

BUENA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 23, 2020

Present: John Keeler, Mary Buchanan, Sherrie Wheeler, John Butler Lisa Kerr, Teresa Ellison, Jr. Flint and Mr. Mohler. Mr. Rice and Mr. Roberts were absent. Also present were Student Representatives Hayden Secrist and Holden Kerr.

Ms. Ellison led us in the Pledge and moment of silence

Ms. Ellison calls meeting to order. Before approval of agenda Ms. Ellison welcomes everyone and welcomes newest board member, Mr. John Butler. Ms. Ellison states that she looks forward to working with our administration and staff to make this the absolute best school division in Virginia.

Approval of agenda - Mr. Flint makes a motion to amend the agenda to add to the closed session , personnel matters not related to public matters according to {State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (4)}. Motion was second by Mr. Mohler. All member present approved.

Ms. Ellison states that Dr. Keeler has three recognitions: Senior of the Month, Employee of the Month and recognition of the football team.

Senior of the Month - Cooper Braddy is honored as the 65th Senior of the Month over the past seven years. Each month, September through June, a senior is chosen to be the Senior of the Month. The criteria for this honor include academic, extra-curricular activities and service to others. Each senior receives \$250 scholarship and a banquet in their honor where they recognize a teacher, coach or local educator who has

had a profound effect on their life here at Buena Vista. The student also presents them a plague. This is quite an honor. John "Cooper" Braddy is the January Senior of the Month. Cooper is the son of Bill and Elizabeth Braddy. Cooper is also a brother to Will, Libby and Macon and an uncle to a one-month old baby nephew and a two-and-a-half-year-old niece. Cooper is a member of the Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and is the first assistant to the Bishop. He was also awarded the title of Eagle Scout last year. Cooper is also very involved at PMHS. He has been a member of the Cross Country team for three years including this year's State Championship team. He has also been a member of the soccer team for four years. Cooper has been a member of the National Honor Society his junior and senior years. This year he is participating in an internship with Natural Bridge State Park in the area of conservation. After graduation Cooper will go on a two-year mission for his church. Upon return, attend SVU where he will pursue a degree in Marine Biology with an emphasis in conservation. Congratulations Cooper Braddy for being the January Senior of the Month! Cooper has already won one state championship and I believe we may be looking at two more before the year is over.

Employee of the Month - Dr. Keeler states we're usually pretty good about keeping this a secret. I think we did a pretty good job of that again tonight. Juli was told she needed to be here tonight to give a breakdown of the special education program. Juli is our Director of Student Services and has 28 years of experience. This is a very important job for our school division. Juli is also the BVCPS Compliance officer. Over the last two years, I've had the opportunity to work very closely with her. She is my second in charge and serves as the Superintendent in my absence. She agreed to do this and has done an outstanding job in all of her rolls. In this job you have to have people that you trust and Juli has come through several times.

Football Team - Over the last seven years we've decided we want to be very good in a few specific areas which is important, especially for a small school division. We decided we wanted to be good at academics. That is the reason for the awards and the gold and silver medals and our varsity jackets that we give our seniors with a 3.5 or higher. We also wanted to be good at the arts ... we are the only school division in Virginia with an active art gallery and I am very proud of that. The quality of work that goes in there has improved because the students are sharing their work. Now we have a writer's workshop gallery where our elementary kids write stories that are displayed and we had a full house during Enderly's open house. The final A is athletics. We are very proud of our athletics. I have been involved in school divisions over the last 34 years, I have been a coach and have a son that's a coach, but I have never been in a division that has won six straight championships in six years. That is phenomenal and it means so much for this city. We rank second in Virginia for economically disadvantaged kids. I have always had the opportunity to be with poor kids. Gosh I love winning those state championships, I love being fully accredited as a division. So tonight we are recognizing the football players: Elijah Griffin, Tyler Royer, Colton Painter, Zavary Wallace, Jacob Gilbert, Caleb Mason, Colton Staton, Trent Fitzgerald, Trey Orren, Keaton Coleman, Holden Kerr, Jacob Wootten, Ty Ruley, Brendan Conley. Coach Mark Wheeler spoke of wins and losses. He stated that the team members have been in weight room working and looking to a good year next year. Thanked the coaches and team. Dr. Keeler spoke of the kids coming and going from the Ramsey Center and the time they put into their sport areas. Great dedication.

PRESENTATIONS:

2021 Budget – Governor's Budget – came out end of December still waiting on house and senate. Get everything by end of February and get our first draft. Spoke about what made the budget and what didn't. The Governor put 1.2 billion into biennium budget for education – split

up between two years. Had an \$800,000,000 surplus at the end of 2018, but K-12 didn't get any. Governor allocated \$200m back to the General Assembly the rest goes into the rainy day fund and a number of things. Hopefully the house and senate will change.

LPN Program – Michael Gibson – Most exciting things since I've been here. Dr. Ben Worth, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Goal of program is to create a program to graduate with a certificate of Practical Nursing. 2 year program, only four students per year – over junior and senior year.

Pierce Group - Everyone knows we lost a great resource when we lost Chuck Clements. I think Chuck made insurance understandable and was very good to us and was responsible for our success; however times have changed and we're being asked questions that Mrs. Mohler and Dr. Keeler don't know. Pierce Group will help us get answers. Donna Nixon gave presentation to board.

Ms. Ellison read the Public Comment Guidelines. No one present came forth to speak.

Approval of Consent Agenda. Mr. Flint made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Mrs. Kerr second. Everyone else present voted yes.

ACTION ITEM:

VASBA Code of Conduct for School Board Members – Ms. Ellison read the Code of Conduct to the members and those present to let everyone know the expectations as board members before the vote to accept. Mr. Flint made a motion to accept the Code of Conduct and Mr. Mohler

second. All others agreed. The Code of Conduct will be signed in closed session.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS:

Policy – Ms. Ellison – no report

Finance - Mr. Flint - Met Tuesday and reviewed all bills. We are 50% through school year and spent 46% of budget.

Student Reps – Holden Kerr – wrestling seniors’ night last night, track meet tomorrow and Saturday at the St. Christopher’s private school – selective meet. Hayden Secrist – boys’ basketball had a great game last
None of the remaining board members had any comments.

Superintendents report – See copy –

Things are happening – Mr. Joe Wilson, purchased the old Ford dealership so that (partnering with DSLCC) our kids have an opportunity to have a workforce development area. Open to our kids and adults classes in the evening. Had a meeting with manufacturing companies talking about what they need so we can cater to some of their needs. They can get jobs here at home and make good money. He is a true Blue!

Instructional Report – F&P Testing in elementary grades, High School plans for seniors and term grads. Writer’s workshop in March at the Ramsey Center.

Special Ed/Nurses report – Report sent to you by email. Numbers are up – the highest we’ve had since she’s been here. More than 50% of those students that transfer in to our division already have an IEP. Preliminary numbers for next year are also included in report for scheduling. Over past for years we have added over 40 kids to our special education program. We will need another special education

teacher. Private day schools have increased since losing that position. Currently we don't have enough people to have an all-day class just for these students – self-contained classroom. Ms. Ellison asked about Medicaid reimbursements- has that increased over the last few years or is it holding steady? It's holding steady. Mary Ruley usually keeps Juli up to date for Medicaid reimbursement. Usually get \$65,000 per year in reimbursements. Waxing and waning years, but been booming for all of our localities.

Dr. Keeler thinks the kids are being served better. Doesn't surprise him and he thinks it may continue on this way. Differentiated instruction makes some turn into a disability. Keeping everyone healthy by washing hands, etc. to stay healthy. Juli had a little report on the Coronavirus. New LPN is a huge help.

Transportation/Maintenance – Bucky is still looking for a car that we get with less than 100,000 miles on. Maintenance is better budget than in recent years. Boiler is doing better.

MR. FLINT MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS AS IT RELATES TO APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND THE EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL ALL ACCORDING TO {STATE LAW § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) AND PERSONNEL MATTERS NOT RELATED TO PUBLIC MATTERS ALL ACCORDING TO {STATE LAW § 2.2-3711 (A) (4) AND FOR THE DISCUSSION OF ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY ACCORDING TO STATE LAW § 2.2-3711 (A) (3). ROY MOHLER SECOND THE MOTION. ALL OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED YES.

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

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

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

Mrs. Kerr made a motion that we accept the resignation of Amber Cash effective December 1, 2019. Mr. Butler second the motion. All other board member present voted yes.

Mrs. Kerr made a motion that we accept the resignation of Hannah McDaniel, Enderly parapro effective January 17, 2020. Mr. Mohler second the motion. All other board member present voted yes.

Mrs. Kerr made a motion that we accept the resignation of Jessica Brotherson, Spanish teacher at Parry McCluer High School. Mr. Mohler second the motion. All other board member present voted yes.

Mr. Butler made a motion that we accept the retirement of Kenneth Camden, custodian at Parry McCluer Middle School. Mrs. Kerr seconds the motion, all other board members present voted yet.

Mr. Butler made a motion that we accept the retirement of Kathryn Williams, Librarian at Parry McCluer Middle School. Mrs. Kerr seconds the motion, all other board members present voted yet.

Mr. Flint made a motion that we accept the retirement of Dr. Keeler as superintendent of Buena Vista City Public Schools effective June 30th.

Mr. Mohler reluctantly second the motion with all other members reluctantly voting yes.

Mr. Flint made a motion that we begin the VSBA Superintendent Services. Mrs. Kerr second the motion. All other board members present voted yes.

Mr. Butler motion to adjourn and Mrs. Kerr second the motion. All other members present voted yes.

Teresa R. Ellison

Teresa Ellison, Chairman

Sandra Mohler

~~Mary Buchanan~~

Clerk to School Board