

**BUEA VIST CITY SCHOOL BOARD**

**BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**DECEMBER 10, 2020**

**6:00 P. M.**

**WILFORD P. RAMSEY EDUCATIONAL CENTER**

ATTENDANCE: School Board Members - Wayne Flint, Lisa Kerr, Mac Felts, John Rice, John Roberts and Roy Mohler. John Keeler, Donna Frazier, Kelly Linkenhoker, Sherrie Wheeler and Sandy Mohler. Zoom audience.

Meeting was called to order. The Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence was observed.

Amend the agenda to add a presentation by Ben Motley of RRMM

John Roberts made a motion to approve the amended Agenda. It was second by Mac Felts. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carries.

**Recognitions:**

**Senior of the Month for November** - Omar Massenberg – Son of Antonio Massenberg and Joni Lyle of Glasgow. Student leader in Students in Rockbridge Promoting Healthy Alternative. He is known for his public speaking. Emceed the Follies for 3 years. Active in theater, and participates in the choir. He earned a silver medal for A-B honor roll. Omar is active in sports, he is on the soccer team, football and indoor and outdoor track teams. Qualified for regions in the shot put and was a member of the indoor track championship team. Omar is also a member of the 1000-pound club in weightlifting. Omar enjoys hiking, lifting weights, exercising and reading. Volunteers at the Soup Kitchen in Staunton with his grandmother. Omar wants to attend college or enter the workforce until he can qualify for the Peace Corps. He has been accepted in 8 of the 11 schools he's applied to. Top pick is Emory and Henry. He will major in Business Management/Administration or Communications. He would like to become a news anchor.

**Senior of the Month for December** - Mary LePere – Daughter of Reverend Bryon and Annie LePere of Buena Vista. Mary is a member of the National Honor Society, Project Lit Club and Outdoor Club. Mary has earned 27 college credit hours from Dabney S. Lancaster. She was nominated for Girls State. She is active in Choir and drama programs. She is the color guard captain and plays percussion. Mary is a member of the soccer team. Mary is a delivery driver for Five and Dime Pizza. Member of the BV Baptist Church. She enjoys hiking and reading. Mary has been accepted into Old Dominion University where she received a merit scholarship. She will double major in marine biology and conservation leadership. She plans to work in the conservation field.

Trevor Tomlin, our senior student rep has been accepted into Brown University.

**Employee of the Month for November** - Ricky Armstrong. – He is a custodian at Enderly Heights. Ricky is always positive. Ricky’s job is to fog every classroom, office, and cafeteria. We appreciate the job Ricky does.

**Employee of the Month for December** – Sara Knick – Sara has done a great job helping with Covid-19 issues. Sara is in constant contact with the Health Department. She has been my right arm person during the pandemic. We appreciate all the hard work she has done. We could not have done this without her.

**Presentation:**

**2021-2022 Budget Updates** – review the budget outline that was given back in October. Goals were to continue to lead the division through the pandemic. Promote a shared vision within the community, School Board and City Council. Work to secure a plan for a new PK-7 grade school. Budget Priorities for 2021-2022 are to give a 3% pay increase, which is cost about \$160,000. No health insurance increase. VRS has not announced an increase in retirement rates. Need a new 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher for \$45,000. We have 88 kindergarteners. Also plan to hire a new sped teacher for around \$45,000. Plan to pilot a Shenandoah Ballet class and sports medicine course at the high school. Hire a new Spanish teacher for the high school. Present first draft of the budget and schedule work sessions. Public hearing for March and final budget for March SB meeting. Present budget to City Council March 26, 2021. Budget Advisory Council has started meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Goal is to explain the budget process to everyone. Members then can go back and share the news within their schools.

**Superintendent’s Survey** – 3<sup>rd</sup> week in November I sent out a survey. Received 84 responses. I wanted to check to see how employees were doing. 82% were completely confident/fairly confident in how the school division was managing the Covid-19 situation. 66.7% strongly agree/agree that they are able to cope well with their current stress levels. What can the school division do right now to make your job better? Responses included flexibility, breaks, raise, stability, help, appreciation, goodwill, patience, safety, communication.

**Calendar update** - Two top things staff requested was they needed time off. I propose we give back the 2 days we took away from Christmas and Spring break.

**Stipend Presentation** – I proposed we give a onetime \$300 stipend to 160 employees. This will be a separate check delivered to employees prior to Christmas break.

Ben Motley – RMM – Working on Phase 1 of a Feasibility Study. We have started to look at the schedule process. Timeline to occupy either a new school or renovated school by the summer of 2023. To be able occupy a new or renovated school by 2023 would require that you make certain decisions and actions right now. If it is now important to occupy the building by 2023 then you can relax somewhat. Need to allow at least 18 months for construction for a project this size. If you decide to go with renovating Kling there is a good chance that construction will take longer. Since students are in the building you end up moving students around. Move students from their existing space into a finished new space. Need 2 months for bidding the project, 4 months for the construction documents and 3 months for design and development phase.

Critical steps that need to be done between now and June. 1) Programing – identify the number of spaces needed and the size. ID the athletic sites, transportation, site requirements, safety issues. Understand what is important to Buena Vista. Programing meeting has been scheduled for Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. 2) Start looking at the physical characteristics of these two options. Make sure we understand the Kling site and the new site. Want to have this done by the end of December. We will take all of that data and generate some initial design concepts for your review. By mid-January we want to review our findings. Get your input and over the next several weeks refine and present the results to you in early February. Once you approve Phase 1 then we dive into Phase 2, which is a deeper detail review. Get a firm plan and budget. Can also get input from the community in Phase 1. Before you go into Phase 2, you will need to issue an RFP for architectural services. So you can have an architect on board. By early January issue that RFP so you don't need to stop and waste time. Publically advertised the proposal, receive bids from architectural firms. Create a committee to Interview firms and select a firm. Include at least two board members. Don't need to have a public hearing during the interview and selection. RRMM can help set this up. By mid-February you will have the results of the Phase 1 study. Phase 2 is a design process. Be able to see building designs, floor plans, parking, multiple options and styles. What is the budget? Important to consider the delivery methods. Suggest the conventional approach - Design-bid-build method. Construction Manager at Risk – Construction manager comes on board earlier. You are able to select a team to help with the process. Pandemic is having a positive effect on prices right now. Exception is lumber prices are very high, availability is low. Really want the contractor on board while the architect is working on the design. The contractor is able to provide input. Work together.

Roy Mohler - Want to have the community and City Council on board in February, in case it takes a while to get community and Council approval.

Dr. Keeler – Kelly and I have been going over the expenditures and we believe we could save at least 1.2 million a year if we build a new school. All three schools needs a new roof. Probably take at least 1.5 to 2 million to put a new roof on all 3 buildings. That is a lot of money to spend, especially since the Middle School only has 144 students. Part of the argument. And it will only cost us more in maintenance costs if we keep all 3 schools. Phase 1 will give us the cost estimate to help make the decision to build or renovate and will help people decide to come on board.

John Roberts – it could take longer process to convince the community and council to approve this project. RRMM - You will be pleased with the amount of information included in Phase 1.

Architects will be available to any answer questions the community, SB Board or Council may have. Not unusual to create a committee that includes council, community, school board and staff members.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by John Roberts to approve the consent agenda that includes minutes for October 14, and 22, November 12, 2020 and Vendor payments of \$60,506.16 and payroll of \$734,329.48. It was seconded by Roy Mohler. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

### **Action Items**

Motion was made to approve the Superintendent's Goals and Budget Timeline by Mac Felts. It was seconded by John Roberts. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve the changes to the 2020-2021 Calendar by John Roberts. It was seconded by Roy Mohler. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve the \$300 stipend for 160 employees in December 2020 by John Roberts. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

Motion was made approve the School Board Retreat for January 16, 2021, 8:30 – 10:30 am at the Ramsey Center by Mac Felts. It was seconded by John Roberts. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

Motion was made to change the date of the Re-organization Meeting to Jan 11, 2021 by Roy Mohler. It was seconded by John Roberts. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

Motion was made to accept the Superintendent's Letter of Retirement by John Roberts. It was seconded by Roy Mohler. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

### **Information Items**

**Finance Committee** – Committee met Nov 24, 2020. We have spent 28% of our total budget.

**Policy Committee** – No new policies at this time.

**Additional School Board Report** –No reports at this time.

**Student Representatives Report** – full time Virtual Learning. SOL testing Jan 11-15, 2021. Fix-it Fridays has been very helpful to students. Google Meet tracks attendance. Dress up while at home. Winter sports to begin Dec 11, 2020. Covid-19 protocols in place. Hero's Breakfast Dec 12, 2020. Blues Foundation drawing Dec 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Superintendent's Report** –Received \$250,000 Security grant this year. Governor has limited gatherings from 25 to 10. Stay home from midnight to 5 am unless you are going to work. Our goal is to get back to face to face learning as soon as possible.

**Instructional Report** – Updating our title IX, Proud of all our teachers when we went to virtual learning. We appreciate all of their hard work and working together. Make-up assignments, tutoring and academic coaching for students.

**Special Education/Nurse Report** – Reports are in the Board packets. We are bringomg SPED students for face to face learning.

**Maintenance/Transportation** – Reveived our new school bus for \$99,998. Brought with money the City gave and we really appreciate it. Brought 2 used cars from the City for \$1700. Continue to fog the classrooms.

Motion was made for a Closed Session for the consideration of personnel matters, personnel appointments, resignations and evaluation of personnel {State Law 2.2-3711 (A) (1)} and protection

privacy for individuals in personal matters not related to public matters {State Law 2.2-3711 (A) (4) and discussion of acquisition and disposition of real property according to {State Law 2.2-3711 (A) (3)} by Mac Felts. It was seconded by Joh Roberts.

Motion was made to adjourn Closed Session by John Roberts. It was seconded by Roy Mohler.

Certification was read and Board was polled.

- Mr. Felts – yes
- Mrs. Kerr – yes
- Mr. Rice – yes
- Mr. Mohler – yes
- Mr. Roberts – yes
- Mr. Flint - yes

Motion was made to hire Alexis Rice into BVCPS school system pending a background check by Roy Mohler. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

Motion was made to hire Michael Richardson into the BVCPS school system pending a background check by Roy Mohler. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

Motion was made that we accept Paul Gillespie as a Substitute Teacher for the Buena Vista School System subject to an approved background check by Mac Felts. It was seconded by John Roberts. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

Motions was made that we accept Riley Corrigan as a part-time Spanish Aide for the Buena Vista School System subject to an approved background check by Mac Felts. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board member present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

ADJOURMENT:

Upon a motion by John Roberts, seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 6-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Teresa Ellison

Teresa Ellison – Chair

01-28-2021

Date

Sandra Mohler

Sandra Mohler – Clerk

1/28/2021

Date