

BUENA CITY SCHOOL BOARD  
VIRTUAL INFORMATION MEETING

April 16, 2020

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

Ms. Ellison called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and thanked everyone for being at the meeting. We had the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Mrs. Frazier explained that Dr. Keeler was going to review the April 8<sup>th</sup> frequently asked questions. This meeting should last approximately 45 minutes. Comments or questions not addressed tonight can be submitted to [bvcps.net](mailto:bvcps.net) and they will be answered. Participants microphones will be muted.

**Dr. Keeler**

Dr. Keeler said that he wanted to take the opportunity to talk about what we have been doing over the past four and one-half weeks and what we will do for the next four weeks to finish out the last quarter of our school year. The continuity of our learning program and the feeding program for our kids. I would like to say a huge thank you to our teachers, administrators and staff that have worked so hard to prepare materials for students to close out this year. I would like to thank our school nutrition workers and transportation department for preparing and distributing meals for between 400 and 550 kids each week. At the end of tomorrow we will have feed just under 20,000 meals. A big thank you to our custodial staff for continuing to keep our buildings clean and safe. We will be conducting business by phone, mail and virtual meetings whenever possible. The offices are closed to walk in traffic. You can talk to Mary Ruley or email her at [mary.ruley@bvcps.net](mailto:mary.ruley@bvcps.net). We are prioritizing the physical and emotional wellbeing of our students at this time. Quantity does not replace quality. We will incorporate the 5 C's, critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration,

communication, leadership, project based learning and performance based assessment. Whenever possible. We are not expecting parents to recreate school as usual. We incorporate the home environment and student interests the fourth quarter as soon as possible. Students may have access to internet or have to share devices. Visiting public places with internet may not be possible due to closures or restrictions. Students may be babysitting other members of their family while parents are at work. Any special needs or learning gaps that occur will be addressed during the 2020 – 2021 school year. We will be mindful of how we do final grades. The instruction plan for the division has been to run two, two week sessions. We have completed that and are ready to start our fourth quarter. We run this modified quarter from April 20th and end May 15<sup>th</sup>. Students will receive additional work to complete. Teachers will be in touch with the families to discuss individual needs. All schools will deliver or hand out packets for your child. This will start on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Information is available on your school's web site. Parents will be receiving more specific information from their individual schools. Packets for grades K-8 will not be graded. The packets will let them practice the skills that they have learned or what will be taught next year. Parents will certify that their child has completed the work. This can be done by a form that will be sent home and the form is also available on line. It can also be certified by email. The high school, grades 9 thru 12, the teachers have selected essential work to be done. Students will deliver the work to a drop box located outside of the school. Students are being provided the opportunity to recover from failing grades. Individual plans are being provided to them.

Questions - What if my student is in the 9, 10 or 11<sup>th</sup> grade? All students who are passing a course as March 13<sup>th</sup> will be promoted to the next grade level or course. They will be given a grade. If they are missing any content, they can do the work and they will then be given a grade. Students and parents have the option for the student to take the course next year.

Question - What if my child is in grades K-8? All students will be promoted to the next grade level unless prior discussions or documentation was made to hold these students. All schools are providing content for students to review previous content. Teachers and Administrators will be working to rewrite the curriculum for the 20-21 school year.



Question - Will Seniors be able to graduate? The high school is reviewing transcripts and determining their ability to graduate. All 63 students are on track to graduate. The high school counselors will be in touch with each senior and their family. If courses are passed as of March 1st they will be given credit.

Question - Will there be a graduation ceremony? There is a stay at home order until June 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a very special time for the student and the family. We are making plans and further guidance from the Governor and the Department of Education. It is our full intention to provide a graduation for our student and their family. We are not comfortable about selecting a date at this time. We are looking at several options. We have about three options.

Question – What if my student is enrolled in a dual enrolment course? All students who are enrolled in these courses will continue their work with the teachers.

Question - What if my student is enrolled in a AP course? College Boards is developing a free 45-minute exam on line for each course. Content will focus on what most schools was able to complete by March 1<sup>st</sup>. They can take their exam on any device that they have, computer, tablet, etc. They will also have the right to write their responses by hand and submit a photo. The exams are secure. They will be using digital tools and software to detect fraud. The high school has contacted every student taking AP courses.

Question: What if my student needs behind the wheel driver's education? It is impossible to maintain safe social distance in a vehicle. This instruction will not be provided until is safe to do so.

Question - What if my child is enrolled in Virtual Virginia course? Virtual Virginia will continue with their course and remain in contact with our teachers.

Question - Have SOL's been canceled? They have been canceled.

Question – How can I communicate with my child's teacher? All families will receive a check in call from at least one of their teachers. They are available thru email. They can also call the school.

Question - How will final grades be determined? K-8 will be determined by the average of the first three quarters by March 13<sup>th</sup>. If your child is in high school all accumulated grades thru March 14<sup>th</sup> to determine the final letter grade. We will collect missing work. Additional assignments may need to be completed.

Question - When will I receive my child's final report card? Final report cards will be mailed no later than May 26, 2020.

Question - Will summer school be available to my student? It is not possible to hold summer school in June. We will see if we can hold summer school in July.

Question - How long will food pick be available? We will continue with this program as long as it is in compliance with Federal and State guidelines. We will continue until school closes. We are providing meals 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches for each child each week. Call your school if you have any questions. Parents are asked to make their trunks available to us to put food in. We are feeding 60 to 62 per cent of our students.

Question - What if my student needs to talk to the school counselor? Counselors are available to your student as needed. Call your school to speak with them.

Question - What if my student receives special education services? Case managers are reaching out to families to develop a plan.

Question - Is the school division providing technology services? We have taken a three step approach to providing technology services. One is to insure the safety and security of the staff. Two is to provide opportunities for continued education and three is to be physically responsible for district assets. Not all students have equipment available.

Question - Is the school providing technology to student in need? The school is providing equipment for students who are doing online classes. We are researching providing hot spots at the high school for students to use.

Question - What is the school division providing? We are working with the building administrators to have on line packets and resources that we offer.



Question - What about my student's belongings? Individual school's will be in contact with you about how and when to pick up belongings. Safety is our number one priority at this time.

Question - What if I have further questions? Call your child's school or the school board office.

Donna Frazier asked if anyone had any questions. Stacy Funkhouser wants to thank the food service and transportation for the meals. And a thank you to technology for making things work

Lisa Clark reminded anyone that was connected that the City Council was beginning their meeting at 6:00 p.m. if you wanted to join. Connection the City web page.

Approval of Agenda - Ms. Ellison asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Flint made the motion and Mr. Rice second the motion. Mrs. Buchanan polled the board and all member present verbally voted to approve.

Ms. Ellison read the Welcome of Visitors information. There were no comments,

Mr. Flint made a motion to go into Closed Session for the discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any of any public bodies according to State Law 2.2-3711 (A) (1). Motion was second by Mr. Rice.

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

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

Mr. Roberts	Yes	Ms. Ellison	Yes
Mr. Flint	Yes	Ms. Kerr	Yes
Mr. Rice	Yes	Mr. Mohler	Yes
Mr. Butler	Yes		

Mr. Flint made a motion that we waive the thirty-day notice to the board that the Superintendent's contract will be renegotiated. The motion was second by Mr. Rice. Mrs. Buchanan polled the board and all member present verbally voted to approve.

Mr. Flint made a motion to rescind Dr. Keeler's request for retirement. The motion was second by Mr. Mohler. Mrs. Buchanan polled the board and all member present verbally voted to approve.

Mr. Flint made a motion to postpone the VSBA Superintendent's search until such time as the Superintendent's resigns or retires. Mr. Mohler second the motion. Mrs. Buchanan polled the board and all member present verbally voted to approve.

Mr. Flint made a motion that we accept the addendum that was discussed in closed session to the Superintendent's contract that was approved September 27, 2018 and with the changes made. Motion was second by Mr. Rice. Mrs. Buchanan polled the board and all member present verbally voted to approve.

Mr. Flint made a motion to adjourn and motion was second by Mr. Rice. Mrs. Buchanan polled the board and all member present verbally voted to approve.



Teresa Ellison, Chairman



Mary Buchanan  
Clerk of School Board