

The Rockbridge County School Board held a special meeting on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at the Rockbridge County School Board Office.

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

Board of Supervisors Members Present: R.R. Campbell, J.M. Higgins, R.S. Ford, D.W. Hinty, A.W. Lewis, Jr.; Spencer Suter, County Administrator and Clerk to Board.

CALL TO ORDER

School Board Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET PREPARATION

Chairman McDaniel provided an overview of the School Board Preparation document which included the following information:

- Rockbridge County School Board Mission, Vision, and Goals
- FY19 Mandated Budget Considerations:
 - Virginia Retirement System (VRS)
 - VRS Associated Charges for Group Life and Health Care Credit
- FY19 Other Budget Considerations:
 - Reduce Funding for Utilities in Accordance with Expected Savings from Performance Contract [October 2018 through June 2019]
 - Reduce Funding for maintenance Supplies with Expected Savings from Performance Contract
- FY19 Budget Budget Priorities
 - Pay Raises for all Rockbridge County Public Schools Contracted Employees
 - Chromebook Funding Transferred from CIP Escrow to Operating Budget
 - Funding for Instructional Technology Resource Teacher (ITRT)
- Educational Quality Equates to Economic Growth

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR FY 2019 BUDGET

Supervisor Hinty provided an overview of funding priorities which include:

- Fund debt payments, federal and state mandates, and existing contracts, which will be included in the budget.
- Support services that provide a critical “safety net” for citizens in need due to circumstances beyond their control, including child and social services programs. Service agencies must pursue opportunities to enhance efficiencies or leverage current capabilities to optimize the delivery of vital services.
- Funding for public education, coupled with associated economic development initiatives and fire and EMS services, as well as follow-up on solid waste management and emergency communications (911) shall be key objectives for the fiscal year. Supervisor Hinty noted that some programs may be determined to need additional funding and may realize additional funding compared to prior years.
- The Board shall include an emphasis on maintaining existing and potential or planned county infrastructure. It will also sustain a quality workforce via a compensation plan that is competitive and rewards exemplary performance.

Supervisor Hinty also stated directives to guide organizations requesting funding support in FY 2019.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD PROPOSED DIVISION-WIDE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Chairman McDaniel provided information on the Proposed Division-Wide Feasibility Study which would include the following functions:

- Assessment of Community Demographics and Enrollment Projections
- Assessment of Existing Major Building Systems and Components
- Review of Educational Space: Capacity Analysis and Recommendations

The Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the request to generate an RFP for a Division-Wide Feasibility Study.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

Chairman McDaniel provided a brief overview of the FY19 Capital Improvements Plan.

- Supervisor Higgins requested that line items be reviewed to determine if the cost could be taken from RCPS maintenance line and not from the CIP.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that this would be reviewed.

WRAP-UP

Supervisor Hinty expressed his appreciation for the two boards meeting.

Steve Bolster stated that it has been discussed that as the school board moves ahead in the fiscal year, there may be opportunities to take care of items that are on the list and expressed his recommendation that if there are funds available that the two boards work together to make it happen.

Spencer Suter stated that he is appreciative of the Executive Committee meeting in that it gives direction from both boards and the process that has been set.

Supervisor Campbell stated that he is looking forward to the upcoming budget season and receiving true budget document requests.

Supervisor Ford stated that he is not optimistic about funds coming into the county from outside resources and wished the boards the best of luck. He also stated that he felt that the process of working with TRANE has worked very well.

Supervisor Higgins stated that he looks forward to working with the finance committee.

Supervisor Lewis stated that he is proud of his push the last ten years to get a quality education funding that there has been significant progress in the last two years and that he looks forward to the two boards working well together in the future.

Supervisor Hinty stated that it has been very beneficial for the two boards to meet. He also expressed appreciation to the outgoing board members.

Superintendent Thompson stated that is proud of the Rockbridge County Public School division. He stated that there are many great things going on in the division and that is attributed to the both boards working together.

Chairman McDaniel expressed his appreciation to the Supervisors for working with the School Board on the TRANE project and that he feels that the process went well. He expressed his appreciation to Supervisor Buster Lewis for his support over the years reflecting that it means a great deal to the school board, employees, and students. He expressed his appreciation to Supervisor Ford and reflected that they were always able to work through issues and arrive at the same destination for the good of the students of Rockbridge County.

Trustee Brooks stated that he feels the relationship with the Board of Supervisors has improved significantly. He expressed his displeasure with the false accusations that have been made about the school division in the public forum. He also expressed his hope that both boards will continue working together.

The Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 4:30 PM.

The next regular joint meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board and the Board of Supervisors will be on Thursday, January 18, 2017 at 4:30 PM at the Rockbridge County School Board Office, 2893 Collierstown Road, Lexington, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Lovell, seconded by Trustee Lewis, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.


David B. McDaniel, Chairman


Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board