

BUENA VIST CITY SCHOOL BOARD
BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA
MINUTES FOR REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2022
W. P. RAMSEY EDUCATION CENTER

School Board Members Present: Teresa Ellison, Wayne Flint, Lisa Kerr, Roy Mohler, John Rice and Allen Felts.
Absent: John Roberts. Also present: Tony Francis, Gennifer Miller and Sandra Mohler. Roy Mohler left at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:00 pm. Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence was observed.

Chairman Ellison announced the following addition and deletion to the agenda.

1. Under Presentations add item C. 2022-2023 Calendar, option A & B under Presentations
2. Remove item B under Action Items approval of the local wellness policy JHCH.

Mac Felts made the motion to approve the Agenda with the corrections as noted. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a unanimous 6-0 vote.

Recognitions:

January Senior of the Month – Koya Chandler

Koya is the daughter of Jamie & Kyle Chandler of Buena Vista. Koya currently has a 4.1 GPA. She received an academic letter jacket for maintaining a high GPA. She has also earned 18 college credits from Dabney S. Lancaster Community College. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is the President of the Senior Class. Koya is the President of the Environment Club, which she co-founded. She also participates in the yoga and interact club. Koya is heavily involved in running. Participating on the Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Track and Field. She received all-state recognition in cross country. She also placed on the all-state indoor track team for 3 events. Koya works at Subway and she enjoys aviation. Koya is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She is president of her Young Women’s Class and is a member of the Youth Council. Koya has been accepted to James Madison & Southern Virginia University. She waiting to hear from UVA. She plans to major in biology and chemistry. She hopes to become a dietician or nutritionist.

January Employee of the month – Bucky Buchanan

Bucky Buchanan is our Transportation Director. He has kept our buses rolling this year. He has dealt with driver shortages, but he handled it. He advised me on the recent snow we received. He helped me decide whether it was safe to have school. He works many hours. He is a loyal employee and he is always willing to go the extra mile. We appreciate all of his efforts.

Presentations:

2021-2022 Superintendent Annual Goals

- 1) Have an updated Strategic Plan by 6-30-2022
- 2) Put in place a new complete Salary Scale for teachers for 2022-2023.
- 3) BVCPS will meet state accreditation for the division
- 4) By 2024 work with City Council, City Manager, School Board and Community to develop a plan to move forward on building a new school.

Update on Masking Protocol

- 1) 1303 law is still in effect. Must follow CDC guidelines.
- 2) Governor's Executive order 2 lets parents decide whether their child wears a mask. Mask optional is for students only, staff would still have to wear masks.
- 3) Relaxing contact tracing requirements. You would look at outbreaks instead of contact tracing. If a school has 10% staff or students test positive that would be considered an outbreak. You would have to wear masks, move to virtual learning.
- 4) Attorney said 1303 is a state law and that it takes precedent over Executive Order 2. State Supreme Court to decide whether the Executive Order 2 would take precedent over 1303 law.
- 5) Federal Mandate remains in effect for transportation – must continue to wear a mask. Stays in effect until March 31, 2022.

We have 2 options –

1. Continue to follow our current mask policy until the Supreme Court makes their decision.
2. Make mask optional, specify a date and do away with contact tracing.

Chairman Ellison – Do you know what other school division are doing? Dr. Francis – it's pretty much divided. Keep in mind if we decide to make masks optional and the Supreme Court decides that the Executive Order 2 is not valid, then we would need to go back and make masks required again. Regarding insurance - VA Corp states that if our legal counsel feels we are on solid legal ground then VA Corp would cover us with insurance. If we go against legal counsel, then we would not be covered. Our legal counsel said it's best to wait until the Court has made a decision. Both sides have valid points. Mac Felts – if we are in a situation and we are mask optional, do we have room to maintain 6 feet distancing? Say a student tests positive and there are 22 students in the class, do all 22 students have to quarantine? Dr. Francis – No, as long as they don't have any symptoms they would be fine. If you have 5 students test positive and 5 in another class, then we would use the outbreak procedures. Student would stay home for 5 days and they can come back to school on days 6-10, but they have to wear a mask.

2022-2023 Calendar

Draft A – Start date - 2nd Wednesday of August

Thanksgiving – 3-day break

2 week break for Christmas

March Spring Break is better because testing

Holiday for the Friday before and Monday after Easter

End school before Memorial Day

Graduation May 27, 2022 at VMI

Put in teacher workdays

Draft B – school begins on the 3rd Wednesday of August

School ends on June 1, 2022.

Graduation – May 27, 2022 at VMI

Days built in for teacher workdays

Both drafts have 178 days of instruction and PD/team planning days. Includes 19 days of bank time that can be used for snow etc.

Public Comments

4 members of the audience spoke out against the School Board's mask policy. Do not want their children to wear masks. Suggested that schools use air purifiers. Another parent's child has a heart condition. Doctor has stated that she should not a mask because it could cause severe problems. Does the School Board have the children's safety in mind? Allow parents the right to choose what is best for their children.

Chairman Ellison – The School Board takes the safety of children very seriously. We are here to listen to your comments. It's a tough decision for everyone. We appreciate your support of the school division. We want the best for children. Thank you for being here.

Mac Felts – What is the division's policy regarding medical conditions? Dr. Francis – We can provide medical accommodations. Accommodation is not an exemption. Student can wear a face shield instead of a mask. Student would be allowed additional mask breaks. Students would need to wear a mask in the hallways. Student could attend classes virtually. Would not be allowed in school without a mask and maintain 6 feet.

Consent Agenda:

Motion: That the School Board approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the minutes from the October 28, 2021 Regular Meeting and payment of vendor and payroll bills.

Motion: Wayne Flint

Second: John Rice

Motion passed by a unanimous 6-0 vote.

Action Items:

Budget Goals

Motion: That the School Board approve the addition to School Board Policy for Hiring Classified Staff

Motion: Wayne Flint

Second: Lisa Kerr

Motion passed unanimous 6-0 vote.

Informational Items

Policy Committee Report – No policy updates at this time.

Finance Committee Report – Finance Committee met on Jan 25th to review payment of bills. We are 50% into our financial year and have spent 43% of our budget.

Additional School Board Reports – Teresa Ellison went to the Capital Conference this week. The Lt Governor and the Secretary of Education spoke. They are all fairly new to their positions. Received educational updates. Presentation on the senate and house bills. Learned that we all are going through

the same things. It's a good conference to attend and I urge other Board member to attend. You can learn a lot about what is going on in the State at this meeting.

Student Representative Report -

Academics

Currently completing SOL testing from Semester 1. Improved scores in Math!

Semester 2 started on Friday, January 21

Upcoming CTE industry field trip to Mohawk on February 8

Athletics

Girls basketball – 13-1

Boys basketball – 11-2

Both teams are in 1st place in the district

Wrestling: Region 1C tournament will take place Saturday, February 5.

Indoor track: Regional tournament, Friday, February 18 at Roanoke College.

Swim: Region meet, Thursday, February 10 in Christiansburg.

Arts

Pep band has performed at several home games for basketball games.

Concert choir started this semester

Tryouts for Shrek the Musical will occur soon

Art department is preparing for Youth Art Month in March

Superintendent's Report:

SVU – PMMS field use

Met with Mrs. Dryden of SVU regarding PMMS field use. She indicated that they have moved away from seeking to use of our field as a Baseball Facility. SVU had problems getting donations. Donors did not want to donate money towards a facility that was not owned by SVU. She did say that they may want to explore putting in a practice track. They would not host events. This would be something we could use as well. She will bring us more information if that is the direction they want to take.

Lights for the Baseball and Softball fields

Lights were supposed to be here on Jan 15th. We reached out to them and it's going to be the middle of February now. We are hosting the Pioneer District Baseball Tournament and that is based on us having lights. So If the lights come in on Feb 15th we will be okay. But If they get pushed back to March or April, it would be difficult for us to get them installed and working.

Instructional Report:

Working with the Principal to get the mid-year testing data together.

Dr. Francis and I will meet with each Principal and review each school's data to see where they are.

Decide what needs to be done to get them where they need to be?

Principals are working on mid-year teacher performance evaluations. Give teachers feedback on instruction. Provide students with the best academic experience possible.

Working on SOL retakes.

Continue to work on the comprehensive plan, the next meeting will be held next Wednesday

Starting Google Training – teachers, principals, Sherrie and myself are participating. Will receive certification. It is a 2-month course that began in this month.

Week of Jan 10th was declared Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week. School staff did a wonderful job of making their principals feel appreciated.

We had an individual from the school division who was nominated for the ASCD Impact Award. It is a state wide award. Acknowledges those whose work positively impact others. They must have a track record and be able to show evidence of excellence in teaching and or instructional leadership as well as positive and meaningful impact on the achievement of others. Debbie Gilbert received that award from the State. Congratulations to Debbie, it's a big deal. She will be going to an awards banquet in Richmond in February.

Special Ed/Nurse Report:

Copy of Special Ed Report was included in the School Board Packet. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer.

Nurse Report: Still busy doing contact tracing.

Transportation/Maintenance Report:

Maintenance – Very busy. Busy with repairs at every building. Busy with snow removal at all schools. Heat has been fixed at the Ramsey Center. There was a leak in the art area of the Ramsey Center. Getting estimates to replace the roof.

Transportation – Transporting 243 student in the morning, 310 students in the afternoon and 30 students for the Best after school. Athletic trips – 2,254 miles. We received Bus driver incentive grant. Received \$29,744.20. It will be used for loyalty incentives for full time bus drivers and will increase the rate of pay for Athletic trips.

We also received a Security grant for the High School for \$27,298. This will be used to purchase cameras and equipment that will be used for the athletic field and field house.

Dr. Miller – Would like to acknowledge Robin Williams who received a grant to purchase Chromebooks for Kling. This was free. It was a grant called Emergency Connectivity fund. Purchased 234 Chromebooks and the students get to keep them at home. A case was included. Will help with virtual learning. Now all students have devices at home.

Wayne Flint made the motion that we go into Closed Session for the consideration and discussion of personnel matters as it relates to performance, appointments, resignations and retirements according to {State Law §2.2-3711 (A) (1)} It was seconded by Mac Felts and pass by a 6-0 vote.

Wayne Flint made the motion to adjourn Closed Session. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr & passed by a 7-0 vote.

The certification was read and the Board was polled.

Mr. Felts – yes

Mrs. Kerr – yes

Mr. Flint – yes

Mr. Rice - yes

Ms. Ellison – yes

Motion was made by Mac Felts to accept the resignation of Brittany Plogger effective 2/4/2022. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made the motion that we hire Sean Suggs as a Custodian at the high school effective 1/31/2022 pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Lisa Kerr to hire McKinley Moore as a Long Term Substitute/Teacher effective 1/31/2022 pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Lisa Kerr to hire Ashlen Hazelwood as the Girls Tennis Coach effective 1/31/2022 pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and pass by a 5-0 vote.

Wayne Flint made the motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Teresa R. Ellison
Teresa Ellison, Chair

24 February 2022
Date

Sandra Mohler
Sandra Mohler, Clerk

2/24/2022
Date