

BUENA CITY SCHOOL
REGULAR
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

May 23, 2019

Board Members Present: Teresa Ellison, Lisa Kerr, John Rice, Brooke Baker, Roy Mohler and John Roberts. Mrs. Baker came in after the meeting was Called to Order. Also present were Dr. John Keeler, Superintendent, Sherrie Wheeler, Director of Administration and Mary Buchanan, Clerk of the School Board.

Mrs. Kerr called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and thanked everyone for being at the meeting. We had the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Agenda

Mrs. Baker said it was time to approve the Agenda. Dr. Keeler said that he would like to add under Action Items under letter “D” the VSBA Policy changes that we went over last month and did not vote on at the last meeting. We need Action item the letter “E” which is the purchase of mowing equipment. Mrs. Baker asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the aforesaid action items. A motion was made by Ms. Ellison to approve the agenda including the changes that have been made and the motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

Recognitions

May Student of the Month - Sarah Gardner has been chosen as Parry McCluer High School’s Senior of the Month for May 2019. Sarah is the daughter of Richard and Naomi Gardner of Buena Vista. Sarah graduated with her Associate’s Degree in General Studies from Dabney S. Lancaster Community College this year. She is also our Valedictorian with a GPA of 4.3. She is a member of the National Honor Society. Sarah participated on the Academic Team for 5 years and served as the captain for 3 years where she led her team to a second place finish in the district.

Sarah is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and is an active member of their youth group. After high school, Sarah plans to complete a semester of college at Utah State University, where she earned a full-ride scholarship, and then will serve an eighteen-month mission for her church. After she completes her mission, she plans to return to Utah State University and major in Anthropology and Creative Writing and minor in Computer Science.

June Student of the Month - William Kagen Roberts has been chosen as Parry McCluer High School's Senior of the Month for June 2019. Kagen is the son of John and Teresa Roberts of Buena Vista. Kagen is a member of the National Honor Society. He has completed every course that Mrs. Frazier has offered during his time at PMHS, which included both AP Computer Science A and computer Science Principles! Not only has he completed computer science coursework, but he's also been an instrumental part of the Social Media Tech Team as he worked to complete stories for the website and social media pages in the division. Kagen will leave PMHS with 24 dual enrollment credits. Kagen has been an active member of the boy's tennis team for four years. He is currently the #1 seed in singles and doubles. Kagen was awarded the Washburn Tennis award last season for sportsmanship and dedication to the sport. Kagen is a member of the Buena Vista Baptist Church and a member of their youth group. During the summer, you can find Kagen lifeguarding at the Glen Maury Park pool. After high school, Kagen plans to attend James Madison University and major in computer science.

April Employee of the Month - Dr. Keeler called Kevin Haynes to come forward. He is new this year to our school as the chorus teacher. He has exceeded our expectations. He will be staying at our schools again next year. He has brought music to our schools and the students love him.

Teacher of the Year for all Schools - Dr. Keeler said the teacher of the year for each school is picked by their peers. Kling teacher of the year is Mitzi Wheeler. She has worked for the school system for 27 years teaching 1st grade, 3rd grade and Kindergarten. She is always working late after the children leave preparing for the next day or future lessons. Enderly teacher of the year is Brandi Clark who teaches 5th grade. She has been a teacher with us 2 years. She will be getting married in fifteen days. She was one of my best hire's. I hope she stays with us for a long time. Teacher of the year for the middle school is Chris Polikius. Besides being a great teacher he is one of the best track coaches I have ever seen. He is a sped teacher and doubles as a math teacher for the sixth and seventh grades. PMHS teacher of the year is Shannon Light. She is our band teacher. When I watch our kids and how excited they are around her and what she has accomplished with them I say that is a good teacher.

Teacher of the year for the Division - Our teacher of the year will receive a ring made especially for us by Herf Jones and this year's recipient is somebody who really deserves this. Coach Polikius please come forward. I am at shocked. There are many people who deserve this. I do the fun stuff. My wife works with Missy and she tells me what they do. You don't have any idea what this means to me.

School Board Representatives - Dr. Keeler called Celeste to come forward. Celeste and Josh have been our representatives this year. I have enjoyed having them with us. They have great ideas. We have something to give you from the board. If you like it was my idea and if you don't it was their idea.

Art Award - Faith Ferguson entered this picture of a bumble bee at the Valley Forum It covers all the schools from Buena Vista to Winchester. Courtney is the Art teacher. Her painting won third place. Dr. Keeler asked her to paint her the same picture of the bumble bee for his office.

Be A Blue - Dr. Keeler called Fred Fix to come forward. Fred is a blue when no one is looking. I try to do my best. I work with a great group of kids. I try to help where I can.

Presentations

Mark Wheeler - Senior Class of 2019 - This is one of the largest classes that we have had in a long time. One of the most enjoyable attributes of being a school counselor is witnessing the transition and growth that teenagers go through on their journey through high school. It allows us to gain a unique perspective of the class as a whole. Reflecting on the Class of 2019, there are two words that keep appearing in my mind time and time again; “fiery” and “fierce.” These guys are a spunky bunch who are determined to make “their own way” in life. Overall, I have found the Class of 2019 to be an intensely competitive group.

Whether it’s in academics, music, art, athletics or life in general, this Class

wants to win! They have that authentic “Fighting Blue” spirit that you just can’t fake! We had 100 Graduates. The biggest percentage will attend a post-secondary institute. The remaining students will attend a community college or a technical two year school. Thousands of dollars in scholarship money was awarded to our seniors, with over \$12,000 coming from our very own Buena Vista Scholarship Fund. We wish the PMHS Class of 2019 all the success and luck in the world. We’re really going to miss them up on the “Hill” next year.

Update on 2019-2020 Budget - Dr. Keeler said that City Council passed the budget. We got level funding. We thank the council for that. I think our retention rate of staff will be higher than ever.

Educational Technology Plan - Sue Way came forward to show us a power point on this plan. We have increasing stem plans. We will be doing Cyber security. Tech jobs are in high demand. We need technology in all classes. We want to enhance their learning experience. We want to do professional development with our technology. We have new courses at the middle school and high school. Technology needs to be in K-12. We will have a lot of new courses available to middle school and high school. We will start have technology meetings at all school. We want to increase the number of students that enroll in technology classes. Dr. Keeler said that he was proud of our technology department

Public Comments

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

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Kerr asked for approval of the consent agenda. Ms. Ellison moved that we approved the consent agenda that includes the minutes and payment of the bills. The motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

Action Items

Program of Studies for PMHS - Mr. Wheeler hand out class available that need to be approved. He proceeded to tell us briefly about the classes and requirements. Classes that they can do that are college credits. Mr. Rice made a motion to approve this program and the motion was second by Mrs. Kerr. All other board members present voted yes.

Educational Technology Plan - Dr. Keeler said you have heard the presentation. Ms. Ellison made the motion to accept the Educational Technology Plan and the motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

June Board Retreat - Dr. Keeler said he would like to set a date on a Saturday to have this retreat. The board decided that the date of the retreat would be June 15th. Ms. Ellison made a motion to have the meeting on the 15th of June and the motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

VSBA Policy Changes - Mrs. Baker made said we need to motion to approve the policy changes previously presented in April. Ms. Ellison made the motion to approve changes and Mr. Rice second the motion. All other board members present voted yes.

Purchase of Mowing Equipment - Dr. Keeler said that in six years we have spent over \$20,000 to do mowing at all the schools. I have gotten quotes. We can do better and do a better job and do it when we need to do it. We are going to have some of our custodians cut the grass. We have looked at commercial Cub Cadet mowers. I think we need 2. Several of the staff tried these mowers out. We could purchase for \$12,187.00. I received 3 quotes: Overstreet General Repair in Bedford, Appomattox Outdoor Equipment, Appomattox and Nelson Street Cub Cadet, Lexington. All of these quotes were from dealers. The other two dealers also had delivery fees. Lexington dealer did not have these charges. Board members asked several questions. Ms. Ellison made a motion to purchase mowing equipment so our employees can do the lawn care and the motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

Information Items

Policy Committee – Ms. Cobb she had May updates and she would be contacting the policy committee and for them to stay tuned to your email for a meeting date. Just let me get thru graduation.

Finance - Mr. Rice said the committee met Tuesday and reviewed all the bills and at this time we are 75% into the budget and all bills have been paid.

School Board Representatives - Celeste gave a report. She said everything is good. We have graduation on Saturday. We had a band concert and the Soccer team just won a championship.

School Board Reports – Mr. Mohler said that the Senior Banquet was the first one he had every been too. Mrs. Frazier was one of his favorite teachers. Peyton made it without crying. It was a great meal. None of the board members had any reports.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Keeler said gave us a short update on the Superintendent's report that he had in their packets. Our administrative retreat is on the 5th and 6th of June. Brad King will speak on the 6th. SOL test is just about complete. The children have done very good on their Math testing. Ms. Ellison asked how the reading was doing. He said at the Superintendent's meeting many of the other divisions were have trouble with reading and writing.

Instruction Report – Ms. Wheeler said that she and Lisa were going to meet next week and go over SOL numbers. Lisa spoke about the testing results. Ms. Wheeler said it looks like it is going to be ok. We will have Title grants to be approved next month. Ms. Ellison said she thought of something. Blues Education Foundation will have their walk/run at the park. Sherrie has been getting popsicles for the kids to eat. The kids love to get their numbers. Dr. Keeler praise the Technology department for everything that they have done.

Special Education and Nurses Report - All the information is in your packet. Mrs. Gibson husband hurt his knee and she has been helping him with that.

Transportation / Maintenance Report - Dr. Keeler said that this was a very busy time of the year. We have had a lot of changes in the spring and everything went well. I have given you an update on Maintenance with the grass cutting issues.

MS. ELLISON MOVED THAT WE GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS AS IT RELATES TO APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENTS ACORDING TO {STATE LAW § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) AND FOR THE DISCUSSION OF A STUDENT MATTER {STATE LAW § 2.2-3711

(A) (2)} AND DISCUSSS THE AQUISITON AND DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY ACCORDING TO {STATE LAW § 2.2-3711 (A) (3)}. THE MOTION WAS SECOND BY MR. RICE. ALL OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTE YES.

Ms. Ellison made a motion to come out of executive session and the motion was second by Mr. Rice.

Mrs. Buchanan read the Certification and the board was polled:

Mr. Roberts Yes

Ms. Ellison Yes

Ms. Kerr Yes

Mr. Rice Yes

Mrs. Kerr made a motion that hire Mary Poe in the school nutrition department for the Buena Vista City Public Schools pending a satisfactory background check. The motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present vote yes.

Mrs. Kerr made a motion that we hire Mari Miller as an employee for the Buena Vista City Public Schools pending a satisfactory back ground check. The motion was second by Mr. Mohler. All other board members present vote yes.

Mrs. Kerr made a motion that hire Larry Ramsey in the Transportation Department for the Buena Vista City Public Schools pending a satisfactory back ground check. The motion was second by Mr. Mohler. All other board members present vote yes.

Ms. Ellison made a motion that accept the retirement of Tim Lilley, a PMMS custodian. The motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present vote yes.

Ms. Ellison made a motion that accept the resignations of Elizabeth Keller and Caroline Carroll effective at the end of the school year. The motion was second by Mr. Mohler. All other board members present vote yes.

Ms. Ellison made a motion that we hire Mike Cartalaro as the Athletic Director for Buena Vista City Public Schools starting July 1, 2019. The motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present vote yes.

Mr. Rice made a motion to adjourn and motion was second by Mrs. Kerr. All other members present voted yes.

Teresa Ellison, Vice Chairman

Mary Buchanan
Clerk of School Board