

MINUTES
BUENA VISTA SCHOOL BOARD
BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 26 2021
W. P. RAMSEY EDUCATIONAL CENTER

School Board Member in attendance: Teresa Ellison, Mac Felts, Wayne Flint, Lisa Kerr and John Roberts.
School Board Members absent: Roy Mohler and John Rice.
Also in attendance: Tony Francis, Gennifer Miller and Sandra Mohler.

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

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

Public Comment: No comments

Recognition of School Resource Officer

David Jelly Ramsey was recognized for his service as the School Resource Officer for the past 8 years. He was presented with a token of our appreciation for his dedication and service.

Presentations

PPEA guidelines – You each have a copy of the draft. Worked with the Attorney and updated the guidelines to reflect everything we need in them. On page 7 – changed the processing fee from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per proposal. The cost to get independent person to evaluate the proposals. If there is any money left after the evaluations, it will be returned to the companies that submitted the proposals. If additional funds are required, then the companies would be responsible for the additional costs. Page 8 – we decided to add a fee structure. ½ of 1 percent or a minimum of \$50,000 if we accept a proposal. Working with the City, we would move forward. This would cover any fees associated with a plan to construct a new school. Page 19 – All references now say Buena Vista City Council. The Board can review the guidelines before voting on them at the next meeting.

Mac Felts – Does City Council understand that we have the authority to submit this document?

Dr. Francis – Yes, I think so. We cannot move forward unless Council approves funding.

Mac Felts – Before, Council said we did not have the authority to do this. That was one of the comments they made in the paper. We were out of line in submitting this request for proposals. I have documentation that says we are an entity and have permission to request proposals.

Dr. Francis – I had our attorney talk with the City’s attorney so that we are on the same page.

Teresa Ellison – Do you anticipate us having a called meeting in September?

Dr. Francis – That is something that was talked about. Having a called meeting to approve the PPEA guidelines.

Mac Felts – We have looked at this before; it is the same document with a couple of corrections. We have to go through the 45 days all over again. I strongly recommend that we schedule a Called Meeting during the first week in September. Maybe the Thursday after Labor Day.

Dr. Francis – There is a construction meeting on Thursday, Sept 9, 2021.

Mac Felts – What about Wednesday, Sept 8th?

Mac Felts made a motion to schedule a Called Meeting on Wednesday Sept 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Esser III Plan – American Rescue Plan

BVCPS was awarded \$1,597,925.97 for 3 years. There is a requirement that you use at least 20% for learning loss instruction. Funding was based our number students. This year, students will attend school in-person 5 days a week. Academic Success Coaches will be in place at every school building. They will assist those students who need additional academic or social/emotional guidance to address the impact of COVID-19. Cleaning and sanitizing will continue this year. We plan to use \$262,008.10 to implement prevention and mitigation strategies. We have money available for HVAC and roof repair if needed. Money to cover buying cleaning and disinfecting products. Esser II money was used to upgrade the ventilation at the High School. An assistant maintenance supervisor was hired to fully implement the mitigation strategies, cleaning and upkeep of the buildings to ensure a safe environment for our students. 82% of this money will be used to address learning loss. We put the Academic Success Coaches in the grant for 3 years.

Part-time tech support person who will help families that may have chosen virtual or students who have to go out. We added a pre-school paraprofessional, added the Assistant Superintendent for 3 years. This is a critical position. Will address learning gaps and support all instructional personnel and plan professional development opportunities to aid teachers and staff. We will use funds to purchase MAX Scholar software, Google Workplace for Education Plus, which support students' learning gaps. Use the funds to support our Century 21 after-school program by supplementing the program's educational priorities.

The High school will be offering additional Life Skills Courses. We also have \$30,000 for Virtual Virginia. Right now we only have one student taking Virtual Virginia. But we could have more students later. Plan to hire an Intervention/Behavioral Specialist who will assist with providing social emotional learning support for students.

This is posted on our website. There is a link where we can get public feedback – grantfeedback@bvcps.net. We can approve this at our September Board Meeting. We feel that we have a really strong plan. Any questions?

Teresa Ellison – It's a good plan and it focuses on instruction. I have a question about Virtual Virginia, how much is that for each student?

Dr. Francis – It costs ranges from \$3,500 to \$5,000 per student. Students have to register and we pay for each semester up front. No refund if the student decides to drop out. If we don't use all of the Virtual Virginia money, we can amend the grant and use it to support other areas.

Teresa Ellison – Is there a certain amount you must spend each year?

Dr. Francis – No you don't have to spend a certain amount.

Authorization of Signature in Absence of Division Superintendent

I am recommending Dr. Miller as my primary designee and Juli Gibson as my secondary designee for the remainder of the school year through June 30, 2022. This will allow them to sign documents in my absence.

Consent Agenda

Wayne Flint made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda that includes Minutes for July 22, 2021 regular School Board Meeting and vendor payments of \$502,385 and payroll of \$382,597.33. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Action Items

Mac Felts made the motion to approve the recommendation of Superintendent for Dr. Miller as primary designee and Juli Gibson as secondary designee through June 30, 2021. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by 5-0 vote.

Dr. Francis – We have also included a list of staff who could possibly retire in the near future.

Sherrie Wheeler – You have personnel appointments and staff directory. Right now we have 172 employees. John Snider will be the new SRO. Under personnel list we have 21 teachers who will be renewing their license this year. Licenses run for 10 years now. We have 13 new teachers. DOE was working from home during COVID and they are several months behind. When schools begin, we will have several teachers who going through reciprocity. DOE has received everything they need from us. We have 3 teachers who have licenses from another state. They will need to get a VA license. We have several who have provisional licenses. They have 3 years to get everything they need to receive a VA license. Majority have finished everything they need except for Student Teaching. We have 12 aides. We have an opening for a PE teacher at Kling. We will use a Sub until we can hire a teacher. We have 11 potential staff who could retire at the end of the school year. They have 30 or more years in VRS. We could have 11 potential staff who could retire over the next 5 years.

Teresa Ellison – We have a teacher shortage. I think this helps with planning purposes to know where we stand with our staff, so we don't get caught unaware.

Sherrie Wheeler – We are keeping up with our students in Teacher for Tomorrow. We have had some of our former students come back to teach here.

Wayne Flint made the motion to approve the staff directory for 2021-2022. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Informational Items

Policy Committee Report – We have 2 new policy updates from the VSBA. Policy Committee will meet on Sept 21 at 6:00 to go over the updates. It will be a brief meeting.

Finance Committee Report – Met on Tuesday, went over expenditures. We have spent 5% of the total budget, which is not unusual.

Additional School Board Reports - No one had any additional reports.

Superintendent's Report – *Construction Committee* meeting with the City will be held on Sept 9, 2021 at 5:30 here at the Ramsey Center. Moving forward with discussion of a new school.

School Opening Update – It's been a great 2 days. Just some minor adjustments to the Bus schedule. Staff has done a great job preparing for students return. Thank the School Board for their support. Hopefully all the kinks will be worked out by Monday. We are short one bus driver. Mr. Buchanan is working on that. He is making it work for now. There is a statewide driver shortage. All divisions are facing this problem too. Many schools have opened and have had to quarantine staff or students. Some divisions are looking to implement the 10 days for staff members if they need to be quarantined or contract COVID. Staff would not have to use their sick leave if they get COVID or have to quarantine. We are not required to do this, but many divisions are. Right now if a teacher has to quarantine or gets COVID they would have to use their sick leave to cover their days off. Something we need to discuss going forward. Teresa Ellison – Is this something we need to discuss in our early September meeting?

Dr. Francis - We can do it retroactively. If we decide to do this at the September 23rd meeting, we will go back and not charge anyone who has used their sick leave. We will have to monitor school events going forward..... like dances, social gatherings and indoor events. We are okay right now.

SVU use of PMMS field update – Talked to the attorney for SVU and they are going to put together a proposal to use the middle school field. They will take care of upgrading the field. They will construct a Baseball stadium. BVCPS would be able to use it when SVU is not using it. They will bring us a draft proposal. Need to review and make any changes if needed.

Teresa Ellison - We have had some discussion about this about a year ago.

Dr. Francis – They will show what it will look like and details about how it will work.

Instructional Report – In looking at the scores that came out, we have some challenges in writing and math. In elementary and middle school, we going to be doing the writer's workshop/writing portfolio. Every student will have a folder starting with Kling. We will put a writing sampling from the beginning, middle and end of the year. This folder will move with the student, so their next teacher knows what this student needs. Mrs. Gilbert is working on Algebra Readiness at the middle school. She will be working with her teachers on the benchmarks. Teachers will have remediation plans based on student's strengths and weakness. Mrs. Gilbert will also work on career exploration. The state is requiring us to do this in the middle school. We will have a beginning and end of year growth assessment. Next year there will be 3, beginning, middle and end of the year. Third graders will test on 2nd grade SOLs. The test at the end of the year will be on 3rd grade SOLs. This will tell us where we need to remediate and how to move forward. We will also be doing the Fountas and Pinnell in a team format. A team has been put in place so we will have usable data. Benchmarks and power assessments – we will have quarterly data meetings.

At the High school we have some new CTE programs. Independent Living - 1st semester, Nutrition & wellness - 2nd semester and education for employment. New RTI program call WIN Time on Tuesday/Thursday after 1st block. Structured remedial time replaces Blues Academy. 8th grade will have growth assessments. SPED 504 plans are developed and revised annually and reassessed every 3 years. 504s are served in the general classroom. Gifted Education Plan – Pull-out at least once a week, push-in as time allows. All 3rd grade student will be tested at the beginning of the year. All 2nd grade students will be tested in the second semester. Gifted Advisory Committee will develop a new 5 year gifted

education plan. We will bring it to the Board for approval in January. PMHS and PMMS have already issued Chromebooks to every student. Working on getting cases for our Chromebooks for Enderly. We are talking about synchronous instruction. Students would log on at class time. Teachers can see them, and can monitor what they are doing on their computer. Attendance will be taken. Will be working with Ms. Cobb to develop a math plan at the High School.

Special Education/Nurse Report – Will be working on math SOLs. Made improvements in reading. I gave you special education in a nutshell. Shows requirements, time lines and testing. I included a list our SPED staff. I feel that we have a good staff. You will be presented with an applicant for Intervention Specialist position to approve tonight. Hoping to be able to hire a behavior specialist using ESSER III funds.

Nurse Report – Included the email Nurse Knick sent out to staff at the beginning of school. Going over protocols for COVID. She is very busy.

Transportation/Maintenance Report – Transportation – Running a total of 8 buses. 253 students ride the bus in the mornings. And 324 students ride the bus in the afternoon. Averages between 30-40 students per bus. In addition to that they are transporting 11 students to Rivermont, 2 students to BRAAC, 1 student to VSDB and 3 students to Dabney. Transportation is very busy. Transportation needs bus drivers and aides. So if you know anyone, send them Bucky's way. *Maintenance* is working on roof leak repairs at Kling. Southern Air was here today working on air conditioning issues at all schools. Additional electrical upgrades and cooling. *Nutrition* has served 410 breakfasts and 986 lunches during the first 2 days of school. Social Services states our average for the division free and reduced lunches is 55.35%. The breakdown by school is Enderly at 62.16%, Kling at 57.77%, Middle School at 52.94% and High School at 46.13%.

Dr. Francis – We had to replace a compressor at the High School right before school started. We have two units at Enderly that we are monitoring very closely. We had Southern Air come in and give us a quote on what it would cost to fix those. If we want to replace those units we will also need to do some electrical upgrades to make it happen. It's not a quick fix. We are hoping to make it through the fall as it seems to be more about the cooling portion of the units. The heater portion seems to be okay. If they were to go out, we do have a plan in place. We can use ESSER III funding if we need to replace the units with a split system.

Wayne Flint made a motion to go into Closed Session for the consideration and discussion of personnel matters as it relates to performance, appointments and resignations according to {State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (1)}. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Mac Felts made a motion to adjourn Closed Session. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Certification was read and the Board was polled.

Mr. Felts – yes

Mr. Roberts – yes

Mrs. Kerr – yes
Mr. Flint – yes
Ms. Ellison – yes

Lisa Kerr made a motion to hire Hannah Pruett as Intervention Design Specialist for BVCPS pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made a motion to hire Karlan Saunders as a part-time paraprofessional effective date of 8-27-2021. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Mac Felts made a motion that we approve Shannon Stiltner as a Substitute teacher effective 8-27-2021. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made a motion that we accept the resignation of Tammy Hickman as a Paraprofessional effective August 23, 2021. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 5-0 vote.

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

Meeting is adjourned.

Teresa R. Ellison
Teresa Ellison, Chair

09-23-2021
Date

Sandra Mohler
Sandra Mohler, Clerk

9/23/2021
Date