

Buena Vista School Board
Buena Vista, Virginia

Public Hearing
Ramsey Center
March 25, 2021
5:00 P M

School Board Members in attendance: Chairman Teresa Ellison, Wayne Flint, Mac Felts, Lisa Kerr, John Rice. School Board Members absent - John Roberts and Roy Mohler. Also in attendance – John Keeler, Kelly Linkenhoker, Sandra Mohler, Sherrie Wheeler and Donna Frazier.

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

John Keeler – Like to draw your attention to a copy of the budget we will send to the City if you approve the budget. Will answer any questions the Board may have. This budget includes a 5% raise for employees. Also covers a 6% health insurance increase that the Board will pick up. No VRS increase. Built the budget based on the ADM of 850. Total revenue budget of \$11,269,959. Budget will include 4 positions that were cut for this current budget. We think we have found a Spanish Teacher. LPN program, dance class and trainer class for student enrichment classes. ESSER I, II and III. The first grant we have used these funds to buy laptops, foggers, cleaning supplies and other technology needs.

Financially we are in the best shape since I have been here. Especially with the help from the Federal government. I will continue to keep you informed. I will ask you during the regular meeting to approve the budget. If approved, we will deliver to the new City Manager on Friday, March 26th.

Any questions?

Mac Felts - Does either the State or Federal government provide considerations for deteriorating structures, in which you can apply for grants? Dr. Keeler – Literary Fund will provide some funding but not all of it at low interest. Not a lot of money for construction in the Literary Fund. There might be some money from the online gambling. Like the Lottery funds, we get some money from the lottery. I hear there might be some Federal money coming down the pike that may be used for new construction. We will be keeping our eyes open for any news. Mac Felts - Is there anything you did not get accomplished this year that was wished for item that can be accomplished this coming year using grant money? Playground equipment, I want to wait and see. Some of the things we said no too, might be done using grant money.

Regular School Board Meeting
6:00 P.M.
March 25, 2021

Attendance: School Board Members – Wayne Flint, Teresa Ellison, John Rice, Mac Felts, Lisa Kerr, Roy Mohler and John Roberts. Also in attendance – John Keeler, Donna Frazier, Kelly Linkenhoker, Sherrie Wheeler and Sandra Mohler.

Need to amend the Agenda to add an update on the Superintendent Search. Motion was made by Wayne Flint to approve the amended Agenda. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Recognitions:

Destiny McDaniel is the senior of the Month for March, 2021. Destiny is the daughter of James and April McDaniel of Buena Vista. Destiny has earned 6 college credit hours from Dabney Lancaster Community College. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Interact Club. She was selected for Girls State. Destiny is in the Choir and has participated in several of the Drama Programs. She is the Drum Major for the Marching Blues. She plays clarinet and keyboard. She was Woodwind captain during her 10th grade year. Destiny has made All-Area Band and District V Honors for Symphonic Band and was all-state eligible, she is awaiting her results. Destiny is the store Manager for Laundry Land. She enjoys painting and practicing her music. Destiny has been accepted into 9 colleges and universities. Bridgewater offered Destiny a large music and academic scholarship to cover all expenses except for about \$2,000 a year to attend. Destiny has chosen to attend James Madison University where she will pursue a major in Music Education. After graduation, she wants to become a band director. Destiny is the 77th recipient of this award. She will have received a \$250 scholarship.

Sandra Mohler is the Employee of the Month for March 2021. At our Admin meeting, we always talk about leadership. Pick the people you want to be on your bus. If they are on your bus or team, you know you can count on them. We even go as far as say where they should sit on the bus. If you are super good you want them to be up front behind the driver. If you are a rookie and have potential, you might sit at the middle or back of the bus. Tonight I want to talk about someone who is on my bus. I have had the pleasure of support people who have done a good job. One of my top seats on my bus is occupied by my right arm. She helps me take care of the finances, health insurance. You have no idea what it takes to run a school division and be self-insured. We have saved our people money and we have a better product. We can afford to give a 5% raise because we don't have supplement an insurance policy.

Special Recognition – Spencer Hamilton - We are here to honor and recognize Spencer's accomplishments. Spencer is the VHSCA Basketball Player of the Year for Group 1. He made 1st team All-State. Spencer averaged 23.5 points per game, 9.5 rebounds, and 3.5 blocked shots. During the J I Burton game, I watched Spencer take over the game and lead us to a win. I know you have already received several Division 1 offers. More will come. It not so much as your

basketball skills, the most impressive about you is your sportsmanship. Being a gentleman will serve you well. Congrats.

Presentations – 2021-2022 Budget. Glad it's over. I think it's a very good budget.

Welcome of visitors, parents and community leaders and public comment – no one had comments.

Motion was made by Wayne Flint to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Action Items:

Approval of the 2021-2022 Budget and Resolution. The resolution was read. Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the 2021-2022 Budget and the Resolution. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Approval of the 2021-2022 Calendar – Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve 2021-2022 Calendar option B. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Approval of 2021 Summer School – Motion was made by Wayne Flint to approve the 2021 Summer School Plan as presented. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Approval of the MERV-13 filters for the High School – Need to increase the air ventilation system for the High School to improve air quality. Merv-13 filters can trap the smallest particles and helps decrease exposures to airborne pathogens. Highest grade of filters available right now, we could not afford. We plan to use ESSER funds available to accomplish installation. Will cost \$225,000. Cheryl from GSG - Merv-13 filters do work. Recently installed Merv-13 filters at Bristol Schools. Steam clean the equipment on the existing system. Make sure everything is functioning correctly. Plan to start the work July 1, 2021 but we might want to begin in June so we can insure work is done by August start date. Will it affect daily activities? No, we will go in after school is out and do the work. What kind of maintenance has to be done to maintain the system? Yes, your maintenance department will be able to do the routine maintenance on the system. So Dr. Keeler is this your recommendation to approve installing these indoor air quality filters? Yes, this is my recommendation.

Motion was made by Wayne Flint to approve the indoor air quality project as presented to us. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Search update: The School Board will be continuing to conducting interviews for the position of Superintendent from March 31 – April 14, 2021. These interviews will be held in accordance with the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3712.

Informational Items:

Policy Committee Report – Policy Committee met this month. New policy updates and changes were reviewed. Copies of the updates were given to each Board member to review. Policy updates will be an Action Item in April's School Board meeting.

Finance Committee Report – Committee met Tuesday. Bills and payroll payments were reviewed. We are 66% of the way through the budget year and we have spent 60% of our funds.

Student Representative’s Report- It is the end of the 3rd 9 weeks. Writing SOLs for 8th grade and English 11th grade. Fix-it Fridays are very successful. Spring Break – April 5-9th.

Athletics – End of the fall season. Boys indoor track and field team are repeat State Champs in 1A/2A. Ben Cline presented them with a plaque to on March 15 to both the boys, girls track, Basketball team. Cross Country placed 1st in their first home meet.

Arts – Artist of the Month is Dakota Tolley. We will recognize the State Champs at next month’s meeting.

Additional School Board Reports- No additional reports.

Superintendent’s Report – I would like to introduce Mr. Martin Couric, he will be the new manager of our Northwestern Mutual Scholarship account. We have had a lot of success with this account. Mr. Couric will give us an update on the account. Passed out some materials about the account. Shows a general overview of the market and economic outlook. Our account is set up fairly conservative. Not taking aggressive risks. The account is performing very well. We will continue with way the account is set up for now. Don’t see a lot of ups and downs. Mr. Couric went over the account’s set up. You can see the performance of the funds over time. This account has grown by \$174,000 over 12 years. The account has more than doubled. American Funds manages the account, and I am the funds picker.

Graduation is May 29th. Graduation plan has been made. Graduation will be held on the Football field. Each senior will be allowed to bring 15 guests.

Instructional Report – RTI and SOL preparation/remediation will be a focus after Spring Break. Remote Testing Procedures in place for EOC spring testing. Fall EOC testing results with 350 waivers 92% pass rate. Report cards will be distributed March 30th via Power School. MAP testing example was given to School Board members. Board members can see what the teacher sees as they monitor a student’s progress. Teachers can use this to decide how to help this student who need help. Really important data to mark the progress of each student. MAP testing will have to be done twice a year next year. And MAP testing will be required 3 times the year after that.

Special Education/Nurse Report – Most SPED students are back face-to-face. IEP training on March 26.

Transportation/Maintenance Report – Maintenance is in good shape. Transportation is working on buying 3 vans. Bucky sold 2 old cars that were no longer usable for \$1,250. Purchased two Dodge cars from the City. Our fleet is as good as it has been. One more bus payment, and we can look into buying some new buses next spring.

Wayne Flint mad the motion to go into Closed Session for the consideration and discussion and performance of personnel as it relates to resignations, retirements according to {State Law § 2.2-

3711 (A) (1)} and for the discussion of acquisition and disposition of real property according to {State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (3)}. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mac Felts to adjourn Closed Session. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and pass by a 7-0 vote.

The certification was read and the Board was polled.

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

Lisa Kerr made a motion that we hire Karlan Saunders as a part-time employee for the Best After School Program for the Buena Vista City Schools pending a satisfactory background check effective April 1, 2021. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made a motion that we hire Ashley Loughhead as a Student Success Coach for the Buena Vista City School system pending a satisfactory background check for 2021-2022 school year. It was seconded by Mac Felts and pass by a 7-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made a motion to accept the resignation of Monica Staton effective May 27, 2021, as the Best After School Program Site Coordinator. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Wayne Flint to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Teresa Ellison
Chairman Teresa Ellison

4-22-21
Date

Sandra Mohler
Clerk Sandra Mohler

4/22/21
Date