

Buena Vista School Board  
Buena Vista, Virginia

Regular Meeting  
Ramsey Center  
September 24, 2020  
6:00 P M

School Board Members in attendance: Chairman Teresa Ellison, Lisa Kerr, John Rice, John Roberts, Mac Felts. Wayne Flint attended remotely, Kelly Linkenhoker, Sandy Mohler, Sherrie Wheeler, John Keeler, Trevor Tomlin, Cloey Mazingo and Donna Frazier.  
Audience participation via Zoom.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Teresa Ellison. Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was observed.

#### Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by John Rice to approve the Agenda. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All other Board members present voted yes. Any opposed. Motion carries.

Cloey and Trevor are new Student Reps. We would like to welcome them.

#### Recognitions

**Senior of the Month** – Cloey Mazingo. Cloey is the daughter of the late Jacklin Thomas, Jason and Kristen Mazingo of Buena Vista. Cloey is the student rep for the School Board this year. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Club. She has taken 3 college classes from Dabney. Serves on the Principals Advisory Committee. 2019-2020 she was selected to participate in Girls State. This is a big honor. Cloey is a member of the Cross Country team, Indoor/Outdoor Track team. Cloey works at Lexington Restaurant as a dish washer. Attends the First Brethren Church and is a member of the Youth group. Cloey recently received acceptance to Mary Baldwin University. She will serve in the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership. It is the nation's only all Women Cadet Corps. She will double major in Political Science and International Relations and minor in History. Cloey Plans to go into the Military as an Intelligence Officer.

**Employee of the Month** – Conrad Patterson. Conrad is an animal lover. Conrad has a pet squirrel. The squirrel comes the window every day and Conrad feeds him. He eats out of Conrad's hand. Conrad does a great job. He is able to handle and work with people. Education has changed, parents are trying to help their kids with virtual learning. Conrad is always willing to help. Conrad takes his time and makes sure he provides the help parent's needs. Conrad is clear headed walks them through the issue and helps them.

#### Presentations

Future Home of the Little Blues. Part of my job is to look for ways to improve our School System. We have 4 good schools. The buildings are starting to get some age on them. When they

have age on them, they get expensive to maintain. The High School is 20 years old. Kling is 44 years old. It is pretty good shape; it has a flat roof that leaks when it rains. Enderly property is on 6 acres. It was built in 1968. It is an outdoor campus. Middle School was built in 1923 and will soon be 100 years old. The 1950 edition of the Middle School has asbestos and we no longer have students in that section now. The roof leaks when it rains really hard. No central air, needs windows. 143 kids are attending the Middle School this year.

It would be nice to take Enderly, Kling and the Middle School, Pre-k through 7 and build a new school? A School that would house all 3 schools into one building. Put in a Cafeteria, media center, gym and maybe a new auditorium that we have talked about for years. It's time, because I know what we are paying to maintain these schools. We need to come up with a plan. We have a couple of options:

1. Purchase a track of land adjacent to the High School. It is located behind the press box. There is a plateau up there of about 20 acres. We could build a school there. We have talked to the owner and he let us go up and look over the land. There is enough space to put a school and it is beautiful. Because it adjoins the high school, we could save money on transportation. The School would have a wing for Middle School 6-7, wing for k-2 and 3-5 wing. In order for it to work, we have to have the land.
2. Renovate the Middle School. About 12 years ago the board looked at this. Spectrum out of Roanoke did the drawings. Some concerns were no onsite parking or circulation. Car riders and bus drop kids off on the street. This concerns me especially on 24<sup>th</sup> Street. Visibly of the rear of the site. Office cannot see the back of the school. Needs handicap accessibility. Windows need to be replaced. Windows would change the look, but it will not fix all of the problems. Has major roof leaks. Roof repairs costs adds up quickly. Had to get a quote to fix a roof leak in the cafeteria. The quote was for \$28,000. There are some structural concerns. Cracks in the walls and window ac units are ineffective and bad for the building. Electrical and wiring are in poor condition. The gym is in great shape. Building renovation cost would be 20 Million. Student capacity of 390. Right now Pre-k – 7 we have 565 students. 13.6 million for construction cost. That was the cost 12 years ago.
3. Enderly property – Enderly has served us well. But how do you make an open campus closed? Would not be cost effective.
4. Kling property – We have about 53 acres on the Kling site. Kling is in better shape than Enderly and the Middle School. We could use the existing Kling School as the base and build around it. Design includes 4 rooms per grade level except for Pre-k, which will have 2 classrooms. Renovated the cafeteria, add a library and gym. Add a section with 2 floors. Grades 4 -5 would be located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and grades 6-7 would be on the top floor. Include a bus loop. Total cost would be around \$22.8 million. It would cost between 1.5 to 2 million to add an auditorium.

Next step is a feasibility study; would it be feasible? Can we do this and save money? See what would be saved that could be used to finance the new school. Take a look at staff reductions, could save about \$155,000. Could save \$200,000 in maintenance reductions. Could save \$150,000 in transportation reductions. That's over half million in savings. Ten million savings over a 20-year period. This would go a long way to pay for a new school. This is just an example. I would love to get this started. Probably take 3 years before it becomes a reality. The



Plan involves everyone in this room. Market is soft now; interest rates are low. Plan to have a PAC meeting on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, we need everyone to step up.

**SVU Baseball field** – SVU contacted us concerning using our old baseball field behind the Middle School. The field is convenient to their campus. Wanting to do a million-dollar renovation to field. Install 30 ft. screens along 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and Magnolia Ave. Build a new press box, bullpen, hitting cage and brick dugouts. They would like to clean up the area. SVU would be responsible for maintenance and restoration of Schriener Field. They want to be able to use the field for their Baseball home games and practices. We already let them use our baseball field at the high school. Their season is in the fall and spring. It would cost them a lot of money if they built a new field. And our teams would also be able to use the field. They will not change the name of the field. They would like to get started. Start cleaning the property. Told Deidra Dryden to bring us an agreement so our Attorney can look at it. Once she arrives, we can let her speak later in the meeting.

Chairman Ellison – Welcome of Visitors, Parents and Community Leaders and Public Comments:

No comments at this time.

#### **Consent Agenda.**

Consent Agenda includes the minutes for the Aug 20<sup>th</sup> Special Called Meeting and the Aug 27<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting. Includes vendor payments of \$221,666.39 and payroll payments of \$494,792.51.

Wayne Flint made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board members present voted yes. Motion carries.

#### **Action Items**

Graduation has been set for Saturday, May 29, 2021.

John Roberts made the motion to approve May 29, 2021 as Graduation day. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carries.

VSBA approval of policies. Copy of the policy changes were given to the Board last month to review. Changes to policy included GBA JFHA RL, JM RL and KNAJ RL.

John Rice made the motion to approve VSBA policy changes. It was seconded by John Roberts. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carries.

Set Date for November/December School Board Meeting. After discussion between Board Members it was decided that the Nov/Dec Board Meeting will be held on December 10, 2020. Finance Committee Meeting will be held on November 24, 2020.

Mac Felts made the motion to set the date for Nov/Dec Board Meeting on Dec 10, 2020 and Finance Committee Meeting on Nov 24, 2020. It was seconded by John Roberts. All Board members present voted yes. Motion carries.

Approval of 20-21 Buena Vista City School Staff Roster. We have 156 employees. Broken down by location.

John Roberts made the motion to approve the 20-21 School Staff. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board members present voted yes. Motion carries.

### **Information Items**

**Finance Committee Report** – Finance Committee met this past Tuesday. Expenditures were expected to be 16.67% of the budget. Actual expenditures for the months of July and August came to a total of 12% of the budget. We were under what was expected to be spent for this time frame.

**Policy Committee** – Nothing at this time.

**Additional School Board Reports.** Ask Ms. Wheeler to talk about some events that are coming up. October 10, 2020 will be Mountain Days. Blues Foundation will be selling ham biscuits in the morning. For lunch we will have brown beans and cornbread. Please feel free to stop by for some good country home cooking. On Oct 17, 2020 we will be having the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Blues Foundation Golf Tournament. We are looking for teams. You can be a sponsor for \$100. Registration is \$200 for a 4-person team. Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Closest to the hole and longest drive. Lunch will be available and goodie bags for participates. Shot gun start at 9:00.

**Student Rep Report.** Motto is even though we are different we are one. Introduction – Trevor Tomlin is on the Cross Country, Indoor/Outdoor Track and Field teams. Plans to double major in Biology & Women and Gender studies on a Pre-Medicines to work in a Level 1 Trauma Center and then go into Politics. There have been a lot of adjustments this year. Social distancing, virtual learning, masks and smaller classes and new class schedules. A group attends school on Mondays & Wednesdays. B group attends school on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Fridays are teacher office hours and teacher meetings. Senior pictures will be take tomorrow. Underclassmen pictures will be next week. Right we do not have any sporting events except for weight conditioning. The official practice for Winter Sports is Dec 7th. First completions start Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. We have a new art teacher at the High School, Mrs. Austin. It's a big challenge to teaching art virtually. We are in the middle of Spirit week. As a senior privilege we get to paint our parking spaces. They had a few pictures.

**Deidra Dryden** – update on SVU. No loss of interest on our part. As you can image it has not been a good time to fundraise. Talked to our attorney yesterday and he is looking at the documents. We will get something in writing for the Board to look over. Let your legal counsel review it. SVU is seeking a maintenance agreement where they would be responsible for the up keep of the property in exchange for using the field for practices and home games. Parry McCluer would have use of the field when SVU don't need it. SVU would use the field mostly in the fall and spring. They would like to get started to cleaning the field.

I would like to say as a parent - that I was very impressed with the all the preparations done for getting students back to school. I know how hard it is. I appreciate the hard work.



Dr. Keeler stressed that the Board would like to see the agreement and let our attorney look at it. Then the Board could make a decision.

### **Superintendent's Report.**

Interim report cards are going out next week. Simple form to let parents know where their students are. If parents need to talk to a teacher or principal, they will have plenty of time to make adjustments. The form will provide a quick look at where the student stands academically and attendance and list any teacher concerns. If any students are failing, we are stressing that the Principals and Teachers need to reach out to parents. Or set up virtual meetings with parents to discuss what can be done to fix the problem.

Region 5 meeting this week. VASS sent out a survey. The results of the survey –Out of 121 school systems - 94 school systems have lost students and ADM. 36,600 students are not enrolled in schools. And they are not sure where these students are. 29 school divisions have gained students. We have gained students this year.

Donna has done a wonderful job getting us prepared. Stop by and watch our students in the auditorium. The students are watching the teacher - live streaming. The teacher can see them and the virtual students can also watch at the same time. Students are able to ask questions and response to the Teacher. Great concept. It is working. We are getting calls from other school divisions. What are you doing?

Fairfax schools has lost 27 million in ADM funding. 153 Million in ADM funding has been lost. The Governor is looking at the budget again. Don't know what the he will do. If he will adjust funds. State Superintendent has announcement at 9:00 tomorrow. Hope and pray we don't get cut any more. Overall things are good here.

Blues Academic Awards. We have 280 medals to give out this year. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade thru 12. 2<sup>nd</sup> largest group of jackets to give out this year. We have 18 seniors; the highest number was 20. Senior class has 67 students this year. Of the 18 jackets to be given out, 12 of them are girls. Will probably have it in separate groups because social distancing.

### **Instructional Report.**

Kling – 20% virtual and 80% face to face.

Enderly – 20% virtual and 80% face to face.

PMMS – 29% virtual and 71% face to face.

PMHS – 32% virtual and 68% face to face.

We continue to have students come back for face to face instruction. Interim report cards will go out week of Sept 28<sup>th</sup>. Testing has begun, which includes Maps, SGAs, benchmarks, F & P, Pals. Also doing virtual testing and it is going well. Title 1 update – PAC meetings for Kling and Enderly were scheduled. Surveys will be going out to see what parents and students need to help with at home learning. New teacher/Mentor program – meeting with them every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. They have weekly check-ins with their mentors. We will continue to monitor their needs and concerns. We have started Administrative walk throughs. We have some amazing teachers, who have answered the call. We observe the teachers during classes. We then discuss - What are we seeing? What needs to be done to help teachers? The Best program is up to 60 students. It will begin on Sept 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be able to offer remediation and enrichment classes. Students will be spaced out in classrooms not used during the day. So they will be clean for Best students.

Instructional goals – set goals for ensuring that every student is on track academically, socially and emotionally.

Provide ample instruction for digital and online learning, tools, and systems.

Assessment plans-identify gaps and create assessment calendars for each school, grade level.

Provide intervention programs, identify the most vulnerable students and prioritize their needs.

Evaluate changes to testing, grading, attendance, behavior and other policies.

Engage teachers in training for purposeful, engaging and intentional curriculum planning and pacing.

Secure resources and plan restorative supports with professional learning – covid, trauma, equity.

**Special Education/Nurse Report.** Board has a copy of the Nurse’s report and SPED report. Dr. Keeler praised Sara for the job she is doing. They have worked hard on protocols to follow if we have a case.

**Maintenance/Transportation Report.** The Best program was awarded a grant for Girls Who Code. They have been approved for the NASA program and the NASA Challenge program.

**Transportation** is transporting 138 students in the morning and transporting 202 students in the afternoon. Using 8 buses, which are running 4 routes morning and afternoon. Things are running smooth as silk.

**Maintenance** – making sure we are well stocked with disinfectant supplies. Jimmy and Jeremiah are staying on top of that. Make sure items are available. We are ordering as much as possible. All schools have completed safety audits with DOJ.

Wayne Flint made the motion to go into closed session for consideration of personnel matters, personnel appointments, resignations and personnel performances {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)}. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carries.

Wayne Flint made the motion to come out of Closed Session. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board members present voted yes.

The certification was read and the Board was polled.

Mr. Felts – yes

Mr. Roberts – yes

Mrs. Kerr – yes

Mr. Rice – yes

Mr. Flint – yes

Mrs. Ellison – yes

Lisa Kerr made the motion to accept the resignations of Debbie Staats and Sarah Clark from Buena Vista City School effective 8/31/2020. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board members present voted yes. Motion carries.



Lisa Kerr made the motion to accept the retirement of Patricia McElroy from Buena Vista City Schools effective 9/30/2020. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board members present voted yes. Motion carries.

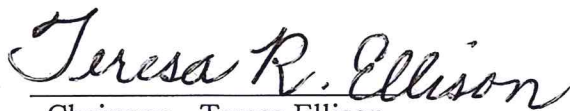
Lisa Kerr made the motion to accept the resignation of Haylee Dunn from Buena Vista City Schools effective October 18, 2020. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board members present voted yes. Motion carries.

Lisa Kerr made the motion to hire Stephanie Noel-Branch as a part-time school nurse pending satisfactory background check for Buena Vista City Schools. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board members present voted yes. Motion carries.

Lisa Kerr made the motion to hire Alyssa Swell as a substitute in Buena Vista City Schools pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by John Roberts. All Board members present voted yes. Motion carries.

Lisa Kerr made the motion to hire Kara Campese as long-term substitute for Buena Vista City Schools pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board members present voted yes. Motion carries.

Wayne Flint made the motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr. All Board Members present voted yes.



Chairman - Teresa Ellison

10-22-2020



Clerk - Sandra Mohler

10-22-2020