

Buena Vista City School Board

Buena Vista, Virginia

Reorganization Meeting

January 11, 2021

School Board members present: Wayne Flint, Mac Felts, Teresa Ellison, Roy Mohler, John Rice. Kelly Linkenhoker, John Keeler, Donna Frazier and Sandy Mohler.

Dr. Keeler called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence was observed.

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Wayne Flint. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board members present voted yes. Anyone opposed say no. Sorry, but we need to amend the Agenda tonight. Add RRMM presentation. Motion was made to amend the Agenda to add the presentation from RRMM by Teresa Ellison. It was seconded by Roy Mohler. All Board members present voted yes. All opposed say no. Motion passes.

The floor is open for nominations for Chair for Buena Vista School Board for 2021. Mr. Flint nominated Teresa Ellison. Are there any other nominations? Mac Felts moved to close nominations. Nominations are closed. With a 5-0 vote Teresa Ellison was voted as the School Board Chair.

Congratulations Ms. Ellison.

Do I hear any nominations for Vice Chair? Wayne Flint nominated Lisa Kerr. Are there any other nominations? Mac Felts moved that the nominations be closed. With a 5-0 vote Lisa Kerr was voted as Vice Chair.

We need to set a meeting date and time for Board meetings. Roy Mohler made a motion to hold School Board Meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:00 PM. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board member present voted yes. Any one opposed? Motion carries.

Ms. Ellison asked Dr. Keeler for his recommendation for the Clerk of the Board. Dr. Keeler recommended Sandra Mohler. Motion was made by Roy Mohler to accept Sandra Mohler as Clerk of the School Board. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board members present voted yes. Any one opposed? Motion carries.

Dr. Keeler recommended Sherrie Wheeler for Deputy Clerk. Motion was made by John Rice to accept Sherrie Wheeler as Deputy Clerk. It was seconded by Roy Mohler. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carries.

Governor's School representative. Motion was made by Wayne Flint for Teresa Ellison be the Governor School representative. It was seconded by Roy Mohler. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed. Motion carries.

VSBA delegates – Usually the delegate is the Chair and Alternative delegate is the Vice Chair. Mr. Flint made the motion to keep Teresa Ellison as the delegate and Lisa Kerr as the Alternative delegate. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board member present voted yes. Any opposed. Motion carries.

Dr. Keeler recommended Kelly Linkenhoker to act as Superintendent in his absence. Motion was made by Wayne Flint for Kelly Linkenhoker to act as Superintendent in Dr. Keeler's absence. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board members present voted yes. Any opposed. Motion carries.

Finance Committee Members – meets monthly. Chair usually appoints members. Mr. Flint, Mr. Rice and Mr. Mohler served on the Finance Committee last year.

Policy Committee – meets as needed. Only meets when there are policies from VSBA, which normally happens during the fall and May. After legislature finishes. Mrs. Kerr, Mr. Felts and Mr. Roberts served on the Policy Committee last year.

Anyone can attend a Finance Committee Meeting. Mr. Felts would like to let the more experience members continue to be on the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee Board members will be Mr. Flint, Mr. Rice and Mr. Mohler

Policy Committee Board members will be Mrs. Kerr, Mr. Felts and Mr. Roberts. Mrs. Kerr will serve as Chair person.

Meeting date for Finance Committee will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM.

Policy Committee will meet as needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

#### **RRMM update**

Feasibility Study was to compare the sites – expanding Kling or new site adjacent to the High School. It will help decide which way to go. Initial findings suggests there could be a different option. Kling property – we toured the site last week. Kling building is 32,000 square feet. The new building will have 113,000 square feet. Kling building structure is fine. But the building is 45 years and is showing its age. We recommend the current Kling building be renovated as well as adding the expansion. As we walked around the site, we noticed the a very significant drop off or slope. If you want any kind of athletic fields on the site, then they would be away from the school building down the hill. That is a concern for an elementary school. Another possibility would be to build new school down the hill from the existing building.

The High School site – the adjacent site. We hiked up to site from the High School and also drove up to the site. When we walked the site, we noticed how severe the topography was. It was an effort to walk the site and very steep from the water tower. What struck us was if you build a school here it will be almost like being in a bowl. It is a beautiful site. After walking the adjacent site, we decided to walk around the High School grounds. We had an idea - could the new school be built on the what is now the practice field? There is enough room to build the elementary school there. Can this be considered? Dr. Keeler said yes this is something we can consider.

What would be the cost difference in developing the site adjacent to the High School and the practice field site? 4.2 million dollars in savings and this is a low number. The other plus is excessive space available at the high school. Right now High School enrollment is 356. We did a quick study and found that the High School could hold up to 650 students. Considering the what ifs - program requirements - duplicate facilities. What if you moved the 7<sup>th</sup> grade to the High School and build a PreK- 6 grade school?

It would save about 15,000 square feet in the new school. Would be another 4.2 million in savings by doing this. Total of 8.4 million is savings. You could share parking, athletic fields, help parents that drop kids off at one site instead of two. Consider the resell value of the old buildings, don't have to purchase land. Kling property will have a longer construction process. Because the kids are occupying the building while renovation and construction is going on. Have to move kids from old space to a new space so renovation can begin in the old space. The new site at the High School has great solar advantages. Daylighting process would work for this site. Take advantage of the views. Main administration is at the front of the building. Parents drop kids off there. Separate driveway for bus drop off on the side of the building. Gym, dining, kitchen and maintenance areas. Two story classroom wings. Play and PE areas are behind the school. Parking on site along with the High School parking. Second access road that was never developed. Maybe develop it for emergency use. **Dr. Keeler** - There is also a field behind the elementary school around 300 feet that can be used for practice. We could think about finishing the track. Parking for games could use the new lane along the elementary site. **Kelly Linkenhoker** - Advantages are safety, convenience for parents and students. We could offer higher levels of classes. Offer higher enrichment classes for 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Reframe the High School to accommodate the 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to separate them from 9 – 12 graders. Is there enough space? Need to rearrange classrooms. Now the 7<sup>th</sup> graders don't have algebra but moving to the High School would allow them to take Algebra. They could be part of the music, band, and art classes. **Roy Mohler** - need to think about how we move 7<sup>th</sup> graders to the High School. Be careful about how it is done. **Dr. Keeler** - 5<sup>th</sup> grade never really worked at the middle school. That's why we moved them back to the elementary. Would there be room to move the 7<sup>th</sup> grade back to elementary if it does work at the High School. **RRMM** we would need to look into that. **Kelly Linkenhoker** - With this the kids could always walk over to the High School to take advantage of enrichment classes. Create a safe walkway between the schools. **Teresa Ellison** – What about a multipurpose room? **RRMM** - cafeteria can still be done. Should we redirect the study to consider this option? Look at the High School to see how it is being used. Look at the best way to utilize the whole complex. Where is the shop space going to go? If it moves to the High School, what does it displace? How can we rearrange the High School to be more efficient? **Dr. Keeler** – one thing that came up was an auxiliary gym. Have a nice gym at the elementary with seating for about 100 spectators. **Kelly Linkenhoker** – Also be helpful when a student is struggling in 7 or 8 grade reading. The Reading Specialist at the elementary school is close enough to go over to the High School and provide extra help for that student. Share staff between the two schools. **Roy Mohler** – this seems to be an awesome option and saves money. **Dr. Keeler** – the Cafetorium seems like an excellent idea and saves money and space. Save about a million dollars by not building a normal size auditorium and you still have a nice facility. Can be used for concerts and plays. Nice seating. **Roy Mohler** – Personally I do not like the Kling site. I prefer to build at the High School site. I think we should turn our attention towards this option. **RRMM** - Next step will be to check for environmental or geological concerns. Do some testing to verify this. Think about how you want to use the High School site? Take a look at all levels from PreK – 12. High School is already 20 years old. Have our mechanical engineer take a look at it. In order to know what you are dealing with. Important to consider timing? When do you need firm cost numbers? When do you need community input? When do you need City Council input? What kind of information do you want to have ready when you create the engagement? Financial strategies, **Dr. Keeler** mentioned you will have some debt coming off soon. Loan interest rates are low right now. Appraisal of other properties and what kind of opportunities does this create. Once we get past Phase 1 you will need to consider hiring an architect. Phase 1 gives you the direction and Phase 2 is where you

pin down the cost. Timeline would be around summer of 2024 because you would need to be really aggressive in order to make the timeline of summer 2023. Have to move fast. **Dr. Keeler** – Can you talk about solar? Ways to control sunlight. **RRMM** – Important to our design process. Control daylighting and energy efficiency. Save money.

Dr. Keeler – I would like to make a recommendation to the Board. We are ready for a tour. Look at some school designs. I really like the tower design. The Administration offices at entry and a media center is on the second floor. Looks sharp.

**Mac Felts** – It forecast a concept of strength and security. That is what I see in that design. Could you have some kind of design available for us to review by Jan 28th? **RRMM** - It is possible.

**Dr. Keeler** – If we could have some kind of sketch, so you can see how it fits. Something we can show to people. There was some talk regarding the Landfill. Dr. Bradford said the landfill was over by the baseball and softball fields. Reeves Brothers thought they had buried contaminated trash. They went down 48 feet to prove there was nothing there. What would be a good place to visit? Winchester - John Kerr Elementary School is about 2 hours away.

Motion was made to go into Closed session for the discussion of acquisition and disposition of real property according to {State Law 2.2-3711 (A) (3)} and for the discussion of performance of personnel according to {State Law 2.2-3711 (A) (1)} by Wayne Flint. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board members present voted yes.

Motion to come out of closed session was made by Mac Felts. It was seconded by Roy Mohler. All Board Members present voted yes...

Certification was read and Board was polled:

Mr. Rice – Yes  
Mr. Mohler-Yes  
Mr. Felts-Yes  
Mr. Flint-Yes  
Ms. Ellison-Yes

Motion was made to re-direct the feasibility study from Kling and turn our attention to the PMHS site by Roy Mohler. It was seconded by John Rice. All Board member present voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carries.

Motion was made that we contact the VSBA and begin the Superintendent Search again by Roy Mohler. It was seconded by Mac Felts. All Board members voted yes. Any opposed. Motion carries.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Mac Felts, seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Teresa Ellison  
Teresa Ellison – Chair

01-27-2021  
Date

Sandra Mohler  
Sandra Mohler – Clerk

2/28/2021  
Date