

**BUENA CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**August 22, 2019**

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

Mrs. 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**

Mr. Ellison made a motion to approve the Agenda and the motion was second by Mr. Flint. All other board members present voted yes.

**Recognitions**

Senior Class Representatives - Dr. Keeler said he would like to recognize our senior class board representatives, Holden Kerr and Hayden Secrist. Dr. Keeler said they were two fine kids. Both of them have a good grade point average.

August Employee of the Month - Dr. Keeler asked the August Employee of the Month, Sandra Mohler, to come forward. We try very hard to recognize all of our people. We start with Central Office right on down. I have worked closely with this person for seven years. She has many hats to wear, budget, payroll, Captive Program, Insurance, etc. No one in this room knows how difficult doing a budget is. She is one of the best Dr. Keeler said.

Dr. Keeler said that this was not on the Agenda as a Recognition. He asked Melissa Cobb and Kelly Linkenhoker to come forward. The State Board, in the spring, recognizes about One Hundred Forty different schools within the state of Virginia. To qualify as a School for the Continuous Improvement of the Standards of Learning Test. To qualify the school must invest in student engagement by increasing the attendance of students for the past two years, as well as in math, science and reading. He presented them with a certificate signed by the State Superintendent of Education and the President of the State Board.

**Presentations**

Capital Improvements - Dr. Keeler started by showing us a sign that lights up about 3 Peat Championship Basketball Team. He talked with the Mayor about a space with electricity that we could put the sign. One option is possible near the Charlie Manuel sign as you come into town. Ron Loy started the project of getting a new score board. We also starting taking donations for a new score board and have now received enough donations to get this project rolling. In two weekends we had 455 kids come through this room and pick up back packs full of supplies. Teresa gave away a ton of books. Rooms in our schools have been furnished with new carpet donated by Mohawk. We also saved money by having our students who work during the summer put the carpet down. We have had spring testing. He had a colored coded chart showing how each school how done and spoke about the percentage of increase for each school. The middle

school grades improved. Enderly improved. High school improved and their Dropout rate improved. Kling improved. All four school's attendance rate improved.

### **Public Comment**

Mrs. Baker read the guidelines for making public comment. There was no public comment.

### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Flint made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Minutes of the previous meeting and payment of the bills. The motioned was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

### **Action Items**

Policy Updates - Melissa said two policies were given to you for your review. The policies are JHCF and KBE. They need extra work on them. The policy committee needs to meet and go over these policies and bring them back to the board at the September meeting. Ms. Ellison made a motion to table the policy revisions JHCF and KBE until the September meeting. The motion was second by Mr. Flint. All other members present voted yes.

Approval of Staff List - Dr. Keeler said that he had put a copy of the 2019-2020 staff list at each of your seats. We have a total of 173 employees.

Mr. Flint made a motion to approve and the motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other members present voted yes.

### **Information Items**

**Finance** - Mr. Flint said the committee met Tuesday. We don't have a lot going on at this time.

**Policy Committee** - Ms. Cobb said that there was nothing more to add. The policies discussed above will be brought before the board in September.

**Student Representatives** - Mr. Kerr said that we had two football scrimmages. One with Luray and one with Paige. Trevor Wright finished fifth place in the first golf match with a score of 54 over 9 holes. We have a Pep Rally next with WDBJ 7. We also have Spirit Week next week. Ms. Secrist said they had a great welcome from the Faculty. What a way to start a new year. We had class meetings Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to go over new rules and things like that. Class Leaders will meet for pizza with the principle next Wednesday. Mr. Kerr said that we will be having fund raisers. There is new construction going on with concrete slabs being put in where you come out the gym doors. Dr. Keeler said that is being financed by Mrs. Huffman.

**Additional School Board Reports** - Ms. Ellison said that the Blues Education Foundation is planning a couple of money making events in the next few months. As soon as I have some information I will pass it on. We have our meeting on the second Wednesday of every month and if anyone is interested in coming to see what we are doing. Also we did give out plenty of books and on that first Friday, I had to go out and buy some books because we almost ran out. The children were excited. Mrs. Linkenhoker had something going on earlier this month. She

had a family breakfast and a lot of parents and children attended. All present had a good time. Mrs. Baker said her son has heat induced migraine headaches and he had three last week and Nurse Knick is working with them to help with this problem. Mr. Mohler said his child loves preschool. He loves to get in the bathtub so he can go to bed. He loves school. He comes home and tells me what he has done. He also told me I was not doing my job because I was not reading to him every night.

**Superintendent's Report** - Dr. Keeler told the board that his report was sent to them. We are playing Rockbridge next Friday night. We getting everything I order for this game. September 2<sup>nd</sup> is Labor Day holiday. On September 9<sup>th</sup> all of our schools will have reading assessment training at the Ramsey Center. This training is all day training. We are adding a writing workshop at Enderly. We have a part time person coming in to work three days a week. Our Hall of Fame Banquet is coming up. Sept 24<sup>th</sup> is a VSBA Conference, Finance meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> and School Board meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Chuck Clement has retired and will not be working with BPA. Convocation went very well and we had a great meal. When you make a budget you make a guess. We have to guess at how many kids. Two years ago we lost 79 kids. We only lost 28 kids this year. We did not get as many kindergarteners this year. We are now up 31 kids at the high school. There is more information on Facebook and the internet about Buena Vista Schools than there ever was. People are look at what we have and do and they like it. I added the second class of PreK. The kids love it. I have made cuts in the budget in order to anticipate for this. I had a couple of people retire that I am not replacing. We have a couple that won't be back and I have cut the substitute lines in half. Our schools did such a great job last year of staffing their classrooms from within their staff that I was able to have a surplus of \$20,000 in the substitute line. We are going to a designated sub plan. That means if your teacher is out of school and you have a good aide working in the same room then let them be the sub that day rather than calling someone to come in to sub that has never been in the classroom. We are going to try this again. We will still have money in the sub line. We have good teams. Danny and Teri in the high school. They teach Chemistry and Algebra I and put them up against anything. The middle school has Polukius and Carrie. Enderly you have Allison Clark and Mrs. Camden and Teresa and Mrs. Cline are at Kling. They do good things. We have a part time teacher in math to help the 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Ms. Ellison asked Dr. Keeler to tell the board about the last item on your report about the Buena Vista High School and the first state championship. Virginia High School League was started in 1913. It had 80 high schools join. The first championship competition was held in 1914 and it was in debate. At that time, we had twenty of the high schools send teams to the University of Virginia to compete in the championship. We won with two girls. One graduated in 1914 and the other in 1915. They took on two men from Charlottesville High School and won. This was before women could vote. We are going to put a banner up with that info on it. Teresa asked if this was going to be addressed at the Hall of Fame Banquet? Dr. Keeler said yes.

**Instruction Report** - Ms. Wheeler said we had a Professional Development with staff and they went to different sessions during the day. We did an exit survey for each session that we had. We got positive feedback and they took back something that they could use in their classroom. We have a lot of professional development and conferences coming up and the teachers are signing up for them.

**Special Education and Nurses Report** - Mrs. Gibson said her report was in their packet. She had nothing to add and you can see how busy the nurse has been in her report.

**Transportation and Maintenance** - Dr. Keeler said that we had a really good summer. The kids did a really good job. Transportation has several cars that are worn out. We are constantly checking on other cars to purchase.

**MR. FLINT MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS AS IT RELATES TO PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE. ACCORDING TO {State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (1)} AND DISCUSSION OF ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY AND DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY ACCORDING TO {State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (3)}.**

**THE MOTION WAS SECOND BY MRS. KERR.**

Mr. Rice made a motion to come out of executive session and the motion was second by Mr. Flint. 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 Wendy Brugger and Garrett Turner as employees of Buena Vista City Public Schools.

The motion was second by Mr. Flint. All other board members present voted yes.

Mrs. Kerr made a motion that upon satisfactory background check that we accept as Volunteers, Kathryn Fox Bare at Enderly Heights and Roger Miller as a Volunteer Golf Coach for the Buena Vista City Public Schools.

The motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present voted yes.

Ms. Ellison made a motion to hire Christie Seaman and Kelly Coleman as paraprofessionals in Buena Vista City Public Schools pending satisfactory background checks as needed.

The motion was second by Mr. Rice. All other board members present vote yes.

Ms. Ellison made a motion to hire Lucas Wheeler as Digital Media Specialist in Buena Vista City Public Schools pending satisfactory background check.

The motion was second by Mrs. Kerr. All other board members present voted yes.

Ms. Ellison made a motion to hire Jennifer Lasam as Behavior Specialist in Buena Vista City Public Schools pending satisfactory background checks as needed.

The motion was second by Mr. Flint. All other board members present voted yes.

Ms. Ellison made a motion to approve James Killorin as a part time teacher in Buena Vista City Public Schools pending satisfactory background checks as needed.

The motion was second by Mr. Flint. All other board members present voted yes.

Mrs. Kerr made a motion to accept the Fall Coaching List as presented.

The motion was second by Mr. Flint. All other board members present voted yes.

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

All other members present voted yes.

---

Brooke Baker, Chairman

---

Mary Buchanan  
Clerk of School Board