

Buena Vista City Public School

School Board Meeting

Ramsey Center

August 27, 2020

Minutes

In attendance: John Rice, Teresa Ellison, John Roberts, Lisa Kerr, Roy Mohler and Wayne Flint participated remotely, Sherrie Wheeler, Dr. John Keeler, Donna Frazier, Kelly Linkenhoker and Sandra Mohler. Also zoom participants.

Chairman Teresa Ellison called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance was observed followed by a Moment of Silence.

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Ellison – We do have some amendments to the Agenda. Need to move all Action Items until after the Closed Session.

Motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Wayne Flint. Seconded by John Rice. All other members voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carried.

Recognitions:

August Employee of the month is Donna Frazier. Donna has retired. We accepted only if she would come back part time. Very grateful every day for her. Donna was very important in getting the virtual program set up and training staff. Donna is someone who does an outstanding job. We would not have been able to start school without Donna.

Senior Class Board Representatives: We have really enjoyed the participation of our Student reps. They keep us informed of the activities at the High School. Like to commend Mrs. Cobb on her choice this year. Trevor Tomlin and Cloey Mazingo will represent the High School. They will be here next month. Both are on the Cross Country team.

Presentations:

I combined the summer capital Improvements and Back-to-School Preparation. Like to recognize what we have done over the summer. Parent Decision Forms – enroll students face to face or virtually. We received 907 parent responses. Budget is built on the number of students attending school. We start in the fall as to decide on what our enrollment will be for the next year. This year we already have enough kids before we start school. Before we never knew until the kids actually came back and who left us. What is new this year? Last year we had 2 pre-k classes. That has paid dividends this year. We now have 4 kindergarten classes this year. Total kindergarten population was 53, today we have 75. That does not count what we will pick up in the first couple of weeks. 22 students multiplied by \$6000, that is

the difference in ADM. Numbers are up. 10th grade class is up to 81. 8th grade class and 11th grade class are in the 70s. Good trend that we have people coming in. Pre-7th is coming to school 4 days a week. 370 kids are coming back face to face 40.8%. 17.3% or 157 students are going virtual. A few virtual students have decided to come back face to face. Grades 8-12 we have 248 coming back face to face. 107 are going virtual. 68.1% total students are coming back face to face and 29.1% are going virtual. Student transportation 68.7% wanted to drive their kids to school. 40.2% said they want to ride the bus in the morning and afternoon. 10.2% want to ride the bus in the afternoon only. Social distance is 4 ft. With one kid per seat, 23 students can ride the bus. Everyone has to wear a mask. There is a bus aide and there are assigned seats. No touch hand sanitizers are on each bus. Siblings can ride together in one seat. Bucky has been working on the routes. We follow CDC guidance. Sidewalks, hallways and classrooms are marked 6 feet apart. Must wear masks in the hallway. Space the release of students, so they are not all in the hallway at the same time. Signs stay in your lanes, arrows marking where students need to go. Hand sanitizers are available on the bus, hallways and classrooms. Desk shield to protect the secretaries. Water fountains will be closed. Use water coolers to fill water bottles. Every child will be given a water bottle. An adult wearing gloves will refill student's water bottle. Very proud of the young men we hire in the summer along with Jeremiah. Needed 76 desks at Kling. Desks were priced at \$200 each. Total cost would have been about \$15,000. Jeremiah came up with a design using a white board on the top. A child can write answers on it and the teacher can check it. It can be erased and used again. Save on paper. This cost us \$64 a piece, we saved \$9,000. Every child has their own bucket to keep supplies in. Due to sanitation reasons students cannot share supplies. Teache boxes-place they can remove their mask. If a student needs help, the teacher must put their mask on before approaching the student. Signs are everywhere to remind students to maintain social distance, wash hands and wear mask. New teacher at Enderly is using exercise bouncing balls instead of chairs. Allows students an opportunity to move and be active. Position of every desk is marked on the floor. This allows the custodian know where the desk should go back once they have finished cleaning.

I have also included a 4-page letter that was sent to parents. Let parents know what we expect of them. We have plans in place if something happens. Covid-19 protocols are in place. Steps that should be followed. How to notify parents and staff? Like to thank our staff for all of their hard work.

Chairman Ellison - We very much appreciate every one and the amount of work that has been put into this plan.

Chairman Ellison – Welcome of Visitors, Parent and Community leaders and public comments.
No comments.

Consent Agenda

Includes payment of bill and the minutes for the Regular Meeting on July 23rd and the Special Called Meeting on July 30th.

Wayne Flint made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda that includes minutes for July 23rd and July 30th and payment of bills. Seconded by John Rice. All other members voted yes.

Information Items:

Finance Committee Report – Committee met Tuesday. Went over the bills. 7% of our total budget has been spend for the month of July. End of the year, finished \$24,000 less than expected, because sales tax was cut in August by that amount. Since that time we have learned that we will be cut further. Governor has announced that we would be cut \$29,020 for 20-21. Cutting all schools combined \$95 million due to sales tax.

Policy Committee Report – Policy Committee met on August 18th. We had 4 policy revisions that we looked over. They will be voted on at the September School Board meeting. Copies of revisions were given to each Board member so they can review before the next meeting. Mostly VSBA wording changes and policy Guidelines on the use of Physical Restraint & Seclusion of Students.

Additional School Board Report – no one had any reports

Student Representative Report – Will begin next month.

Superintendent's Report – Just finished technology training for the whole division. August 31st is the first day of school. Blues Foundation meeting second Tuesday of each month, Sept 9th at 5 pm. September 22nd Finance Meeting at 5 pm. School Board meeting September 24th at 6 pm. Nov 2nd is the end of the first nine weeks grading period. Rockbridge Raffle donated \$5,082.79 to pay off all the Nutrition debt for the entire division. This is a big deal, the young lady was nice, hard worker. We appreciate this a whole lot. Lunch program for free breakfast and lunch has now been extended to include the High School. Every child will receive a free breakfast and lunch for pre-k to 12 grade. Save families around \$600,000 that they can spend on other things. Our Food Service people are outstanding. 68,000 meals have been served thru the end of this week. Provided good hot meals. Mary Poe does a great job of mixing it up. I am proud of our staff who volunteered to put the meals in the cars. I hope the City appreciates the work that has been done. Highest ratio in the state of Virginia in providing meals to our students. Looking forward to receiving a thank you from the City. Hall of Fame Committee has picked its 2020 Hall of Fame class. They are:

Ronnie Statome - class of 1960

Saylor Fox class of 1968

Janice Carter class of 1976

Phil Radick class of 1980

Mac Felts class of 1957

Nelson Fox class of 1971

All was inducted into the Hall of Fame. We will find a way to celebrate later.

Instructional Report – Chris Floyd is continuing with the curriculum mapping. Reviewing everyone's curriculum making sure it is aligned from pre k – 12 grades. Asking every teacher to submit an update curriculum by the end of the first 9 weeks. Incorporate all content and standards not taught in March into curriculum for this year. Every teacher is using Google classroom. Back to school orientations and virtual learning orientations are being done at each school. All events were a success. Learning lab will begin this Friday. 17 students are enrolled from pre-k – 6th grade. Two paraprofessional helping run the program. Title 1 update - Brandi Kerr has provided back to school meetings for Kling & Enderly and is working to improve parent engagement from 42% collectively to 60% this year. Professional

development will continue. Content training in Math, Reading and Science. Trouble shooting virtually, google classroom and technology. New teachers will continue to meet with their mentors. Teacher survey at the end of September to access their need for addition support and professional development.

SPED/Nurse Report – Talking with all parents making sure all our schools have what they need. Training for new teachers. IEPs mailed for parent’s signatures. Coordinated Mandt training for the division.

Very busy time for our Nurse right now. Copy of her schedule has been given to you. Shows what she has been during the last 2 weeks. Busy with teacher training, working with Department of Health.

Maintenance/Transportation Report – No touch hand sanitizers have been installed on every bus. Transporting 209 students. Elementary buses will have an aide, the High School bus will not. The short bus will transport TAP students to Enderly. TAP will be billed for that service. Jeremiah did a great job getting the schools ready. All of the teachers are wanting his desks in their classroom. All classrooms have cleaning buckets. Contains everything they need to clean their classroom during the day.

Wayne Flint made a motion that the Board convene into Closed Session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711 (A) 1 to consider candidates seeking appointment as a Public Officer, specifically candidates seeking appointment by the Board to serve as a member of the School Board and for consideration of personnel matters as it relates to personnel appointments, resignations and retirements 2.2-3711 (A) 1. Seconded by Lisa Kerr. All other members voted yes.

Motion was made to come out of Closed Session by Wayne Flint. Seconded by John Rice. All other members voted yes.

Certification was read and the Board was polled:

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

Lisa Kerr made the motion to accept the retirement of Jane Cline as a long time Buena Vista City employee effective August 1, 2020. Seconded by John Rice. All other members voted yes. Motion carries.

Lisa Kerr made the motion to accept the retirement of Mary Kaye Buchanan from the Buena Vista City Public School system effective September 1, 2020. Seconded by John Rice. All other members voted yes. Motion carries.

Lisa Kerr made the motion to accept the retirement of Paige Kern as an employee of Buena Vista City Public Schools effective September 1, 2020. Seconded by Wayne Flint. All other members voted yes. Any opposed? Motion carries.

Lisa Kerr made the motion that we approve the appointment of Sherrie Wheeler as Deputy Clerk of the Board effective immediately for Buena Vista City Public Schools. Seconded by John Rice. All other members voted yes. Motion carries.

Lisa Kerr made the motion that we approve Sandra Mohler as Clerk of the Board for Buena Vista City Public Schools effective immediately. Seconded by Roy Mohler. All other members voted yes. Motion carries.

Lisa Kerr made the motion that we hire Katie Patterson as a Substitute in Buena Vista City Public Schools pending satisfactory background check. Seconded by John Rice. All other members voted yes. Any opposed?

Lisa Kerr made the motion that we hire Carolyn Davis as a Bus Driver/substitute in Buena Vista City Public School system pending satisfactory background check. Seconded by Roy Mohler. All other members voted yes. Motion carries.

Lisa Kerr made the motion that we hire Justin Mitchell as a Substitute in Buena Vista City Public School system pending satisfactory background check. Seconded by Wayne Flint. All other member voted yes. Motion carries.

Wayne Flint made the motion that we approve the 2020 – 2021 personnel staff at the September meeting. Seconded by Lisa Kerr. All other members voted yes. Motion carries.

Wayne moves the Buena Vista City School Board appoint Allen Felts, Jr to serve as Interim member of the Board. Seconded by Roy Mohler.

Chairman Ellison – We will do a roll call vote.

Mrs. Kerr – yes

Mr. Rice – yes

Mr. Roberts – yes

Mr. Mohler – yes

Mr. Flint – yes

Mrs. Ellison – yes

Need a motion for adjournment. So moved by Wayne Flint. Second by John Rice. All other member voted yes.

Meeting adjourned.

Teresa R. Ellison
Chairman – Teresa Ellison

Sandra Mohler
Clerk – Sandra Mohler