted Bus Driver, effective November 8, 2017

Eric Wilhelm, Contracted Bus Driver, effective November 8, 2017

Susan Hoehne, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, effective November 8, 2017

Brooke Hicks, Teacher Assistant, Fairfield Elementary School, effective November 8, 2017 (time-sheet)

ESL Tutor

Andra Sherman

Substitute Teachers

Bryant Mason

Robert Chambers

Coaches**Rockbridge County High School****Girls' Basketball**

Ronnie Coffey - Volunteer Coach

Swimming

Caroline Brassfield - Volunteer Coach

Wrestling

Adam Hoofnagle – Volunteer Coach

RESIGNATIONS**SUPPORT STAFF**

Paul Pelter, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, resigned effective
October 24, 2017

BUSINESS ITEMS

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved authorization of Treasurer of Rockbridge County to pay debt service in in the amount of \$554,375.00 for the following duly appropriated debt service funds as follows: VPSA QSCB GOBOND Series 2011-2.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lovell, seconded by Trustee Brooks, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the grant appropriation in the amount of \$82,734.74 to Fund 50.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the appropriation to fund 50 in the amount of \$13,611.91 of revenue not previously appropriated because they were not anticipated or the amounts were not known.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lovell, seconded by Trustee Brooks, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved grant appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$558,118.00:

IDEA Title VIB 611 2017 / \$507,111.00

Perkins CTE 2017 / \$51,007.00

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved Monthly Financials in the amount of \$2,629,488.46

Trustee Brooks requested a report next month on revenues and expenditures.

- Superintendent Thompson stated that there are currently monthly meetings to review that data. A fiscal year-to-date report will be provided at the December school board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE**INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT: NONE****BUDGET PLANNING:**

Superintendent Thompson reflected that the school board has provided priorities and direction in respect to the budget planning for FY19. He reported that Central Office Staff has been compiling requested data. The process of preparing the budget schedule / calendar has begun with the intent to release a calendar of tentative meeting dates to board members the week of November 13, 2017 for review. The Rockbridge County School Board will have a Joint Meeting with the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, November 30, 2017.

Superintendent Thompson requested a Budget Work Session to be scheduled for Monday, November 27, 2017.

INSTRUCTIONAL ITEM:

Timothy Martino, Director of Elementary Education, provided a Kindergarten Overview Report. The report included the following data: Student to Adult Ratio per classrooms and Weekly Specials offered at each of the elementary schools in Rockbridge County. He also offered a description of the Teacher Assistant Duties as follows: arrival, dismissal, and lunch duty; small group and one on one instruction; provide instructional support; assistant with behavior management; and provide enrichment opportunities.

- Trustee Strong expressed her sentiment that she is proud of Mountain View Elementary School and would like to have the same resources available to all Rockbridge County Public Schools, using Mountain View Elementary School as a goal.
 - Mr. Martino stated that he feels there will be improvement across the board because conscious instructional decisions in choices and programs are being made by teachers and administrators.
- Chairman McDaniel confirmed that it is up to principals to schedule how their times are used.
 - Superintendent Thompson emphasized that there are parameters in place for math and reading.
- Chairman McDaniel reflected on the Reading Across the Curriculum initiative that was implemented several years ago and asked if there is data that can be provided.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that it might be more beneficial for data to be reflective of after a full year of utilizing the program.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Angela Wilder, Assistant Principal, Rockbridge County High School, provided information on an anti-bullying campaign: B.R.A.V.E. [Bullying Reported and Violence Eradicated]. Dr. Wilder expressed appreciation for the opportunity to provide a safe environment for all students. The curriculum is offered to all students in grades K-12. Administrators of Rockbridge County High school have seen a decrease in face-to-face and cyber bullying within the past year after implementing the B.R.A.V.E. program. Each school has a B.R.A.V.E. program poster so that parents and students know the program exists in their school. Each school website contains a URL link so that a parent or student can report a bullying incident after hours to school administrators.

Christina Burkhardt, School Counselor, Rockbridge County High School, provided a brief overview of the book that was produced in coordination with the local B.R.A.V.E. program. The book contains essay excerpts from students as well as posters that are used in Rockbridge County Public Schools. All funding has been acquired through a generous grant award of the Rockbridge Education Foundation.

- Trustee Strong inquired about absenteeism in school and if schools monitor absenteeism.
 - Dr. Wilder responded that principals are charged with responsibility of knowing how many students are absent each day, while noting that she feels principals are highly vigilant in checking for reasons if a student is continually absent.
- Trustee Brooks confirmed that Rockbridge County Public Schools has a zero tolerance for bullying and encouraged administration to refer severe bullying cases to the Rockbridge County School Board Discipline Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION ITEMS:

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the School Board Developed Vision, Mission, and Goals, with an annual review.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the Capital Improvement Projects FY2019-2023.

- Superintendent Thompson clarified that deferred projects are included in the site plan but not attached to a year and are there as a placeholder; currently listed under Rockbridge County High School, Floyd S. Kay as the oldest facilities.
- Superintendent Thompson reminded the board that this document is presented to the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors each year as they look at their larger budget.

- Chairman McDaniel stated that the Board of Supervisors like to have the document before operational concerns take over in January and reminded the board that it is in the format requested by the Board of Supervisors. He also stated that this data is incorporated into the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors overall accounting budget for planning purposes over the next five years, knowing that projects are subject to change.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the 2018-2019 School Calendar. The graduation date will be determined at a later time.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the Legislative Priorities as presented.

- Trustee Brooks emphasized that in regards to the state funding issue, during the last four years there were solid increases for the state budget overall. However, the state's contribution to our schools grew exactly half of that rate.
- Chairman McDaniel expressed appreciation to Trustee Brooks for his work toward generating the legislative priorities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent Thompson expressed his appreciation to principals and teachers for an excellent start to the school year, both academically and athletically. He expressed congratulations to the following:

- RCHS Football Team competing in Regional Play-offs; RCHS Volleyball Team competing in Regional Championship and State Championship; Cross country runner, Mallory Keeley, state qualifier; Lori Teague, Principal, Mountain View Elementary School, and JoAnn Groah, Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School received the Blue Ribbon School in DC on this date; Matt Crossman, for his role in reflecting the positive and grand happenings in Rockbridge County Public Schools; Matt Schucker, Band Director, Maury River Middle School: Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year 2017.
- Chairman McDaniel expressed his appreciation to the Administrative Team for positive thoughts being conveyed in the public by being at school events and at community events.

SCHOOL BOARD

In correlation to "VSBA Take Your Legislator to School Month", there will be a called meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board on November 20, 2017 beginning at 12:00 PM for the purpose of a brief tour of the Mountain View Elementary School facilities with Delegate Ben Cline. The group will meet at Mountain View Elementary, 20 Burger Circle, Buena Vista, VA 24416. [Senator Creigh Deeds has a conflict and a meeting with him will be rescheduled].

There will be a special meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board on Monday, November 27, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a budget work session for the 2018-2019 school year. The meeting will be held at the Rockbridge County School Board Office, 2893 Collierstown Road, Lexington, Virginia. It is the intent for this meeting to include a brief meeting Senator Deeds, in correlation to "VSBA Take Your Legislator to School Month", if his schedule will allow.

There will be a joint meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board and the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussion. The meeting will be held at the Rockbridge County School Board Office, 2893 Collierstown Road, Lexington, Virginia.

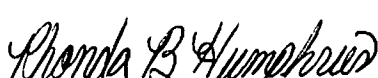
The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be on Monday, December 4, 2017 / 5:00 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia. [Note change in date].

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by 4-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.



David B. McDaniel, Chairman



Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board