

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. The meeting was held at Maury River Middle School.

Present: Chairman Wendy Lovell; Trustees Corey Berkstresser, Kathy Burant, Heather Hostetter, and Neil Whitmore; Superintendent Phillip Thompson and Clerk Rhonda Humphries.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lovell called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None

**RECOGNITION / SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: Maya Humston and Paul Grajzl

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, the board voted 5-0, the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: 1) October 8, 2020 [Joint Meeting with Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors]; 2) October 13, 2020 [Regular Meeting]; 3) October 16, 2020 [Special Meeting]

- Fundraising Requests

- Application for Use of Facilities

- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Food Service Substitutes

Kathryn Skipper

Jan Davis

Substitute Teachers

Kelsey Ray

Sarah Stuttard

Mallory Newcomb

Coaches

RGHS

Fall / Winter Cheer

Shannon Bryan – Head Coach

Tasha Polly – Assistant Coach

Resignations

Professional Staff

Julie Garner, School Counselor, Central Elementary School, resigning effective November 30, 2020

- **Business Items**

- Approve request to authorize the Treasurer of Rockbridge County to pay debt service in the amount of \$554,375.00.
- Approve appropriation of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) in the amount of \$438,025.00.
- Approve carryover grant appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$29,462.00.
- Approve Monthly Financials in the amount of \$2,676,058.46.

**BUDGET PLANNING:**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:**

Ms. Christine Wood, Director of Special Education, provided a Special Education and ESOL First Nine Weeks Update.

Special Education Update

Ms. Wood offered the following information:

- There were 221 (52%) students served through the special education program in grades PK – 12 who attended school, in-person, for all or part of their educational day. While most attended school four days per week, some attended 1, 2, or 3 days per week and a small number of students came in for only the specialized instruction portion of their day.
- Special education teachers provided instruction and support to in-person learners throughout the day, as well as virtual specialized instruction and/or supports for regular classroom assignments for those families who opted to keep their students at home. Many staff members offered support services in the evenings and weekends in order to accommodate parents' work schedules.
- Special education staff wrote IEP addendums for 100% of the students on their caseload in order to address the changes in student services due to the modified school schedule. Distance Learning Plans were also written for all students currently receiving in-person instruction, should there be a situation that Rockbridge County Public Schools would need to revert to Phase I or experience a mandated school closure again.

English Language (EL) Update

Ms. Wood offered the following statistics:

- 55 students who received English Language services in grades K-12;
- 32 active EL students;
- 23 EL students who are on monitoring status as being identified as former EL students;
- 29 active EL students who attended 4 days a week for face-to-face delivery of instruction.
- There were 14 former EL students who were 100% virtual and the remaining students were all 100% virtual.

EL teachers delivered face-to-face instruction, provided collaborative teaching supportive environments with general education teachers, and created individual zoom meetings for students. EL teachers collaborated with parents in two separate back to school Technology nights, in conjunction with Ms. Yolanda Montague, Instructional Technology Resource Teacher, to provide hands on technology support for parents and students. Our EL teachers provided Saturday morning meetings for students via Google meets. EL teachers created various text bundles to provide parents with access to meetings and support; only one family declined EL services.

- Chairman Lovell inquired how well attended were the special sessions to provide resource assistance to parents.
  - Becky Bennett, Instructional Technology Coordinator, stated that there were only two families who attended.
  - Ms. Wood stated that documents were translated to assist families.
- Trustee Burant inquired if the RCPS website offers a translator for families.
  - Ms. Bennett confirmed that this resource is available on the RCPS website.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

Superintendent Thompson provided information on a one-year renewal of the lease for Rockbridge Church for the use of Maury River Middle School. The contract is set to expire on December 31, 2020. This will be presented as an Action Item at the December meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board.

- Trustee Burant asked for confirmation that the lease is for one year and asked if it is the intent of the church to build in the future.
  - Superintendent Thompson confirmed that the lease is for one year and that the church does have plans to build but the process has slowed.

Mr. Jason Kirby, Director of Technology and Human Resources, provided an update on the Reduction in Force (RIF) Policy.

Current policy:

- The current policy GCPA-R bases any potential reductions in staff on the basis on seniority and type of contract (probationary/continuing).
- Probationary (newer) employees to RCPS would be the first to be reduced and then continuing employees.
- If further clarification is needed, different levels of seniority would be analyzed with the newest employees being reduced first.

- In the event of equal contract status and equal seniority, the administration shall decide who will be reduced.

Why Change:

- Provide more specifics and clarification to employees/administrative staff
- Updated regulation and procedure that takes more than contract status and seniority into account.
  - Licensure status
  - Evaluations
  - Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities
- Update of Support Staff RIF policy and new regulation
- School Board Attorney Recommendation
- Although the hope is to never have to put this into play, the division will be prepared in case current budget shortfalls continue due to COVID-19, decreased ADM, or other economic factors.

Mr. Kirby provided proposed changes to the following policies:

- GCPA-R [Reduction in Work Force - Professional Staff - RCPS];
- GCPA-P [Reduction in Force Procedure (RIFP) – RCPS – NEW];
- GDO [Reduction in Support Staff Work Force – RCPS];
- GDO-R [Reduction in Work Force – Support Staff – RCPS – NEW]
- Chairman Lovell echoed the sentiment of hope that the policy will never be needed but it is good to have it in place.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, the board voted 5-0, to approve the 2022-2026 Capital Improvements Plan as presented.

Upon recommendation by Chairman Lovell, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, the board voted 5-0, to approve the Title I Family Engagement Plan as presented.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**SCHOOL BOARD:**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Maury River Middle School, 600 Waddell Street, Lexington, Virginia.

**CLOSED MEETING**

Under Section 2.2-3711.A (1) of the State Code, Chairman Lovell 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 5-0 vote.

The Board entered into the *Closed Meeting* at 5:23 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 6:05 p.m.

Chairman Lovell 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;

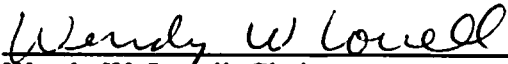
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockbridge County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public 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 Chairman Lovell, and seconded by Trustee Burant, the motion passed by the following roll call vote:

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Trustee Berkstresser | - Aye |
| Trustee Burant       | - Aye |
| Trustee Hostetter    | - Aye |
| Trustee Whitmore     | - Aye |
| Chairman Lovell      | - Aye |

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Upon motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

  
Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman

  
Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board