

**BUENA VISTA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD
BUENA VIST, VIRGINIA
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.
APRIL 22, 2021
W. P. RAMSEY EDUCATIONAL CENTER**

ATTENDANCE: School Board Members – Teresa Ellison, Roy Mohler, Wayne Flint, John Rice, Mac Felts, Lisa Kerr and John Roberts. Also attending were John Keeler, Donna Frazier, Sandra Mohler, Kelly Linkenhoker, Sherrie Wheeler, Trevor Tomlin and Cloey Mazingo.

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

Need to amend the Agenda and add the following under recognitions. C. Indoor Track Team – State Champions. Wayne Flint made a motion to approve the amended Agenda. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 7-0 vote.

RECOGNITIONS:

Will Dunlap is the senior of the month for April, 2021. Will is the 78th senior to be honored. Will is the son of Jack Dunlap of Natural Bridge and Tracy Dunlap of Lexington. Will has a 3.5 GPA and has received 3 silver medals for A-B honor roll. Enrolled in Teachers for Tomorrow and mentored with Tyler Kerr at PMMs. Will served as Captain of the Basketball team during his junior and senior seasons. Received Player of the Year, 1st team All-Region C, 1st team All-State VHSL, VHSC and MVP of the team during his junior year. Will also plays Baseball. He plays center field, first base and pitcher. Will was also selected as 3WZ athlete of the week this year. Will enjoys spending time with his friends and family. Will plans to attend Bridgewater College, where he received an academic scholarship. Plans to major in business. He will also be a member of the Men’s Basketball team at Bridgewater.

Philip (Speedy) Gibson is the April, 2021 Employees of the Month. Speedy has worked in our maintenance and been the custodian at the Ramsey Center. He takes pride in his work, he keeps the Ramsey Center clean. Speedy retired from Burlington Industries after 39.5 years. He has worked for the school system for 12 years. He has worked a total of 52 years. On July 3, of this year, Speedy will celebrate his 87th birthday. We are proud of Speedy. We had a group from Madison County visit our weight room at the Ramsey Center. Speedy came to work after he had a medical procedure that morning to make sure everything was in good shape for the visitors. He is a great example for the kids.

Indoor Track Team – State Champions – Looking at a group of kids who have won 3 State Championships within 19 months. Won their 3rd one in the middle of COVID. Great victory 58-56 with 5 people qualifying. They have the opportunity tomorrow to win their 4th Championship. Great coaching, Coach Poluikis and staff are as good as any track coaches in Virginia. We are proud of this team. We would be tickled to get that 4th one. The School Board presented each member of the team a certificate recognizing their accomplishments. Coach Poluikis – last year we won the indoor state title and we had a super team. This year was somewhat unexpected. We had to go against double A teams and even with COVID there were 50 teams that fielded an indoor team. There was 15 events and we only scored in 4 of

them. Because we placed 1st and 2nd that was how we did it. This has been a very difficult year. For us to have closed in the spring was horrible, one of the worst things I have seen in education. The School Board has been ahead of the curve. You opened the schools when others were closed. You let us have sports and train last fall. I would have lost a lot of these kids, if they had not been able to train last fall. This year has taught me more of the importance of education and sports. Some of these states that are shutting down sports and kids have not seen a classroom in over a year. It is one of the saddest things I have ever seen. I very much appreciate the decisions you made, you went out on a limb. I just want to thank you for that.

Presentations: Health insurance

We took a risk 8 years ago, when we decided to become self-insured. We have paid out for insurance about \$14,592,000, however we saved \$6.7 million at the same time. The Health Savings Accounts have received contributions of over \$200,000. This money belongs to the employee. It enables them to have to help pay for medical expenses. It can also be used as a savings account. Paul LaPradd with BPA is going to talk to you about a new program we are rolling out this year.

Buena Vista is the founding member of the captive program. Includes 5 other school systems, which helps pool your risks and offers big discounts. BV is in a pool of about 2,000 other school employees around the state. We are going to enhance the plan even further. We are proposing moving to a plan with a re-insurer, Jefferson Health Plan. They are a non-profit, government entity out of Ohio. We have been working on this for a year and half. We are proposing BV will get a change to go into a pool of 22,000 school employees. Ohio laws and regulations for self-funding insurance are similar to Virginia laws. They want to develop a Virginia program after their Ohio program. Jefferson is looking to invest their money into this program to get it started with BV and the 5 other school districts. Jefferson run the program. Nothing from a member or employee stand point will change. Same plan, benefits, medical prescriptions, same Cigna networks no changes. The Big difference will be the re-insurers. We have had problems with the re-insurers who determine your rates. Every year we fight the battle regarding rates trying to keep rates down. The Jefferson Health Care model proposes that BV pay one invoice every month. Now BV is paying two invoices – one for fixed costs and one for claims. One set bill, and if you have a month that is less than the invoice amount the extra will go into your reserves account. It will be BV's money being held in a surplus. If you have a bad month, Jefferson is willing to cover any deficient for you. Claims and providers are getting paid quicker, so we don't have to wait until the next month to pay them. Keeps everything up to date.

BV is responsible for the first \$100,000 in claims and any claims over \$100,000 goes to the re-insurer for payment. If you have a bad year, Jefferson will schedule the payment for any overages over a period of 3 years.

Dr. Keeler – we get rebates back on prescription drugs quarterly. Last couple of rebates have been over \$24,000. Anthem does not offer prescription rebates. In the past if an employee had a huge claim the re-insurer can increase the amount the School Board has to pay for an employee called a laser. Instead of \$100,000 re-insurer can raise it to \$200,000. The School board would then have to pay \$200,000 before any claims over \$200,000 goes to the re-insurer for payment. With Jefferson, there will be no lasers. Jefferson will pick up the risk. If BV has a bad year, because you are in the pool, rates can be offset based on the rest of the group. So you would not see a huge increase of rates. Jefferson has 120 school systems in Ohio. Their reserve balance exceeds 204 million dollars. They have had very good success with their program. The whole point of their program is they want to help smaller school

districts, because smaller schools don't have the buying power the bigger schools have. Over the last seven years school systems in Ohio have seen a maximum of 3% increase in rates each year.

Welcome of Visitors, Parents and Community Leaders and Public Comment – no comments.

Consent Agenda

Minutes for Special Called Meeting – Budget Work Session March 18, 2021

Minutes for Public Hearing/Regular SB Meeting-March 25, 2021

Minutes for Special Called Meeting – April 13, 2021

Payment of bill – vendor payments – 274,136.52 and payroll payments-732,692.58

Wayne Flint made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a vote of 7-0.

Action Items

VSBA Policy Updates – policy updates were presented to the Board last month. Also need to add regulation BDDH/KD. Motion was made by Wayne Flint to approve the VSBA policy updates. It was seconded by Roy Mohler and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Title VI-B 611/619 Preschool Grant and SPED Grant. We use this grant to pay salaries for SPED and Preschool aides. Funds 7 aides and 1 Teacher. Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the Title VI-B 611/619 Preschool and SPED Grants. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Special Education Advisory Committee – Required by State regulations, every locality must have an Advisory Committee. Rockbridge, Lexington, parents are included on the Committee. Motion was made by Wayne Flint to approve the Special Education Advisory Committee. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Perkins Grant – helps funds CTE program at the High School. LPN program – 2 students, welding program – 2 students. Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the Perkins Grant. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed on a 7-0 vote.

Informational Reports

Policy Committee Report-no new policies

Finance Committee Report-met Tuesday, approved bills. We are 75% through the budget year and expenditures are at 69%.

Student Representative's Report-student representatives gave an update on the activities happening at PMHS.

Additional School Board Reports – No reports

Superintendent's Report – Senior of the Month will be on May 25th at GMP Vista Links. Going to celebrate the whole division on May 7th, lunch will be served from 10:00 to 2:00 at GMP. School Board Members are invited. Special surprise. Time to say Thank you to the staff.

Debbie Gilbert has been working hard to get lights installed at the Baseball field. She has met with Dominion, we have poles coming and Dominion will install the poles and lights.

Madison County brought their staff down to the Ramsey Center to view our set up. Eric Wheeler gave a great speech how it has helped with the kid's self-esteem.

Instructional Report – finished ELL WIDA testing. SOL testing has been scheduled. Teacher summative Evaluations will be completed and shared with faculty and staff by the end of May.

Special Education/Nurse Report – Interviews for Kling position. Chris Poluikis is a wonderful teacher and he was very grateful when school opened. Nurse Report – numbers are coming down. Continues to monitor students and staff. Also checking staff and student mental health.

Transportation/Maintenance Report – Transportation purchased 3 used vans. Maintenance will be busy installing blinds and carpet.

Wayne Flint made the motion to go into Closed Session for the consideration and discussion of personnel matters as it relates to performance, resignations, retirements, employment and contract information for the new Superintendent 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 Mac Felts and passed by 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by John Rice to adjourn Closed Session. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Certification was read and the Board was polled.

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

Motion was made by Lisa Kerr that we hire Danielle Bowyer as a Student Success Coach effective for 2021-2022 school year for Buena Vista City Public Schools, pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Lisa Kerr that we hire Adam Gilbert and Manuel Lara as Teachers within the Buena Vista City Public Schools, pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by John Rice and pass by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mac Felts that we accept James Dotson and Jonathan Perry as Substitute Teachers in the Buena Vista City Public School system, pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mac Felts that we accept Janice Bahhur as a part-time Nutrition worker effective May 1, 2021 for the Buena Vista City Public Schools, pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Lisa Kerr that we accept the resignation of Rebecca Conley effective May 27, 2021 in the Buena Vista City Public Schools. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Lisa Kerr that we accept the resignation of Trevor Stalnaker as a Teacher with the Buena Vista City Public Schools, effective June 2, 2021. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mac Felts that we approve the PPEA method of construction for proceeding with the proper procedure on information from the contractor group in Roanoke. It was seconded by John Roberts and pass by a 7-0 vote.

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

Teresa Ellison
Teresa Ellison, Chairman

May 27, 2021
Date

Sandra Mohler
Sandra Mohler, Clerk

5/27/21
Date