

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at the County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McDaniel called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and requested that everyone rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION: None

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) May 23, 2017 [Special Meeting] [Amended]; 2) June 27, 2017 [Joint Meeting with Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors]; 3) July 11, 2017 [Regular Meeting]
- Rockbridge County Public Schools Field Trips
- Fund Raiser Request
- Declaration of Surplus Vehicles
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Professional Staff

Sharon Mast, Teacher, Fairfield Elementary School, 2017 – 2018 school year

Ronald “Andy” Coffey, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, 2017 – 2018 school year

Jennifer Irwin, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, 2017 – 2018 school year

Support Staff

Russell Pedigo, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, 2017 – 2018 school year

David Peters, Teacher Assistant, Natural Bridge Elementary School, 2017 – 2018 school year

Tamara Trombetta, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, 2017 – 2018 school year

John Butler, Bus Driver, Transportation, 2017 – 2018 school year

Brooke Scott, School Nurse, Rockbridge County High School, 2017 – 2018 school year

Substitute Teachers

Rebecca Lilly

Harry Semler

Susan Hoehne

Food Service Workers

Amy Shumate-Clark, Fairfield Elementary School (time sheet)

Marla Fauber, Fairfield Elementary School (time sheet)

Roberta (Robin) Arehart, Maury River Middle School (time sheet)

Substitute Food Service Workers

Linda Moore

Joseph (Mike) Jenkins

Heidi Burrows

Kassandra Emore

Barbara King

Substitute Nurses

Heidi Sheltman

Dawn Martin

Cynthia Maurice

Anne-Tyler McCabe

Resignations
Support Staff

Donna Kayton, Teacher Assistant, Rockbridge County High School, effective July 11, 2017
 Tammy Ramsey, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, effective June 27, 2017
 Amanda Grimm, Teacher Assistant, Natural Bridge Elementary School, effective July 19, 2017

BUSINESS ITEMS

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lewis, seconded by Trustee Brooks, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved, contingent to the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors approval of the Rockbridge County Public Schools Energy Performance Project, to appropriate funds to the project in the amount of \$541,631.00.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lewis, seconded by Trustee Brooks, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved new grant appropriations to Fund 50 [Perkins CTE 2017] in the amount of \$15,086.00.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lewis, seconded by Trustee Brooks, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved new grant appropriations to Fund 50 [Innovation Planning 2017] in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lewis, and passed by a 5-0 vote the Board approved payment of bills and budget amendments in the amount of \$819,836.29.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman McDaniel stated that the Executive Committee of the Rockbridge County School Board and Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors met on August 7, 2017 to discuss the Energy Performance Contracting projects, which are being reviewed as two different projects. Part 1 of the project is energy conservation measures at all of the elementary schools, middle school and the Effinger Central Office site. Part 2 of the project is energy conservation measures and HVAC at Rockbridge County High School. The reason for the separation is it is easier to factor in the percentage being shared with Lexington City. The total project cost is \$6,267,103.00; Part 1 cost is \$1,126,491.00; Part 2 cost is \$5,140,612.00.

Funding sources:

Part 1: \$196,040 will be funded from Fund 70 (encumbered funds available for capital project); \$345,591 will be funded from Capital Improvements Escrow Account; \$584,860 will be funded from Rockbridge County General Fund.

Part 2: \$5,140,612: Rockbridge County is currently investigating financing options; Two options being considered are VA Saves and Tax-Exempt Lease Financing.

- Trustee Lewis stated that he feels it is important to note that there is a match in existence and that RCPS match will result from savings from completed planning for projects and the allocating of funds that are a result of savings.

Chairman McDaniel provided a tentative schedule of projects from preliminary conversations: 2020 / CES, FES; 2025 / NBE, MVE; 2030 / MRMS and potentially EES Central Office site; 2035 RCHS.

- Superintendent Thompson stated that at this point, financing needs to be finalized.
- Trustee Brooks asked if projects would be run concurrently even though they are considered as two separate projects.
- Superintendent Thompson stated that Kathy Cox has confirmed that projects will take place simultaneously but that some portion of the projects may be seasonally.

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:

Christina Burkhardt, School Counselor, Rockbridge County High School, provided an overview of counseling services that are provided to staff and students during the school year.

- Trustee Brooks clarified that some of the services are provided outside of the contracted days and asked if there was a possibility of alleviating that work, with concern of the SOQ funding. He also asked if teachers and counselors need to be paid hourly in the summer and if it should be included for the coming school year.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that the SOQ's are met without issue and that potentially staff could be paid hourly but that it is a budgetary question. He also stated that there are support resources available in the community.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that counselors are often paid via time sheet for work completed during non-contractual summer hours.

- Trustee Strong inquired how many counselors there are and what their student load currently is.
 - Ms. Burkhardt stated that there are three full-time counselors at RCHS. Each high school counselor is assigned approximately 320-340 students each.
- Trustee Lovell inquired what kind of tracking is completed on student graduates. She feels that if the school system has a sense of where students are going upon completion of high school, it would help in planning within the school and community.
 - Ms. Burkhardt stated that as twelfth graders are leaving, information is tracked to note where they are going. A survey has been sent out in the past after students have been in their first year asking if they were prepared / what could counselors and school have done better to prepare students for their future.

Ms. Burkhardt shared two goals for the 2017-2018 school year. 1) Redesigned leadership class for the freshmen students, with the assistance from Steven Wilder. 2) Implement a common-needs assessment that includes a survey to students to ask what their needs are, career-planning, academic planning, social needs, etc. This would help staff to plan their programs.

- Chairman McDaniel clarified that students have one-on-one time with their assigned counselor during the school year.
 - Ms. Burkhardt confirmed that each student meets with their counselor between the end of January and March to plan for classes the next year as well as review their four-year educational plan.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Chairman McDaniel offered a welcome sentiment to teachers, administrators, staff in hopes all enjoyed their summer and will have a great school year.

Dr. Thompson presented information on the 2017-2018 Opening Week Activities for Professional Staff.

- Jason Kirby, Director of Personnel and Technology also provided an overview of the orientation provided for new professional staff on August 7, 2017. He stated that Rockbridge County Public Schools is fully staffed at this point.

Dr. Thompson provided a Comprehensive Planning Update and stated that the Central Office staff is still evaluating the best way to move forward; however, looking at different options that may include seeking the services of a contract facilitator or central office development or a combination of both. A decision on which option should be expected by the end of 2017.

- Trustee Brooks stated that it sounds like an appropriate thing to look into; he would like to make sure that it is readable for the community.

Steven Wilder, Supervisor of Career and Technical Education provided information on the High School Innovation Grant in the amount of \$50,000. Governor McAuliffe awarded this grant to five high schools in the state of Virginia. Mr. Wilder stated that is a grant to plan for school re-design, to change things, to come up with great ideas for moving education in a different direction. The grant will be followed up next year with a grant for implementation in the amount of \$50,000; total of \$100,000. Specific requirements of the grant were as follows: 1) must be all-inclusive – all student levels; 2) must be out-of-the-box and be unique [innovative]; 3) operate with current funding levels. The grant written by Rockbridge County Public Schools met each requirement. It is a partnership driven program that is being assisted by more than a dozen partners who want to help Rockbridge County Public Schools.

- Chairman McDaniel requested that a video that would display these re-designs be made available.
- Superintendent Thompson stated that it is exciting for the students, most importantly. The education portion stretches beyond CTE; teachers in other areas see how excited the students are getting via different type of education delivery methods.

Steven Wilder provided information on the partnership that Rockbridge County Public Schools has developed with the Rockbridge County Fair and Expo to be held September 7-9, 2017. The fair date was moved to when school is in session so that the schools can participate as a project-based learning opportunity. Thursday, September 7, 2017 is Field Trip Day for 2nd grade students to be transported to the fair during the day for special educational events, displays and activities. Friday, September 8, 2017 is an early release day for Rockbridge County Public Schools with free admission for area students from 2-4 PM on that day. There will be a student showcase for students, teachers, classes, clubs, bands, and school groups to share their talents.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION ITEMS:

Upon recommendation by Chairman McDaniel, motion by Trustee Lewis, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote, the Board adopted a resolution to submit a nomination for Bruce Young, Lexington Bureau Chief, WDBJ7 Television, for the 2017 VSBA Media Honor Roll.

NEW BUSINESS: None

SCHOOL BOARD

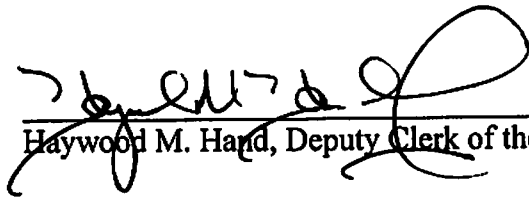
The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 / 5:00 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, VA.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Lovell, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.



David B. McDaniel, Chairman



Haywood M. Hand, Deputy Clerk of the Board