

Regular School Board Meeting
6:00 P.M.
April 28, 2022

Attendance: School Board Members –Teresa Ellison, John Rice, Mac Felts, Lisa Kerr and John Roberts. Members Absent: Wayne Flint and Roy Mohler. Tony Francis, Gennifer Miller and Sandra Mohler were also in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Pledge of allegiance and a Moment of Silence was observed.

Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the Agenda. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Recognitions:

April, 2022 Senior of the Month – Trey Secrist. Trey is the son of Brent & Michele Secrist of Buena Vista. Trey currently has a 3.58 GPA and received an academic letter jacket this fall. Trey will earn 12 college credits from Dabney S. Lancaster Community College. He is a member of the Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Environmental Club. Trey was chosen by PMHS staff to receive the citizenship award for his class during his sophomore and junior year. Trey is a 3-year letterman for football. For 2021, Trey was named first-team all-district, first-team all-region, and second-team all-state for offense. On defense, he was placed on first-team all-district and second-team all-region. He received the Most Savage Blue awarded by the coaching staff. Trey also played basketball for the last 3 years. He was a member of the state championship team. Trey will work part-time at Wal-Mart this summer. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends. Trey will attend Emory & Henry College where he will play on the offensive line. He is unsure of his major at this time, but is considering the engineering field.

April, 2022 Employee of the Month – Jimmy Mason & Jeannie Hamm. They are the perfect team; they work together well to keep the schools operational. If they can't fix it they will find someone who can. They order all of the supplies and equipment needed. They work with vendors to get the best prices. Very demanding job, with lots of paperwork. They work on it all, whether it's roofing, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, carpet. They are always on call.

Presentations

RRMM – Feasibility Study

Chris Philips from RRMM will present the findings of the feasibility study on Enderly, Kling and PMMS. The presentation will be posted on the Website tomorrow. First thing Mr. Philips commended our maintenance team for doing an amazing job maintaining the schools. It's a huge job. What I have to say may be shocking and hard for most people to hear.

Background information:

In 2015, cost per sq. foot was \$190 for a 103,815 sq. foot addition to Kling.

In 2020-2021 RRMM conducted a second study. Cost per sq. foot was \$299 for 99,480 sq. foot. Total cost of the project was \$35M. The best place to build was identified to be at the High School for these reasons:

1. \$4.2 M savings in site development
2. \$4.2 M potential savings in program reduction
3. Educational & community use advantages and efficiencies
4. More property available to help offset capital costs
5. No land purchase
6. No phasing complications
7. Solar orientation and views
8. Convenient for parents & students
9. Cost saving in resources, staff, infrastructure & transportation
10. Shared resources (gym & auditorium)
11. Ability to offer better services (academics, art & athletics)
12. Safety & security
13. Energy efficiency/indoor air quality
14. Accessibility

PPEA proposal was submitted for a PK-7 school with a 725 student capacity. These items are given whether you renovate or build new:

1. Safety & security
2. Robust infrastructure
3. Energy efficiency/indoor air quality
4. Accessibility
5. Highly functional floor plan
6. Natural light/daylighting capability
7. Adaptability for sloped metal roof

General scope of work:

1. Evaluation of existing conditions at Enderly, Kling & PMMS
2. Conducted walk-thru observations with the Principals
3. Included architectural & mechanical/electrical
4. Review of limited existing documentation
5. Interview staff
6. Reprogram to confirm the PK-7 program requirements
7. Using the info to compare the cost of new construction vs renovation.
8. Evaluate energy cost.

Conditions found at the schools:

PMMS – this school is hanging on by a thread. I was half through my walk through, I did not feel safe to go out on the roof. It is a beautiful old building, a lot of nostalgia.

1. Front façade-concrete is falling off the building. Creating a safety hazard. 20-foot drop.
2. Accessibility – chair lift works, no other elevator in the building.
3. Building has a large amount of asbestos. Very dangerous. Asbestos tile, you can hear the floor popping when you walk on it. Which kicks asbestos into the air and it can be inhaled.

4. Windows – single pane windows, most of them won't close all the way. Have asbestos based paint. You are heating a building and it is going outside.
5. Water intrusions throughout the building.
6. There are birds living under the siding.
7. Locker room – It is kept locked, no one is allowed in. A lot of water damage. The water is coming from a failed roof. Building is failing.
8. Plumbing issues
9. Failing roof structure

Enderly – not a typical school building.

1. Accessibility – main concern.
2. Safety concerns - hard to provide a secure safe place.
3. Asbestos based tile. Cracking and curling up.
4. Classrooms are a good size, seem to be functioning well. Need to be modernized.

Kling – similar comments as Enderly.

Physical needs of the building:

Ideal school size would be between 99,500 -113,000 square feet. Added an auditorium, shop space and resource rooms. Today the cost per sq. foot is \$399. It could go even higher. Covid 19 had a huge effect on materials and labor. Hard to obtain supplies now and delivery times are awful. New school would now cost \$53 million (113,000 square feet).

In 2020 the 99,500 square foot school was \$35M, today the exact same school will cost \$46.7M.

Reasons for the change in cost:

1. Hyperinflation of 24.2% in the last 20 months
2. Steel prices have increased 300%
3. Instructional steel has increased 127%
4. Cost of fuel has gone up 55%
5. Materials, labor and equipment have gone up,
6. Holding prices for 10 days.
7. Lead times have increased up to 32 weeks
8. Product availability issues - Roofing materials are taking up to a 1-year to get the materials.
9. HVAC/electrical costs have increased

Cost Comparison – Renovate vs building new

Enderly – 32,000 sq. footage

Kling – 25,000 sq. footage

PMMS – 105,000 sq. footage (have about 50,000 sq. footage that is unusable right now, the space does not function)

Enderly (32,000 sq. foot) and Kling (25,000 sq. feet) needs include: mechanical, electrical, plumbing, both need a new roof, modernized classrooms. Cost about \$200 square foot. \$11.4M to renovate both schools

PMMS – You could put a couple million into a new roof and boiler and you still would not have a functional building. Would displace all students and cost would be \$300 per square foot. New construction is \$399 per square foot. It would cost \$31.5 million to renovate PMMS. Grand total cost to renovate all 3 buildings is \$49.5M (include \$6,435,000 million soft costs).

Energy-New school vs 3 schools

30% energy savings with a new building vs all 3 schools.

Mac Felts – Did you change the cafetorium? -

Mr. Philips - We found the student projections of 625 allowed us to reduce the size of the cafeteria, media center, & the gym size. Needed a more art type space. 300 – 400 seat capacity auditorium. Added a CTE shop area and changed the bathroom design to single use bathrooms.

We went into the original crawl space of PMMS and it is something to see. The frame of the original building was made of wood. 18-in square chestnut columns under there. Don't build that way anymore, truly amazing to see. I don't know what the roof structure is made of. Don't have any drawings on the roof. The roofing system will most likely fail. It has already failed, a heavy snow would most likely cause it to fail completely.

Dr. Francis – Would like to say that we are putting hardwood floor down in Enderly cafeteria to cover asbestos floor this summer. And we are covering the floor in the hallway at the Technology offices at PMMS to cover asbestos tile.

John Roberts – I think we are all in agreement that all of our school buildings need major attention. But we need some support outside of the people sitting here. It doesn't seem favorable, so our options are very limited as a board. We would sign on the dotted line today to build a new school. We understand the shape we are in. We are not the ones that need to be won over. We are doing the best we can with what we got.

Mac Felts – At a recent meeting it was suggested that members of City Council wanted to come. They need to hear this.

Dr. Francis – We talked about a joint meeting. We may need to look at some options, what do we need to do.

Teresa Ellison – Doing nothing, we cannot just sit here and do nothing.

John Roberts – A strapped financial City, it is a road some may not want to go down, it would be a battle to get back. The City may get on board that we cannot support our own school system and we need to consolidate. We are not going to let that happen. We need to do something NOW!
Sherrie Wheeler – Parents may take their kids out of school anyway because of health and safety concerns.

John Roberts – We don't have the numbers to support a new school or the money. You are exposing kids to asbestos every time they walk across the floor. We want to build students up,

not be the cause of health issues later in their life. The City is not going to do a dang gone thing to help us. There may be some options. I will fight tooth & nail that we don't go down that path.

Sherrie Wheeler – Rockbridge doesn't have room for our kids.

John Roberts – We would have to foot the bill so they can make room for our kids. It would be a huge burden to send our kids over there. The City doesn't understand that. Lexington is going through it right now. They pay a fortune to send their kids there.

Dr. Francis – That is why we need to look at other options. May need to renovate and expand Kling or add an addition on the High School. We know what it costs to build new; we know what it costs to renovate, but we need another option to see what that would cost.

Mac Felts – What has City Council done to determine what they can or cannot do to pursue funding for this building? They have done nothing! Except to say that they cannot do it.

Teresa Ellison – Has that come up in your construction meetings?

Mac Felts – Yes, it has. They say they cannot do anything until they have a referendum per the City Attorney. Then why don't they have a referendum and let the voters decide! Council doesn't want to do that because they are afraid that the voters will say yes. The referendum needs to be on the ballot in November.

Lisa Clark – I don't think you have to have the cost of the school in the referendum.

Lisa Kerr – It is just a yes or no question.

Lisa Clark – Have any of the members of Council on the construction committee seen the study?

Teresa Ellison – No, that is why we want to have a joint meeting. We wanted to know the results of the study before we met with them.

John Roberts – Dr. Francis mentioned options, and I agree we do need options. I know we have a poor economy and struggling community; I know we are not at the bottom. What are other communities doing to help their situation. We cannot be the worst.

Mac Felts – Do you read your newsletter from the State?

John Roberts – Yes, I do.

Mac Felts – Halifax is as poor as they can be and they are doing a referendum to build a new school.

Dr. Francis – I think small school divisions are reducing the number of buildings by consolidating. Saves long term costs.

Mr. Philips RRMM- Main thing is building a consensus. If you can get community support for the schools, then you can find the money. Whether it is a tax increase or loans. A lot of schools are being built right now.

John Roberts – There has to be programs out there to help struggling communities.

Mac Felts – They are working on something right now in Richmond that is supposed to help.

Dr. Francis – There is a proposal out there right now-for funding for k-12 schools that creates a loan system where low income rural school divisions can apply. Low interest loan or no interest loan and if you consolidate schools you can apply to borrow more money. The House and the Senate cannot agree. Everyone would not qualify.

Teresa Ellison – What do we do?

John Roberts – We need to have that meeting. When can the meeting be set up?

Mr. Philips – The best option you had on the table has passed you by.

Mac Felts – We told them that. The mayor strongly suggested that prices would be going down.

John Roberts –Is that something Teresa would do?

Dr. Francis – The chair would reach out to the Mayor to schedule a joint meeting.

Mr. Philips – Has any of the council toured the Middle School recently?

Teresa Ellison – No and that needs to be part of it.

Mr. Philips – I feel that any reasonable person walking around the school would realize that the situation has to be fixed. It cannot be ignored; they cannot turn a blind eye.

Mac Felts – There is only one person on the Council who has children in school.

John Roberts – It's the cost that is hard to take.

Dr. Francis – If the School Board is in agreement, Ms. Ellison will reach out to the Mayor. See if we can schedule a joint meeting and get Mr. Philips to make the presentation and walk through the school.

John Roberts – Can we do this on a Saturday?

Dr. Francis – Schedule the meeting at the PMMS auditorium.

Teresa Ellison – Do we need a motion to do this?

Dr. Francis – I think as long as everyone is in agreement, a motion is not necessary.

John Roberts – We should designate the place.

Dr. Francis – Yes, and we can schedule a 30-minute tour of the building after the meeting.

Mr. Philips-Whatever it takes, we will be there.

John Roberts – Anything you can do to show any more cost saving might help our situation.

Mr. Philips – This is just purely building related. No operational costs were included. There are other pieces to this.

Mac Felts – The acceleration of learning capabilities and environment that a new school would do to help our students learn. It is distressing to go into these 3 schools and look at the darkness. The schools in Winchester and Roanoke are bright, colorful and technology available in all classrooms enhances the learning ability by leap and bounds. We are going backwards.

Teresa Ellison-What happens if we do nothing?

Mac Felts – The building will fall down.

Teresa Ellison – I think it is time other people know about this.

Mr. Philips – If there is no action at all, I think the middle school students will end up in modular classrooms. The middle school will not function much longer.

Dr. Francis – If we did have a functional failure at the middle school, we would have to move the 6th grade to Enderly. You may have to add a modular room or two. Move the 7th grade into mobile classrooms at the high school. This is not good, because putting your students in mobiles creates a security risk. But this may be the only option.

Lisa Kerr – Could you use drones to view the roof at PMMS? Would that help?

Mr. Philips – It may not be necessary at this point, but we have a roofing consultant, who can come in and perform an infrared scanning of the roof. This is their specialty. It will show the condition of the roof. It would be real scientific documented evidence.

John Roberts – Outside of infrastructure failure, is there anything that would shut the building down. Say an inspector shows up?

Mr. Philips – I think you are edging on things you don't want me to answer. I think if the wrong inspector shows up, the school could be closed.

John Roberts/Mac Felts – rightly so!

Mr. Philips – Jimmy and staff have made the building as safe as it can be. Taken extreme care to make sure students are safe.

Teresa Ellison – It's a 100-year-old building. Dr. Francis, can we get together very soon to get things going?

Title VI-B 611/619 SPED Grant Application

Grant 611-part B proposed budget is \$235,542 for 2022-2023, which will fund one teacher & 6 paraprofessionals salaries. This is the first year we have had to set aside for students that are attending a private school within our boundaries because of the Dec 1 child count.

Grant 619-part B preschool proposed budget is \$11,012, which funds one paraprofessional salary for ½ year.

Boy Scout – Kid Kits.

Joe Williams, is a senior at Riverheads – Eagle Scout project. He wants to have students at Enderly and Kling fingerprinted. The Police Department will help with the fingerprinting. It is a benefit for our students & their parents. Only parents will keep the copy of their child's fingerprints. Enderly fingerprinting will be held on May 6th and May 9th for Kling. Parents will have to op-in if they want to participate in this project. Asking that the Board to give permission for this project to proceed. The Police nor the school keeps a copy of the fingerprints. Joe is asking that this become part of the Kindergarten registration process every year.

Teresa Ellison – Probably wait to see how it goes this year.

Gifted Plan – Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted.

Old plan ends on June 30, 2022. This is the new plan we are proposing for the next 5-years. Not a lot of changes. I will hit the highlights-page 3 identifies the 2 areas students can be identified by the Division. On page 7 – is the list of services based on a student's academic needs. On page 29 – talks about the Advisory Committee. Committee will be composed of parents, school personnel, and other community members who are appointed by the Board. The committee will meet 3-times a year to evaluate the program. The Board will receive an annual update on how the program is progressing. Ask that you approve this as an Action Item at the May, 2022 school board meeting.

Welcome of Visitors – No one wished to speak.

Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Action Items:

Approval of VSBA February, 2022 Policy Updates - Majority were just change in wording. Also included that the security plan could be discussed in closed session, because of student's safety.

Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the VSBA February, 2022 Policy Updates. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Approval of Title VI 611-B Grant Application

Motion was made by John Rice to approve the Title VI 611-B Grant Application. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Approval of Title VI 619-B Grant Application -. Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the Title VI 619-B Grant Application. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Approval of the Boy Scout Kid Kits – Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the Boy Scout Kid Kits. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Approval of the Authorization of Signature in Absences of Superintendent. Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the authorization of Signature through 6/30/2023. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Informational Items:

Policy Committee Report – No policy updates at this time.

Finance Committee Report – Committee met Tuesday. Bills and payroll payments were reviewed. We are 75% through the budget year and we have spent 63% of our budget.

Student Representative’s Report- Benchmark testing is going on. CTE Fair will be held on April 19th. Pre-scheduling with Mr. Wheeler is in process. Art Gallery is now open on Wednesdays. Area Band is weekend in Covington. Spring concert will be held next Thursday. The Jazz Band will also be a part of the concert at 7:00 pm. Baseball team beat Rockbridge. Softball is 2-6 but is undefeated in district play. Track is at the top, most of the team is state contenders. Co-ed Soccer is 1-3-1, they have their first home game tonight. Girls Tennis is currently 1-1. Had a successful Prom and after prom party. Environment Club clean up on Earth Day. Upcoming events: Sophomores ordered class rings. Spring SOLs are coming up. Awards assembly. May 13 is the last day for seniors. May 19th is the scholarship assembly. May 24th is the Senior of the Month Banquet. May 27th is senior breakfast for graduation practice. May 28th Graduation at VMI and no tickets are required for graduation.

Additional School Board Reports- No report at this time.

Superintendent’s Report

Budget Update – No progress with the State at this time. May 5th public hearing for the City’s Budget. I will be asking for the City’s support. The City will vote on the budget on May 19th. In 2017-18 the city budgeted \$2,583,803 for schools, and in 2019-20 the city budgeted \$2,483,803 for schools. Funding has gone down. Every other division had funding go up by 8-9%. Starting teacher salaries from the DOE website shows BVCPS starting salary is 132 of 132. We are dead last in the State of Virginia. There are only 132 school divisions. I gave Mr. Tyree a copy of this. We need to increase the starting pay for our teachers.

Strategic Plan – The draft is done & will be presented at the May meeting. It will be an action item at the June Meeting.

Update Division Web page – Website will be updated in June to include our new mission and vision for the division. Also working on a new logo for the division.

Instructional Report – Gave you a list of year end events for all schools. On May 1st PMMS will receive a new SRO position. Will attend a Safety Conference at the end of July. Technology is working on getting Wi-Fi on every bus. Title II monitoring is coming up at the end of May. Frontline training will take place July 1 & TalentEd evaluation training will take place in August. Evaluations are in process. SOLs will begin May 3rd. Teacher appreciation week of May 2-6 and Nurse Day on May 11th.

Special Education/Nurse Report –Conducted psychological evaluations, eligibility meetings, and IEP meetings. Still have not been able to hire a teacher for vacancy at Enderly. Attended a job fair at Longwood for an elementary school counselor.

Nutrition Department – Are excited to announce that Nutrition requalified for the Community Eligibility Provision. All BVCPS students will receive free breakfast and lunch for the next four years. Summer feeding program starts June 6 and runs through July 28th. Summer school students and any child in the community between ages 1 to 18 may eat breakfast and lunch for free. Must come by Enderly to eat meals as there will be no pick up or home deliveries. Nutrition currently has two positions open for the upcoming year.

Maintenance Report – Working on a plan that includes the needs and improvements for all schools. They are meeting with contractors to figure out ADA compliance.

Transportation Report – They have a lot of athletic trips & field trips scheduled now. There are 2 people interested in the bus driving classes being offered by Rockbridge. They can attend free of charge. Still have several bus drivers out.

John Rice made the motion to go into Closed Session for the consideration and discussion of personnel matters as it relates to performance, resignations, new hires and retirements according to State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mac Felts to adjourn Closed Session. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 5-0 vote.

The certification was read and the Board was polled.

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

Lisa Kerr made a motion that we hire Michelle Cauley as a part-time nutrition worker effective May 1, 2022 pending a satisfactory background check. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made a motion that we hire the following substitute/homebound and substitutes effective May 1, 2022 pending satisfactory background check for Janell Farley, Corinne Brubaker, James Kostelni and Tiffany Royer. It was seconded by Mac Felts and pass by a 5-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made a motion to hire Joshua Holsinger as the Band/Choir Director for PMMS and PMHS effective July 1, 2022 pending a satisfactory background check. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mac Felts to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Teresa R. Ellison
Chairman Teresa Ellison

May 26, 2022
Date

Sandra Mohler
Clerk Sandra Mohler

May 26, 2022
Date