

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 12 2019 at the Rockbridge County School Board Office.

Present: Chairman Wendy Lovell; Trustees Heather Hostetter, David McDaniel, and Neil Whitmore; Superintendent Phillip Thompson and Clerk Rhonda Humphries. Absent: Trustee Corey Berkstresser.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lovell called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

RECOGNITION / SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Rhonda Pedigo, Rockbridge County High School School Counselor, introduced Ms. Ann Courtney, Career Coach and Ms. Holly Hall, Talent Search of DSLCC to provide information on the DCLCC Career Coach and Educational Talent Search Program. Ms. Courtney provided information on the Career Coach Program at Rockbridge County High school. She stated that RCHS is the only school in Virginia to have a Career Coach. She conveyed that she provides services as a Career Coach to Freshman Academic Classes, assists with financial aide guidance, mock interviews, and serves as Academic Advisor for students who want to attend DSLCC. Ms. Holly Hall provided information on the Educational Talent Search Program at Rockbridge County High School. She conveyed that she conducts workshops in literacy, financial aide, coordinates college field trips. She stated that this program allows access to SAT, PSAT and ACT fee waivers.

- Trustee Whitmore inquired if the program provides assistance with SAT preparation.
 - Ms. Hall stated that she provides a link to the Khan Academy, which is a non-profit education organization created with the goal of creating a set of online tools that help educate students. She also provides information on available scholarships to students.
- Chairman Lovell expressed her appreciation to Ms. Courtney and Ms. Hall for what they do for the students of Rockbridge County.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes: 1) October 8, 2019 [Regular Meeting]
- Field Trip and Bus Use Requests
- Fundraiser Requests
- Application for Use of Facilities
- Enrollment Update
- **Appointments and Resignations**

Support Staff

Support Staff

Kerrilyn Cooper, Teacher Assistant, Mountain View Elementary School,
effective November 13, 2019

Substitute Teacher

Benjamin Ansted

Larry Bond

Substitute Bus Driver

April Thurman

Winter Coaches

Rockbridge County High School

Boys' Basketball

James Clark – JV Basketball Coach

Byron Winchester – Volunteer Coach

Girls' Basketball

Kimberly Pollock – Volunteer Coach

Cheerleading

Tasha Polly - Coach
Shannon Bryan – Coach

Maury River Middle School**Cheerleading**

Karlie Swisher – Coach

Resignations**Professional Staff**

Sharon Mast, Teacher, Fairfield Elementary School, resigning end of 2019-2020 school year

Retirement

Donna Wallace, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School,
retiring end of 2019-2020 school year
Anita McGugan, School Counselor, Mountain View Elementary School,
retiring end of 2019-2020 school year

Support Staff

Wendy Tolley, Teacher Assistant, Natural Bridge Elementary School,
resigned effective November 1, 2019
Sarah Mayo, Teacher Assistant, Mountain View Elementary School,
resigned effective November 8, 2019
Jennifer Jarvis, Food Service Worker, Mountain View Elementary School,
resigning effective November 15, 2019

- **Business Items**

- Approval to authorize the Treasurer of Rockbridge County to pay debt service in the amount of \$554,375.00.
- Approval of new grant appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$516,001.00.
- Approve Monthly Financials in the amount of \$3,095,207.80

BUDGET PLANNING:

Dr. Thompson stated the Public Hearing and Budget Work Session was held on October 29, 2019. He reported that information received since that time indicates the Composite Index for Rockbridge County will go up slightly which means that Rockbridge County will receive a smaller percentage of the funding compared to the current biennium. He also reported that in regards to VRS, the current biennium is at 15.66%. The Board of Trustees has recommended a 16.62% increase. This translates to a \$175,000 increase to budget, which is mandated by the state and must be placed in the budget before any other increases are considered.

- Chairman Lovell reported that no patrons spoke at the Public Hearing and that a second hearing will be held later in the year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT: (The DSLCC Career Coach / Talent Search Report was presented at the beginning of the meeting as a Special Presentation.)

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, 2019. This will be presented as an Action Item at the December meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board.

Rhonda Pedigo, School Counselor, Rockbridge County High School, provided information on the Rockbridge County High School Program of Studies. She stated that there may be minor changes made prior to January. This will be presented as Action Item at the December meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board.

- Chairman Lovell asked if there were any major changes to the program.
 - Ms. Pedigo provided information on the program changes.
 - Trustee McDaniel stated that in the future, it may help helpful to have a cover sheet to explain the changes.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Haywood Hand, Assistant Superintendent, shared that four calendar drafts had been released to faculty and staff via a survey requesting them to make a choice and explain the reason for their choice. AP students were involved in discussion during a PBL exercise. This process helped to establish priorities, which were: 1) start later in August; 2) soft opening on a Wednesday or Thursday; 3) two week Winter Break.

- Chairman Lovell inquired if this calendar allows make-up days.
 - Mr. Hand stated that Rockbridge County Public Schools has accumulated time in regards to instructional hours. This would allow for missing up to eleven days before days are added back in. This would also include early dismissal days.
- Chairman Lovell inquired if the graduation date for Rockbridge County High School has been set.
 - Mr. Hand stated that he will make a recommendation to the RCHS administration for the graduation take place on May 21, 2021, making the last day for underclassmen May 25, 2021.
- Trustee McDaniel inquired if it is necessary to have a workday on September 21, 2020 when the schools will be closed on Labor Day on September 7, 2020.
 - Mr. Hand stated that the workday was strategically placed on September 21 to allow it to be close to the interim date and it gives time for a teacher to evaluate students. It also allows for planning time for teachers to evaluate how their roles interact and to recalculate instructional plans for the next nine weeks.
- Trustee McDaniel expressed his concern that the first semester has only 87 days.
 - Mr. Hand stated that inclement weather days typically take place in second semester.
- Trustee McDaniel also noted that years ago, the school board made it known that Winter Break would not always be for two weeks and would evaluate in years to come.
 - Mr. Hand stated that the next year is leap year and priorities may be reconsidered at that time.
- Chairman Lovell expressed her appreciation for feedback from teachers as well as students. Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Hostetter, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by a 3-0 vote, with Trustee McDaniel abstaining, the Board approved the 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented.

Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Whitmore, seconded by Trustee Hostetter, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted 2020-2025.

NEW BUSINESS: None

SCHOOL BOARD

Superintendent Thompson stated that November is VSBA "Take Your Legislator to School" Month. The invitation has been extended to Senator Creigh Deeds and Delegate Ronnie Campbell for the month of December because of scheduling conflicts. He noted that Senator Deeds has a restrictive schedule and he is unsure if a date will be scheduled but that he will ensure Legislative Priorities are shared with him. Delegate Campbell has provided several dates of availability. Once the meeting date is set with Delegate Campbell, the meeting will take place at Natural Bridge Elementary School with students possibly sharing their Veterans Day Program.

There will be a Joint Meeting with the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, November 14, 2019 / 5:00 PM / Location: Rockbridge County School Board Office, 2893 Collierstown Road, Lexington, Virginia.

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 / 5:00 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Whitmore, seconded by Trustee Hostetter, and passed by 4-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.


Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman


Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board