

BUENA VISTA CITY SCHOOL BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

March 28, 2019

Public Hearing

Board Members Present: Wayne Flint, Lisa Kerr, Teresa Ellison, John Rice, Roy Mohler and Brooke Baker. John Roberts was absent. Also present were Dr. John Keeler, Superintendent, Sherrie Wheeler, Director of Administration, Mary Buchanan, Clerk of the School Board and Sandra Mohler, Finance.

Mrs. Baker called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. and lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and observing a moment of silence.

Mrs. Baker read the public comments guidelines. There were no comments.

Dr. Keeler said that we had a budget built on 880 children. We have 100 kids graduating and are expecting 70 kindergarteners. He told what funding we were expecting to receive and where these funds would go. We are also asking for local funding again. It is the same amount that we have asked for over the past years. His budget goals are giving staff a 3% raise. We want to add a second PreK teacher at no cost. I will be moving a Kindergarten teacher to PreK. We want to widen the base. When you sign kids up for PreK and have another class you will end up with a bigger percent of them staying with us to continue their education. We are considering a half day PreK. We want a nurse/trainer position. We need someone who can do both. Our nurse needs help. We need a trainer for the sports. We have our first increase in health insurance in 5 years, \$84,000.00 which is about a 8% increase. I feel like I can absorb that. Capital Improvements are carpet in PMMS auditorium. Mohawk donated the carpet. He also wants to put carpet in PMMS library and carpet at Enderly's library. I plan to use summer labor to put it down. We will pay for paint. Film for Enderly windows. The film would protect the glass from shattering out. We will try to do the windows from our next security grant. To make our budget balance when we have someone retire if we don't need that position then we will use that money to offset somewhere else. When we have teachers out we will have an aide fill in for them. I can keep the lesson going and save money at the same time. We tried it this year and it worked fine. We have been good stewards of our money.

Regular School Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Wayne Flint, Lisa Kerr, Teresa Ellison, John Rice, Roy Mohler and Brooke Baker. Also present were Dr. John Keeler, Superintendent, Sherrie Wheeler, Director of Administration, Mary Buchanan, Clerk of the School Board and Sandra Mohler, Finance. Mr. Roberts was absent. Student Representative Celeste Doxey was present.

Mrs. Baker called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 P.M. and lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and observing a moment of silence.

Agenda

Mrs. Baker said that we needed to amend the Agenda. Mr. Flint made a motion to add to the Action Items Investigate Primary Care Health Insurance and to Closed Session we add a student matter. Dr. Keeler said that we need to add to Action Items Direct Primary Care for Health Insurance. The motion was second by Ms. Ellison. All other board members present voted yes.

Recognitions

March Senior of the Month – Celeste Doxey has been chosen as Parry McCluer High School's Senior of the Month for March 2019. Celeste is the daughter of Scott and Annelle Doxey of Buena Vista. Celeste is one of the student school board representatives for the current school year. She is a member of the National Honor Society. Celeste has excelled in the band program for five years playing percussion. In 2017-2018, she achieved all-area band first chair for mallets. In the same year, she also achieved all-district in concert band. In 2018-2019, she earned all-area first chair for mallets and all-district first chair for concert band. Celeste's leadership and dedication to the program helped the band earn first place overall performance in band competitions for the first time in over a decade. Celeste also excels in the choir program. This year she received all-district chorus recognition. Celeste has been a strong member of the drama program throughout her high school career. She has held a lead role for several productions like Peter Pan, Wizard of Oz, Seussical, and You're a Good Man Charlie Brown.

During her freshman, sophomore, and junior years, she served as a team captain of the Varsity Girls Soccer team. She received MVP of the team during her freshman and sophomore years. Celeste is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and has served in a variety of leadership positions within her church. In addition to Celeste's coursework and extracurricular activities, she enjoys travelling with her family. After high school, Celeste plans to complete a semester of college at Southern Virginia University prior to serving an eighteenth month mission for her church. After she completes her mission, she plans to return to Southern Virginia University and major in English.

Employee of the Month – Dr. Keeler called Pam Robey to the front. She is a true Blue. She was born and raised in Buena Vista and is a 1976 graduate of PMHS. She was a member of the award winning Marching Blues in the 1970's. She is a licensed EMT and is a member of our Rescue Squad and is a retired teacher. She is responsible for organizing squad escorts for our sports teams. She could not stay away from children and came back as a part time paraprofessional and this year she has taken charge of our Blue Hole Café'. She has shared her talents with our students. They provide breakfast and lunch for our home town hero's, faculty, staff, retirees and community organizations. Pam Robey you are truly deserving of this award. He said that the corn bread is some of the best he has ever eaten.

Be A Blue - Dr. Keeler called Gary Floyd to come forward. He is a member of the American Legion. The police department recognized Jelly as the Police Officer of the Year for the City of Buena Vista. There was a American Legion award for the Police officer of the Year. Jelly received this award. He was selected by the 43,000 Virginia members of the American Legion. Dr. Keeler presented the Be A Blue Award to Jelly. Jelly is well liked by all the children and they talk to him. Mr. Floyd said that we had a good police department. A lot of paper work was done by volunteers. Jelly said to remember the other officers that work the streets.

Swimming Team - He call Rebecca Smith to come forward. They had four members. They practice in Lexington. They have had a lot of success this year. Mrs. Smith wanted to thank the school system for funding them this year. They have also received a lot of help from other people. Dr. Keeler gave the members that were present certificates.

Wrestling - He asked Coach Brockenbrough to come forward. We had a lot of kids qualify for State. Dr. Keeler gave team members present certificates and told what they qualified for. Coach Brockenbrough said that this was good team and they would even better next year.

Presentations

2019-2020 Budget - Dr. Keeler said he had been thru this in the public hearing but he would give the highlights. We are giving a 3% raise to our employees. The State has given us more money. We had an increase in our health insurance of \$84,000. This is the first time in 5 years that the insurance has gone up and the school will cover this increase. We would like to have an additional PreK program and this would be at no cost to us. I will move one of the Kindergarten teachers down to PreK. We could possibly have a half day PreK. I would like a Nurse/Trainer. We have had incidents happen that we needed medical help for. Our budget will go to the City tomorrow. We are asking for level funding.

Enderly Academic Presentation - Denise Fitzgerald presented a Power Point. She said we are fully accredited. Our accomplishments for the year are: Changing our Master Schedule to make better use of our Paraprofessionals with our students. We added one in each grade level. Mrs. Clark and myself provided professional development to the staff before school started. We started a writing program that will work with the SOL standards. We will strive to do our best for our students. Small groups help. We had a training this summer about QBQ, Questions behind Questions. We need to have a positive connection with our parents and community.

Work on our lesson plans, and observations by principal. Work on writers' workshop. We have our spirit week, can food drive and shopping for the angel tree. Mrs. Staton and her Best students made the school board cups. The children read a book and they previewed the book and posted info on line. The children also did community service projects. She showed a video of some of the students doing clogging. Mrs. Staton said that they averaged 79 students in this program. The kids went to Washington DC. They have also been Colonial Williamsburg, The Frontier Museum and to Natural Bridge. We are planning a trip to the Science Museum in Richmond and we have one to Boxerwood in Lexington and one with Boxerwood at Glen Maury Park.

Public Comments

Mrs. Baker read the public comments guidelines. There were no comments. Chief Hartman we spent a lot of time in the high school. We appreciated how Dr. Keeler and Ms. Cobb kept everything under control and the safety of the children came first. No action was taken on the person(s) who made the proposed threat. The matter is under investigation.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Flint made a motion to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the February board meeting and the payment of the bills. The motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other members present voted yes.

Action Items

Approval of 2019-2020 Budget and Resolution - Ms. Ellison made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Budget as presented to us this evening. The motion was second by Mr. Flint. All other members present voted yes.

Resolution – Mrs. Baker read the Resolution. The motion made in and Resolution was second by Mr. Flint. All other members present voted yes.

2019-20 Calendar Approval - Dr. Keeler went over the calendars. Option 1 and Option 2 were just about the same. Option two works for the High School. Ms. Ellison made a motion to approve Option 2 for the school calendar for the 2019-20 school year. The motion was second by Mr. Flint. All other members present voted yes.

Investigate Direct Primary Care for Health Care. - Dr. Keeler said that he has been in contact with other systems and is going to visit Madison County. Chuck Clements had talked to us about this before. This program could save us a lot of money. Mr. Flint made a motion to have Dr. Keeler investigate this program. The motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other members present voted yes.

Informational Items

Policy - Ms. Cobb said we had over 50 policies to look at and they would have a meeting and present the policies at the next school board meeting.

Finance - Mr. Flint said they met Tuesday and approved bills and we are 66% thru our budget year. We have spent 60% of our budget.

Student Representative's Report – Ms. Doxey said that they had a March madness competition between different classes. We had an art trip to DC this week. We had the Follies on Saturday. We had both band and choir assessments in the past two weeks and we received an excellent rating. Girls Basketball won the state championship for the 3rd time in a row. We had a PEP rally. We had a basketball game against the teachers. Girls Tennis beat Rockbridge.

Additional School Board Reports - Ms. Ellison said that she had a few things to speak about. She wanted to congratulate Debbie Gilbert for winning the Lions Club President award. The Blues Education Foundation is continuing their Books for Blues project and gave out 62 books at the Follies. She had attended the VSBA Hot Topic Conference in Wytheville in the middle of March. This conference did not have just one thing going on. They had several topics. They had ideas for schools in Virginia. The first thing that they had was about trauma informed school systems and how to help students. Another topic was Opioid Crisis. Addiction is a family problem. If one person uses, then it effects the whole family. Another was building problems. The factors that affect others, the size of the space available, air quality, lighting, acoustics, cleanliness, and age of the buildings. These factors effect students and their learning. They talked about 21st Century learning and technology needs, wall color and sky blue is the color that is good for alertness. We saw a video on this. They talked about the USDA Rural Development, Rural Energy for America Program and some grant programs thru Virginia Energy that some divisions do for financing and loan programs. We also talked about rural Virginia challenges and the Virginia High School League. Talked about E Sports and a 8 man football team. Mr. Mohler said his daughter was concerned over what happened at the high school. He told her Dr. Keeler said it was alright and she was ok with going to school if Dr. Keeler said it was ok.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Keeler said that he will be attending the Governor's conference next week Wednesday thru Friday. Hall of Fame meeting on the 8th. Science fair at Dabney on the 10th of April. Blues Education Foundation on the 11th. The follies went very well. We have great student talent. A 7 year could be on American Idol. Valley Spring form is on the 24th. May 21st is the senior of the month banquet. Retirement dinner on May 22nd. May 24th is graduation practice. May 29th is the Governor's School Banquet. Mr. Flint said they needed to change the Finance meeting for next month to either Monday or Wednesday. After a short discussion the Finance meeting will be changed to Monday, April 22nd. We will have our Blues Education spring track event in May.

Instructional Report - Ms. Wheeler said we are looking for grants for the back packs and for books for blues.

Special Education - Report was in your packet. Dr. Keeler said that Juli is at a conference. We want to work together and see how this program is set up. We are paying about \$89,000 a year to transport kids.

Transportation - It is running smoothly.

Maintenance - Dr. Keeler said the boiler went down at the middle school. The City helped us clear the access road at the high school. Dominion will help us put the lights up. Also checking into putting a camera on one of the poles.

MR. FLINT MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS IT RELATES TO PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS RESIGNATIONS AND THE SUPERINTENDENT’S EVALUATION ACCORDING TO {STATE LAW § 2.2-37-11 (A) (1)} AND FOR THE DISCUSSION OF STUDENT MATTERS ACCORDING 2.2 - 3711(A)(2) AND THE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY ACCORDING TO (STATE LAW 2.2 -3711(A)(3). THIS MOTION WAS SECOND BY MS. ELLISON.

Ms. Ellison made a motion to adjourn the closed session and the motion was seconded by Mr. Rice, the board was polled after the reading of the oath.

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| Mr. Flint | Yes |
| Mr. Rice | Yes |
| Ms. Ellison | Yes |
| Mrs. Kerr | Yes |
| Mrs. Baker | Yes |
| Mr. Mohler | Yes |

The board approved the following:

Retirements

Ron Loy effective July 1, 2019 by a motion from Ms. Ellison and a second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

School Nutrition

Mrs. Kerr made a motion to hire Judith Laird as a school nutritionist in the Buena Vista City Public School System pending satisfactory background check. This motion was made second by Ms. Ellison. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

Substitutes

Mrs. Kerr made a motion to hire Denise Koch as a Substitute in the Buena Vista City Public School System pending satisfactory background check. This motion was made second by Ms. Ellison. All other board members present voted yes.

Mr. Flint made a motion to authorize Dr. Keeler to sign a contract with Timons provided that the second party agrees to split the cost 50/50. The motion was second by Mr. Rice. Mrs. Baker will abstain from voting on this because of the connection with the Engineering group. All other board members present voted yes.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Ellison and second by Mr. Rice.

Brooke Baker, Chairman

Mary Buchanan,
Clerk of School Board