

BUENA CITY SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

October 24, 2019

Board Members Present: Wayne Flint, Teresa Ellison, John Rice, Brooke Baker, Lisa Kerr, Roy Mohler and John Roberts. Also present were Dr. John Keeler, Superintendent, Sherrie Wheeler, Director of Administration and Mary Buchanan, Clerk of the School Board. Student Representative Holden Kerr and Hayden Secrist were also present.

Baker 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 asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. She said that we needed to add a few items. Under Recognitions we need to add D, VSBA School Board recognitions and after that we are going to let our students give their report. Under Presentations, C, were going back over the 2019 – 2020 goals. Ms. Ellison made the motion that we approve the revised Agenda and Mr. Flint second the Motion. All other board members present voted yes.

Recognitions

Senior of the Month - Dr. Keeler said that Hadyen Secrist has been chosen as Parry Mc Cluer High School's Senior of the Month for October. Hayden is the daughter of Brent and Cheryl Secrist of Buena Vista. She is the 62nd Senior of the Month since 2015. This award goes out to 10 seniors each year. She will receive a \$250.00 scholarship in May 2020 at the Senior Award Banquet. She is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as a Student Representative on the School Board this year. She is an active percipient of Project Lit in the Spanish Club. She has received the A-B Honor Roll recognition each year during high school. This means she had to carry at least a 3.5 grade average and she actually has a 3.7 grade point average. She recently received her Academic jacket. She has participated in cheer leading her entire high school career. She is Co-Captain of the Varsity squad. She wants to be a Physical Therapist and plans to attend James Madison College. This young lady is very focused on the future. She knows what she wants to do. There is a 95% chance you will be successful.

Employee of the Month - Dr. Keeler said the employee of the month is Mrs. Angie Patterson. Angie is a 1991 graduate of Radford University. This young and energetic young lady began her 28 year teaching career with Rockbridge County Schools. Fortunately for Buena Vista one year with Rockbridge was all she could stand. Although raise as an Amherst Lancer she met the love of her life who she married in 1992 and quickly became a True Blue for life. She and her husband Rad have raised 3 dynamic children, Conrad, Katie and Maggie. All of them have gone thru Buena Vista Schools and have exceled in academics as well as athletics. Two of the three children are employees of the school system as well. The family is giving back to the system. You ask Angie to help you and she says tell me what you need. She thinks for a minute and says I know so and so and it is done. She always volunteers to help students and faculty members. She takes on leadership roles. She enjoys planning fun activities on field trips. She is a fine example of a person who bleeds "Blue". Debbie Gilbert said she makes her job easier.

PMHS Golf Team - Dr. Keeler called Trevor Wright to come forward. He is a one-man team. Dr. Keeler said he had great respect for him. He asked his coach, Fred Fix to come up and speak. He said what can I say. Trevor worked hard and even harder when you are the only one. He said talk to your kids and try to get them involved in the sport. There are scholarships for golf. He never finished lower than 6th in any event. He never once complained. We got to the District tournament. He made the playoffs. He showed respect to everyone.

School Board Recognitions - Dr. Keeler handed out VSBA Award Recognition Certificates to: Lisa Kerr, Wayne Flint, John Rice and Brooke Baker. Dr. Keeler and Teresa Ellison received an Award of Distinction and a Star Fish Pin.

Student Representative Report - Hayden and Holden gave the following updates. We are completing our first round of benchmark testing. Celebrated bullying prevention month. Celebrated Red Ribbon drug prevention week this week and just finished our door decoration contest for anti-drug use. Successful Homecoming Spirit Week, game and dance. CTE field trips all month to a variety of local industries as well as Dabney Day. CTE preparing for mock interviews. Marching Band earned 2nd place at Lynchburg City's Competition, but earned first place in the Visual Caption. Marching Band had their final competition this Saturday in Powhatan. Had a successful art booth with wreath fundraiser at Mountain Days. Volleyball team is celebrating senior night tonight. All fall sports will celebrate senior night tomorrow night at the football game versus Bath County. Kensey May finished sixth in the girls varsity "A" race with a time of 18.08, believed to be the fastest in school history at the Milestat Invitational in Mechanicsville. Dylan May placed 20th in a field of nearly 350 runners in the boys varsity "A" race as the Blues tune up for the Pioneer District Championships, which will be held Wednesday, Oct 30 at Eastern Montgomery. Trevor Wright placed 10th in the regional golf tournament. Dr. Keeler said Milestat is probably the biggest race in Virginia in all Divisions. Our kids were running in the A races which is the top. There are 330 to 350 in each race. Kensey placed 6th and Dylan was 20th. They have more events to come in the following weeks.

PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent's Budget Schedule - Budget Process - December 2019 School Board meeting we should know the Governor's budget. We could look for major revisions in the standards of quality. January 2020 meeting we should have a first draft budget. This will have what I think health insurance is going to be and if we think we can afford a raise. Is the State going to give us any more money? Lottery funding is down. Revenue is down. We have the second lowest composite deposit index. That will hopefully off set anything we could lose. We need to think about scheduling meetings as I know stuff. Public hearing in March for budget and an approval of our 2020- 2021 budget at the March 26, 2020 School Board meeting. The budget will be delivered to the City the next day, March 27, 2020. They have until the first week of May to pass their budget. He talked with the Mayor about our funding locally and was it going to be changes in the amount. There is some talk about cutting us this year. They are talking about raising taxes. We have an Advisory Council and we will be meeting on Tuesday's in the Superintendent's Office at 3:30 p.m.

Early Childhood - Dr. Keeler said he went to this in March of this year. It was held in Richmond at the Jefferson Hotel. I thought it was going to be for school systems. I was pleasantly surprised that it was sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce. Mostly business people. They had school systems there. Early Childhood is becoming very important. We need to work with these kids earlier. Our addition of our 2nd Pre-K is going to pay dividends for us. They showed that Virginia is trailing many other states in Pre K education. We are demanding more of kids every year. They need to learn to read at three and four years old. Northern Virginia is the hub of technology. We need broadband in rural sections. He said from birth to eighteen years old a child on spends 13% of their time in school. The other 87% is absorbed by other things. If a company wants to come into an area they ask about the education and skills of the people in the community. Buena Vista is looking for people to come. They have done survey on kids in a group all the way thru school. One group with Pre-K one without. The Pre-K group did better. We have two groups and would like to add the third group.

Superintendents Goals for 2019-2020 - To receive full division wide accreditation. To begin project based lessons. Explore the possibility for standard base rating to be implemented in 2020-2021 school year. Donna has worked hard on this. When you look at report it will break down what you have done in different areas and what area needs work.

Attract more students to Pre-K and Kindergarten at Kling. Continue to manage the best health insurance to all employees thru BPA. Mary Kaye, Sandy and I were in Roanoke for the best part of two days talking about health insurance, drugs and prescriptions. This gets more complexed every year. We are lucky we can earn points to lower our deductible. To give a raise to all employees. We have done this for the past several years. I feel like anything we give will have to come from us. I feel like we have given 10.5 percent raise since I came in 2013. Three or four years ago we hire 26 people and this year 5 people. We are in a lot better shape than we

were 7 years ago. To continue our goal to get the good news out to our City thru social media, web page and emails. Donna live streamed the Academic awards the other night and it has gotten over 1800 views.

Public Comments

Mrs. Baker read the opening statement on the agenda advising what the public what they could and could not do and how to request being added to the executive session. Public citizens are allowed to make comments but we can't have discussion of personnel or students in a public meeting. Does anyone have any comments? Paula Charlton wanted to speak. I came to speak about one thing that I got excited when Dr. Keeler got to talking about early childhood education that I forgot what I was going to say. I majored in early childhood education. I preached for years about what needed to happen in early childhood education to have it fall on death ears. It wasn't the in thing then. Now someone has seen that value and is moving with it and I appreciate that. When you look at the percentage of people in prison and the people who did not have early childhood education. I always said if the State of Virginia spent more money on education and less money on prisons they wouldn't need the prisons. Our students would leave high school with an academic focus or trade skill that they would go into. It starts at the bottom with the early childhood education. I am so grateful that our schools have taken that step and see that value in it. The thing I originally wanted to speak to is that I have the blessing of working at the middle school two days a week sometimes more. I was working the day that the Blue Hole Café' was feeding the retirees for lunch. The Blue Hole Café' has this best this area has to offer. The students love what they do and strive to do their best. They can tell you everything that Mrs. Breeden has done. How things are cooked. How they used left overs. You don't throw anything away. It took two rooms to hold the retiree's. I thought about the experience that those two rooms held. We have gotten where we are from the history that came before us. Retiree's are forgotten folks please don't forget them. Mrs. Baker told Ms. Charlton that she had gone over her 3 minutes.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Flint made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda that includes the Board Minutes and the payment of the Bills and this motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

Action Items

Superintendents Goals for 2019-20209 – Motion to approve by Mr. Flint and a second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

Set Date for Reorganization Meeting - Dr. Keeler said it needed to be set for January 2020. He suggested the 8th or 9th. After a short discussion Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office. Mr. Flint made a motion to approve the January 9, 2020

Reorganization meeting and the motion was second by Mrs. Kerr. All other board members present voted yes.

Information Items

Policy Committee Report - Dr. Keeler said there was nothing new to report at this time.

Finance Committee Report - Mr. Flint the committee met Wednesday and approved the payment of the bills. He said we are 25% thru the school budget year and we have spent 20% of the budget. We are in good shape.

Additional School Board Reports - Mr. Flint said most of you remember a period of time that a lot of students dropped out of School at age 16. In his 8th grade class there were a little over 100 students when graduation time came there were only 45 of us. A friend of mine, Larry Huffman, who was head of the prison system stopped by the house two weeks ago for a visit. He was naming the guys who beat him up in elementary school and all the way thru high school. It dawned on me that everyone he was mentioning lived in a certain part of town. It was poverty. After he finished telling me who beat him up I told him they were about the same ones that beat me up. He said I watched every one of those guys who beat me up come thru the prison door. All of that had to be financial. Mr. Mohler quit school in the 8th grade. His dad had someone who beat him up frequently. That person dropped out of school and killed someone and is in prison. No other board members had anything to report.

Superintendent's Report - I think you all attended the Blues Academic Awards. He wanted to thank all the principals for their work. October 28th – Jackson River Governors School Meeting – 9:00 am- DSLCC . October 30th – Regional Meeting – 12:00 pm – DSLCC. November 13th - Blues Ed Foundation Meeting – 5:00 pm – Superintendent's Office. . November 13th – JRGS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm. November 19th -22nd – VSBA Conference– Williamsburg. November 27th – 29th – Thanksgiving Holiday. December 5th – Christmas Parade – for BVCPS students. December 5th – Christmas Celebration – Following the Christmas Parade – Ramsey Center. December 10th – Finance Meeting – 5:00 pm – Superintendent's Office. December 12th – School Board Meeting – 6:00 pm – Ramsey Center. December 20th –January 6th – Christmas Vacation. He said Debbie Gilbert applied for a Grant with Dominion Power for a Green House and received \$5,000. That is to be used by the Blue Hole Café' to raise veggie to be used by them. We have had a lot of groups come. Ms. Ellison said she forgot about telling us about an event that the Blues Education Foundation will be having. She asked Sherry to tell us about. Sherry said we will be having a Christmas Bazaar in the Ramsey Center on December 7th. We have 4 people who want to set up a table to sell their crafts. We may have an auction of student's art from all 4 schools. There are two other bazaars going on. We will be cooking out front. Becky Brown has donated 125 rolls. We are trying to get a cooler to auction off. Dr. Keeler said that the Hero's breakfast will be on December 13th at the Ramsey Center. The Blue Hole Café' will be doing the breakfast again.

Instruction Report - Debbie and I met with Donna Frazier this morning and she showed them the new performance application for the students. It is amazing how you can go into a test and you can find out everything about that child. This will be wonderful to use to find our at risk students. Sherry put something out about being on the Parents Advisory Board. She had a grandparent ask about being on it and she is a retired teacher from our division. She is Dawn Dickinson. The high school will be setting up a table and have the police department's drug dog there to raise money to get him a tracking collar. He not only finds drugs he is trained to search and find missing persons. Dr. Keller said that we got \$100,667.00 from the State for our Security Grant this year. This for the Middle School and both Elementary Schools. We will get the 3M Film for Enderly's windows.

Special Education and Nurses Report - Mrs. Gibson said that she nothing further to add.

Transportation and Maintenance - Dr. Keeler said we are looking at buying a car. It has 90,000 miles on it and we are looking at getting it for \$4,000.00. We use cars now more now than ever before. We have kids going in different directions.

Sherry said we have trick or treat coming up.

MR. FLINT MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS AS IT RELATES TO ACCORDING TO {STATE LAW § 2.2-3711 (A) (1)} AND ALSO DISCUSSION OF ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY AND DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY ACCORDING TO {State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (3)}. MR. RICE SECOND THE MOTION. ALL OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED YES.

Ms. Ellison made a motion to come out of Closed Session and the motion was seconded by Ms. Kerr. All other members present voted yes.

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

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

Mrs. Kerr made a motion to accept the resignation of Raymond Owen effective October 3, 2019 from Buena Vista City Public School system. The motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

Ms. Ellison made a motion to hire Sara Clark as a Part Time LPN with Buena Vista City Public Schools pending satisfactory background check. The motion was second by Mr. Flint. All other board members present voted yes.

Ms. Ellison made a motion to approve Brittany Plogger as a paraprofessional with Buena Vista City Public Schools pending satisfactory background check. The motion was second by Mr. Flint. All other board members present voted yes.

Mrs. Kerr made a motion that we hire Kameron Lipes to work with the Nutrition Department in Buena Vista City Public Schools after the December 12th meeting and pending satisfactory background check. The motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

Ms. Ellison made a motion to approve the Parry McCluer High School Winter Coaching list for 2019-2020 pending satisfactory background check. The motion was second by M, Flint. All other board members present voted yes.

Mr. Flint made a motion that Dr. Keeler pursues the possibility of selling the unused land behind Enderly. The motion on was second by Ms. Ellison. All other board members present voted yes.

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

Brooke Baker, Chairman

Mary Buchanan

Clerk of School Board