

BUEA VIST CITY SCHOOL BOARD

BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2021

6:00 P. M.

WILFORD P. RAMSEY EDUCATIONAL CENTER

ATTENDANCE: School Board Members – Teresa Ellison, Wayne Flint, Lisa Kerr, Mac Felts, John Rice, John Roberts. 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.

Wayne Flint made a motion to approve the Agenda. It was second by Mac Felts and passed by 6-0 vote.

Recognitions:

Senior of the Month for January, 2021 – Keaton Coleman – Son of Jason and Kelly Coleman of Buena Vista. He has earned 9 credits from Dabney Lancaster Community College. He was invited to join the National Honor Society. Received academic metals for A-B honor roll for the year. Member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Member of the Football and Baseball teams. Enjoys music, likes to play the drums and guitar. Learning to play the piano. Active member of the Calvary Brethren Church. Plans to attend Eastern Mennonite University and will study Mechanical Engineering.

Employee of the Month for January, 2021 – Brandi Kerr – Brandi is our Title 1 Coordinator and Reading Specialist. Brandi is among our brightest and talented teacher we have. She has been with us for 2.5 years. We have to have a strong Reading teacher. Brandi was able to attend a Reading Conference in New Orleans before Covid-19 and she was so impressed with what she learned. She immediately re-designed her classroom to make a better learning environment for her students. Brandi is dedicated to helping students. She has done a wonderful job. Tonight we honor Brandi.

Presentation:

2021-2022 Budget Review – the Governor is trying to offset the projected ADM loss. 44,296 students have not returned to public schools. This means schools have lost around 500 million of ADM income. We have seen an increase of 26-27 students from last year. Governor also put in a 2% bonus for SOQ instructional support positions. That does not include everybody. There is always a catch “as long as they have revenue.” It does look good this year. The bonus is a onetime payment not a permanent raise. 61.3 million is going into the VRS program. 27 million for school counselors. Ratio of 345 students per counselor. 11.1 million additional funding for VPI program. He gave us back some of the money he took away this year. Additional money for ESL program. Spanish to English learning. 95 million into relief

funds. Online sales have soared, which helps sales tax revenues. Educational money is expected to decline and may be long lasting. During 2009-2018 salaries only increased by an average of 5,096 dollars our school system ranks 5th from the bottom in teachers' salaries. We were unable to give a raise last year. We are hoping to provide a 3% raise for all employees for 2021-2022 school year. No VRS increase has been scheduled for the upcoming school year. We are not expecting an increase in health insurance rates. We need to hire some additional staff. New Pre-school teacher, another 1st grade teacher, Spanish teacher, elementary SPED teacher and a middle school Reading Specialist. Cost is around \$200,000. Want to add new programs like a Nursing program, which will start this summer. Dance class at Shenandoah Dance School is starting today. A section of Athletic Training class.

Update on Feasibility Study – Board went with the recommendation of RRMM to study building on the High School site. Saves money, don't have to put in new sewer and roads. Having the Elementary School on the High School site will save parents time. Will include a turf field for practices behind the new elementary school. Maybe we could finish the track around the football field. Change the surface. We have a great school system, but new people coming into the City don't see that. They see the old buildings and they don't give us a chance. A new building would make a difference. Trip to Winchester, RRMM has built an elementary school similar to the design we are looking at. The Mayor wants to be part of the Committee, he is excited. Cooper Tyson also wants to join the committee.

Public Comment: None

Upon a motion made by Wayne Flint to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Action Items

VSBA Code of Conduct for School Board Members – Code of conduct was read and each Board member will sign the Code at the end of the meeting. Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the Code of Conduct. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Set Date for Public Hearing on 2021 – 2022 Budget – Public Hearing will be held on March 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Motion was made by Wayne Flint. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Information Items

Policy Committee – No new policies at this time.

Finance Committee – Committee met Tuesday and approved payment of bills. 50% through the year and we have spent 44%.

Student Representatives Report – Second semester has started. SOLS will begin soon. Basketball is in doing well. Varsity boys beat Rockbridge by 72 points last night. Senior night for Basketball and Track. Track meet was held last weekend. Regionals, March 3rd, wrestling also held a senior night.

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

Superintendent's Report – Fall sports for Football, Cross country, Golf and Volleyball practice begins Feb 8th. Superintendent's Advisor Meeting is Feb 9th.

Instructional Report – SOL testing will be Feb 1-11, 2021. Report cards will be distributed Jan 26th. Continue with Fix-it Fridays. Also bringing in SPED students on Fridays. New teachers are still meeting with their mentors. Administrative walkthroughs will continue. Best program will begin their winter session on Jan 19th. Current enrollment is 60-75 students. YMCA – currently have 6 students transported from Kling.

Special Education/Nurse Report – SPED Report are in the Board packets.

Maintenance/Transportation – Proud to report that we are keeping up on the maintenance end. We purchased 39 new air purifiers for the classrooms to help with air quality. We have served 154,000 meals since the pandemic that is breakfast and lunch. Meals sent out on Friday covers 5 days' worth of food. Transportation is delivering meals on Friday. Delivered meals during the two weeks we were out for Christmas.

Survey for teachers – checking on staff's well-being. 78% of staff agreed that we should come back face-to-face instruction. How confident were they in the school division's plan to manage the Covid-19? 87.2% were confident in what the school system is doing. Sources of stress were catching Covid-19 and being able to accommodate student needs. Next year we plan to hire new people to handle virtual teaching. Governor is considering year round school.

Motion was made for 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 Wayne Flint. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made to adjourn Closed Session by John Rice. It was seconded by Wayne Flint.

Certification was read. The Board was polled.

Mr. Felts – yes

Mrs. Kerr – yes

Mr. Rice – yes

Mr. Mohler – yes

Mr. Roberts – yes

Ms. Ellison – yes

Motion was made to hire Eryn Davis, Lindsey Henderson and Tonya Atkinson as Nutrition workers within BVCPS system with background checks as needed by Lisa Kerr. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made to approve long-term substitute teachers Jessie Hayes and Cory Stout subject to appropriate background check as necessary by Mac Felts. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made that we approve the hire of Madison Martin as a Teacher for BVCPS 2021-2022 pending a satisfactory background check by Lisa Kerr. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made to accept the resignations of Kandall Painter from BVCPS effective 12/31/2020. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motions was made to accept the resignation of Misty Garrett as an Administrative Assistant at the High School effective Jan 22, 2021. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Motion was made that the Board authorize the Dr. Keeler to pursue acquiring appraisals for the properties at Kling Elementary and Enderly Heights Elementary to document property values by Mac Felts. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Wayne Flint to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Teresa R. Ellison

Teresa Ellison – Chair

17 March 2021

Date

Sandra Mohler

Sandra Mohler – Clerk

3/17/2021

Date