

**BUENA VISTA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD
BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.
FEBRUARY 24, 2022
W. P. RAMSEY EDUCATIONAL CENTER**

School Board Members Present: Teresa Ellison, Wayne Flint, John Rice, Mac Felts, Lisa Kerr and John Roberts. Also attending were Dr. Tony Francis, Sandra Mohler, Gennifer Miller, and
Absent: Roy Mohler

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

Wayne Flint made a motion to approve the amended Agenda. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

RECOGNITIONS:

Elijah Griffin is the Senior of the Month for February 2022. Elijah is the son of Jonathan and Clarissa Griffin of Buena Vista. Elijah currently has a 3.82 GPA and received an academic letter jacket this fall. He will have 27 college credits from Dabney S. Lancaster Community College by the end of the school year. Elijah is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as its Treasurer. He is also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Elijah is a member of the football team. He is a 3-year letterman. He was the co-captain this year. This fall Elijah was named first-team all-district, first-team all-region, and second-team all-state. He received the Dave Ellison Blue Pride awarded. Elijah also plays baseball. He has a part-time job at Wal-Mart and enjoys spending time with his family and friends. Elijah is a member of the Grace Chapel where he volunteers to help set up for events and helps mow the lawn. Elijah has been accepted to Hampden Sydney College where he will play on the offensive line for the Tigers. He will pursue a degree in the STEM field.

Sonya Coffey is the Employee of the Month for February 2022. Sonya works for the Food Service Department as the Manager at Kling Elementary. She is a very loyal and dependable employee. She is a team player and is willing to help out when needed. She is in charge of inventory, ordering, production records, staff and operations. We are very proud to present this certificate to Sonya Coffey.

Presentation:

Broadband Update – Robin Williams – I want to give you background on the ECF grant we received to purchase Chromebooks. FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund had 7.17 billion dollars available to give out across the nation. The purpose of the grant was to help schools and libraries by providing the tools and services needed for remote learning during the COVID19 emergency period. We were awarded \$93,344, which purchased 234 Chromebooks. They were distributed to Kling students because they were the only ones who did not have a device at home. With the help of our E-Rate consulting firm, who handled the filing process for us, every student now has a device at home and at school. The grant had one

requirement that the School Board needed to be informed about the grant. No further action is required by the Board.

VSBA – School Board Appreciation Month

Each Board Member received a Certificate of Appreciation from the VSBA. Dr. Francis also played a video from PMMS showing their appreciation to our School Board Members. PMMS also provided a sign in their yard acknowledging that “A BVCPS Hero lives here.”

VSBA School Board Clerk Appreciation

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk received a Certificate of Appreciation from VSBA. We took them to lunch to celebrate Clerk’s Appreciation Week.

Teresa Ellison appreciated the sign in her yard “A BVCPS hero lives here.” She thanked everyone for showing their support. It means a lot and the Board appreciates everything that has been done during these difficult times. I would like to thank you for all of your service to the community and to our students.

Welcome of Visitors- No comments at this time.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda includes the minutes for the Reorganization Meeting on January 13, 2022, School Board Retreat on January 15, 2022 and Regular Meeting on January 27, 2022. Also included the approval of payment of the bills – vendor payments - \$189,960.92 and payroll payments of \$839,042.80.

Mac Felts made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Action Items

Set the Date for Budget Work Session – March 10 or March 15th looks like the best dates, based on information coming out of the General Assembly. Wayne Flint made the motion to hold the Budget Work Session on March 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm here at the Ramsey Center. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

2022-2023 Calendar – Survey results Draft B was the favorite with 87% and Draft A received 17%. My recommendation will be for Draft B. Wayne Flint made the motion to approve Draft B calendar for 2022-2023 as presented. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Approval of JHCF Local Wellness Policy Update

Only changed was in the a la carte offerings – All food and beverages sold outside of the school meal programs shall meet the standards established in USDA’s Nutrition Standards for all foods sold in schools. (Smart Snacks rule). Each school may conduct 30 school sponsored fundraisers per year. Fund raisers must not be conducted during school meal service times. Parents are encouraged to eat lunch with their student as long as State or Local Mandates do not prohibit this. Wayne Flint made the motion to approve JHCF Local Wellness Policy update. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Informational Items

Policy Committee Report – EFB Meal Charge Update.

Policy Committee met this Monday and discussed the EFB Meal Charge Policy. Letters will be sent home for any student who owes money. All students are eligible and are provided nutritionally acceptable meals and milk free. Application will be posted on the website. All students receive free breakfast and lunch under the Community Eligibility Provision therefore no charging is allowed. Any student wishing to purchase a la carte items will need to have cash in hand or money on their account.

Finance Committed Report

Finance Committee met Tuesday to review all payments of the bills. We are 58% through the budget year and we have spent 50%. We are in good shape.

Student Representative Report

Had our first benchmarks. Celebrated National Counselor Week. A Wellness Class began. Interims are Friday. Choir has officially started. March 18 & 19th will be Shrek the play. Girls basketball are undefeated in district play. They started regional play last night. Boys basketball also started regional play last night. Wrestling – 5 members went to state and Jackson Brockenbrough placed 5th in the 145 class. In-door Track also participated at regionals – 4 members are going to States Koya Chandler won the 1000 at regionals. Trey Orren won the shotput.

Additional School Board Reports- Teresa Ellison – Previous and current council members have come to me. They felt it would be a good ideal for us to have a joint meeting with City Council about the school construction after the feasibility study has been completed. It would be an educational meeting where we can learn about finance options and the building process for the new school. Council members want some additional information. I would like to suggest that Dr. Francis pursue the interest from the City. Mac Felts – Are the 2 representatives on the Construction Committee discussing the meetings with other members?

Teresa Ellison – they probably are, but they just want more information. My opinion is that the more information people get the better.

Dr. Francis – I met with Jason Tyree on March 1st and I will approach this with him. Construction Committee will probably get the feasibility study by late March. RRMM will present it to the Committee. There will probably be a lot of questions after that. It would be good to bring everyone in to sit down and go over the study. I am sure RRMM would be happy to go over the study with City Council and the School Board and RRMM can answer questions.

Teresa Ellison – Since City Council will be the ones to approve it, the more they know the better decision they can make.

Dr. Francis – I will see if we can set up a joint meeting to keep everyone is informed.

Superintendent's Report

School Resource Officer MOU – I have shared this with our attorney, he made some changes and I shared the changes with Chief Hartman. We are required to post the MOU on the website and allow public comment on it for a month before the Board can approve it. The agreement does not take effect until July 1, 2022. I would share any comments we received with the Board, so they can take comments into consideration. Either party can cancel the agreement with a 30-day notification. There is a bill in the General Assembly right now that would require a Resource Officer at every school. We will post it tomorrow; anyone can make comments. MOU has to be done every year.

Budget/Salary Scales – I will get you a copy of the Draft Budget based on Governor Northam’s budget. It will not be approved. The House, Senate and Governor Youngkin will release proposals in the next couple of weeks. The draft will need to be amended based on new revenues. We will base the budget on 828 students, which is a conservative number. We would receive 10.4 million from the State. In this budget 1.3 million is assigned to school construction. It seems like you are getting a lot but you are limited in how you can spend this money. 1.3 million will not build a school, might be able to make some improvements. Cannot be used for salaries or regular school operations. The House and Senate will each present a budget. One budget will allow divisions to apply for low interest loans up to \$35 million dollars.

It is based on the deposit index. Local funding – requesting the 2.4 m provided last year plus \$400,000, which was the amount used to pay the High School loan payment. Requesting a total of 2.8 million from the City. Federal funds would be over ½ million dollars and other funding would be about \$44,000. Total budget would be \$13,906,390. Considered 3 major factors in working on the budget:

1. Building a complete salary scale for teachers; 2. 5% raise for all staff; 3. 4% increase for health care costs. It’s costs about \$580,000 dollars to cover these major factors. This allows us to amend our salary scales for teachers and cover the 5% raise for everyone else and 4% increase in health care cost.

Salary Scale – Our starting salary for beginning teacher is \$32,000 – \$8,000 behind Amherst, Rockbridge and Lexington. New pay scale will start at \$39,000. Keep in mind that Amherst, Rockbridge and Lexington will also give a 5% raise. Making their beginning salary \$42,000. With the new scale we would only be behind \$3000 surrounding areas. Everyone else would receive a 5% increase on their base salary.

0-5 – 39,000

6-11 – 42,000

12-16 – 45,000

17-21 – 48,000

22-26 – 51,000

27-30 – 55,000

31+ - 58,000

Next year, the pay bands will increase depending on the percentage of the cost of living raise. This is all preliminary because we have to wait and see the budgets from the House and Senate.

Mac Felts – The figure of \$13 million what does that do to City Council’s input compared to the current year?

Dr. Francis – The City would give us \$400,000 more.

Mac Felts - That would be the 400,000 used to make the high school payment. That money has been promised to go towards the construction of the new school. I am reluctant to use that money for this because once you put it the budget for this, you will have a hard time dragging it out. We have said the feasibility study will show how we can save 1.4 to 1.6 million dollars towards the payment of a new school. Plus, the \$400,000 would put us near 2 million dollars to fund the new school, without any extra money from City Council. We have told them that, we cannot go back on that. I think the \$400,000 should be left out of this budget.

Dr. Francis – We can just ask for extra \$400,000 more. If we get the favorable budget, we would be okay, if we get the least favorable budget it would become an issue.

Mac Felts – Will we know which budget we will get before the budget goes to City Council?

Dr. Francis – It will be close because the House and Senate have to work out their differences and send to the Governor for approval.

Mac Felts – I think we could create a lot of goodwill with City Council, if we could tell them that we are not asking for that \$400,000 this year. We want it to be saved for construction. But we don't have any use for it this year and maybe they could use it somewhere. With the understanding that it would still be there when we get into getting a mortgage for the new school.

John Roberts – What would it do to our budget if we don't get that \$400,000?

Lisa Kerr – Or if we don't get the favorable budget?

John Roberts – We would have to rework something.

Dr. Francis – Then you are not going to be able to fix the teacher's salary scale completely. You may be able to do something. You would not be able to hold harmless on the health care. You might be able to improve the salary scale. The money will not be there. We have to give the 5% to everyone. If you don't give the 5% you will not receive the state matching money share of funds of \$275,000. That does not cover everyone, just the SOQ positions.

John Roberts – That is not a good situation.

Lisa Kerr – We don't have any clue what the City's budget looks like from the State?

Dr. Francis – No. Only thing is our composite index did go up, making the required amount from the City go up, but not enough to cover the cost of the salaries. The City is working on their budget now.

Everyone is trying to predict how much money they will get. The Northam budget will not be the one that goes through. Hoping to see the House and Senate somewhere between March 4 – 7. Does not guarantee that the Governor will not send it back.

John Roberts – I think our salary scales should be our focus. I agree we need to build a relationship with the City, but we need to take care of our own ahead of that. In my opinion, we can deal with the City as we get down that road in regards to the school. It is going to be a difficult process. I would think one of our top priorities is trying to get the money to do what we want to do; however, you would word it to them.

Dr. Francis – I did include a coaching pay bands. I aligned them with what they are making now. Will not take money from anyone.

Instructional Report – Still working on the Comprehension Plan, meetings, setting goals and putting strategies into place to meet the goals. Will present to the Board soon. Academic progress is looking good. Teachers are doing a great job, hoping for good results at the end. SOL writing will be held in the 3rd week in March. All of the grants have been approved. Received a total of \$620,000. The grant will increase teacher pay for summer school. Summer school will run from June 6 to July 28. Monday – Thursday, 8 to noon. The grant requires that summer school run for 8 weeks. The grant will allow us to hire a reading specialist at Enderly and the Middle School. And a math specialist at Enderly for the next 3 years. Will also purchase document cameras and laptop carts. National School Counselor week was Feb 7-11. Celebrated our counselors and Juli that week. Read Across America is March 2nd. Kling and Enderly will have a joint Title 1 event on March 24th. We have a new Frontline absence tracking program. Will keep track of all leave and make life easier for Sherrie. Robin and Melanie have been working on a new website design. We will present a web-site mock-up at the March Board meeting. Give you an ideal of what it will look like. We will be posting the division goals and mission statement on the website by the end of March. VSBA art is on display. After school remediation is going on at all schools. High School has just finished their first benchmark.

Special Education/Nurse Report – A lot testing. Have finished some interviews. I lost 3 applicants because of the pay scale. So a new salary scale is a big issue.

Teacher Recruitment – I have attended several job/career fairs recently. Very few college students are going into teaching. Most are interested in going to the schools with the better salaries scales. Majority are looking for jobs near the beach or Northern VA. So far this year, we don't have a lot people retiring, but next year we could see a lot of retirements.

Wayne Flint made the motion to go into Closed Session for the consideration and discussion of performance of personnel as it relates to performance and resignations and 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 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Wayne Flint to adjourn Closed Session. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Certification was read and the Board was polled.

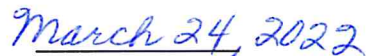
- Mr. Felts – yes
- Mr. Roberts – yes
- Mrs. Kerr - yes
- Mr. Flint - yes
- Mr. Rice - yes
- Ms. Ellison – yes

Lisa Kerr made the motion to accept the resignations of Piper Emore from her Long Term Sub position effective February 25, 2022. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mac Felts to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.



Teresa Ellison, Chairman



Date



Sandra Mohler, Clerk



Date