

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Monday, December 4, 2017 at the County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

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

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and requested that everyone rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None

#### **STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION:**

YMCA Presentation: Bobbie Wolfe, Branch Executive Director, Rockbridge Area YMCA provided an update on the relationship with the Rockbridge County School Board and school system, including the afterschool program offerings such as homework help and enrichment programs.

Steven Wilder, Supervisor of Career and Technical Education, presented a certificate of appreciation for the donation of a hospital bed to Charles Carr, CEO/VP, and Holly Ostby, Community Health Coordinator, of Carilion Stonewall Jackson Hospital, Lexington, Virginia.

Chairman McDaniel expressed his appreciation to the bands of Rockbridge County High School and Maury River Middle School for their participation in the holiday parades and helping to support the community.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes: 1) November 1, 2017 [Discipline Committee Hearing]; 2) November 6, 2017 [Discipline Committee Hearing]; 3) November 7, 2017 [Regular Meeting]; November 20, 2017 [Special Meeting]
- Field Trip and Bus Use Requests
- Fund Raiser Requests
- Enrollment Update
- **Appointments and Resignations**

##### **Appointments**

##### **Support Staff**

JoAnn Morgan, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, effective Dec. 5, 2017

##### **Substitute Teachers**

Jenny Bane  
Gwen Sichol  
Kim Fitzgerald  
Rolf Piranian

##### **Substitute Bus Drivers**

Melissa Leonard

##### **Substitute School Nurse**

Kim Fitzgerald

##### **Winter Coaches**

##### **Maury River Middle School**

##### **Wrestling**

Joshua Holton, Volunteer Coach

##### **Resignations**

##### **Professional Staff**

Katherine Riley, School Social Worker, Central Office, resigning effective December 21, 2017

**Resignations - continued****Support Staff**

Brooke Bolen, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, resigned effective November 21, 2017

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lewis, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved authorization of debt service payments in the amount of \$599,374.99 due January 15, 2018 to US Bank for Rockbridge County Public School VPSA bonds.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lovell, seconded by Trustee Brooks, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$788,618.00.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lewis, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved Monthly Financials in the amount of \$2,642,503.17

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lewis, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the Director of Financial Services, Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent to make payment of bills received between November 30, 2017 and December 15, 2017 due to the calendar change of the December 2017 School Board meeting from December 12 to December 4, 2017.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE**

**INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT: NONE**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

Christina Burkhardt, School Counselor, Rockbridge County High School, provided information on the Rockbridge County High School Program of Studies. She stated that this will be presented for approval at the January 2018 school board meeting, pending new changes for graduation.

- Steve Wilder stated that there is a Leadership Class which is being considered to be a required course for Rockbridge County freshman with a viable opt-out if the student load is heavy.
  - Chairman McDaniel expressed interest in the course possibly being available to grades three and six in the future, dependent upon results.
  - Haywood Hand, Assistant Superintendent, stated that it would be a CTE course and could be added to the middle school if determined a good option.

Allison Mock, School Counselor, Maury River Middle School, provided information on the Maury River Middle School Program of Studies. She stated that the following changes are included in the new program of study: change to the science curriculum; removing advanced classes in grade six because all of the grade six classes are rigorous.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the FY19 School Board Budget Priorities as presented.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Superintendent Thompson stated that an item will be addressed at the January RCSB meeting regarding the lease of Rockbridge Church and Maury River Middle School, with the current lease expiring December 31, 2017. It was the consensus of the board to take action on the current lease.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lewis, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the executive lease agreement between Maury River Middle School and Rockbridge Church for one year: January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

**SCHOOL BOARD**

Trustee Kevin Brooks expressed his appreciation for the past four years and his hope that the next board continue with approving priorities, reduce K ratios at CES and FES. He expressed his appreciation to Steven Wilder for the CTE program expansion that has taken place.

Trustee Laurie Strong expressed her sentiment that it has been an honor to serve the patrons of the Kerrs Creek District. She further expressed that she is proud of the dedicated and talented education staff in the community and feels that the staff does a great job in the schools. She also expressed appreciation to Steven Wilder for the work done with the expansion of the CTE program.

Chairman McDaniel expressed his appreciation to the three outgoing school board members: Albert J. Lewis, II; Kevin Brooks; Laurie Strong. He reflected on the board members' passion and thoughts given to numerous issues during their tenure and expressed appreciation for their insight. A plaque was presented to each board member.

- Albert J. Lewis, II served the Walkers Creek District from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017.
- Kevin A. Brooks, served the South River District from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017.
- Laurie G. Strong, served the Kerrs Creek District from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017.

Superintendent Thompson expressed his appreciation to the board members citing that the members always worked for what is best for staff and students of Rockbridge County and his hope that they will continue with their advocacy for Rockbridge County Public Schools.

Superintendent Thompson stated that the vacant seat for the Walkers Creek District is posted on the RCPS website under employment opportunities. The application window closes on January 1, 2018 and the seat must be filled no later than February 15, 2018.

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 / 5:00 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Trustee Lewis, seconded by Trustee Brooks, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.



David B. McDaniel, Chairman



Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board