

**BUENA VISTA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD
BUENA VIST, VIRGINIA
MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.
August 25, 2022
W. P. RAMSEY EDUCATIONAL CENTER**

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

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

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

Presentations

COVID Sick Leave – Dr. Francis recommended the following for COVID leave. All employees will have 5 COVID days available if they need them if they or a dependent family member tests positive for COVID. In addition, an employee may request in writing for additional leave if they or dependent family member tests positive again. Request must be submitted to the Superintendent. Must provide a doctor excuse or a positive COVID home test result. Superintendent will approve or deny the request.

CTE Required Courses – Mike Gibson – Freshman Information Technology local graduation requirement. The program requires all freshman to take a basic technology fundamental course. The curriculum was enhanced by adding IC3 industry certification test, advanced 3D modeling and coding. It was designed to give students everything they need to know and entice students to take more CTE classes related to computers. We are finding out that the graduation requirement is putting our students at a disadvantage. This class does not count towards as a completer course. Making student take more classes in order to become a completer in business and computers. Most of our freshmen are not ready for the advanced 3D modeling and coding. The failure rate is pretty high, because of the IC3 certification test. Only 15 freshmen a year pass out of the entire freshmen class. Typically, students who take the IC3 test are juniors and seniors and who have taken 2 computer courses. Freshmen are taking the IC3 test after only 1 computer course. This is one reason they are struggling. Number of students taking information technology courses are down. I am asking the Board to revisit the local graduation requirement and remove it. The Information technology course will still be offered, but only students who are interested in this area will take the course. If the graduation requirement is removed, then this course can be counted as a completer course. This will also allow students a chance to take more CTE classes that are available. We would revise the plan with the DOE if the School Board decides to eliminate this requirement. This will help our students if we go back to the State requirements. State requirements are not as advanced as our local requirement. This will allow students who are interested information technology to take the courses over a period of time. The change would go into effect for the 2023-2024 school year, if the Board decides to remove this requirement.

Teacher Evaluation Plan – Gennifer Miller – Board has 2 copies of Evaluation System. One copy is the state version and the 2nd on is our plan. We changed Culturally responsive teaching and equitable practices to cultural competencies on pages 3, 7, 14, 37, 45, 51, 54, 76 and 81. On page 37, we also revised the modifiers to fit the needs of our division. Any questions, please reach out to Dr. Miller or myself.

Welcome of Visitors – Belinda Clark spoke concerning the dress code at the High School. She feels that the dress code is being too strictly enforced this year.

Dr. Francis – The dress code has not changed in the last 4 years. You can find a copy of it in the student handbook. Sweat pants, leggings are allowed. Dress lengths should fall mid-thigh. Maybe there is some misinformation out there. Pjs and bedroom slippers are not appropriate for school, except for special events through-out the year. We want to form a committee to review the dress code. Committee will include students, parents, teachers to decide if there should be some changes to the dress code. Dress code has not been a priority in the last 2 years. We want to hear the student’s voice. Maybe bring something to the Board in the Spring if there are major changes to the code.

Roy Mohler – A lot of misinformation out there so we need to get this information out to parents.

Dr. Francis – Dr. Jones will get this information our website and Facebook.

John Roberts – athletic shorts – you did not mention.

Dr. Jones – they have to be mid-thigh. Wind shorts are usually shorter and those are not allowed.

John Roberts – What are we doing until we form the committee and we have a plan?

Dr. Francis – Follow the dress as written. Because the things that were mentioned are allowed. Shorts and dress length need to be mid-thigh. If there are only some small changes to it, we could go ahead and begin now. It is a major change, then the Board would need to approve.

Sandra Fitzgerald – Please watch how students are approached concerning dress code issues.

Dr. Francis – dress code issues will be discussed in private.

Project Horizon representative – Mrs. Hatfield would like to be a member of the committee process. Dress codes usually gender focused on female clothing. Like to help make this dress code less gender focused.

Dr. Francis – Yes, we want to make sure it is a gender neutral policy.

Betty Coleman – disable students – feel that disable student should be allowed to wear pj bottoms.

Dr. Francis – the policy states “parents of students requiring accommodations for religious beliefs, disabilities, or other good causes should contact the principal.”

Consent Agenda

Wayne Flint made the motion to approved the consent agenda that includes the minutes from the July 28th, August 6th and August 11th meetings, payment of vendor payments and payroll. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by 6-0 vote.

Action Items

Approval of 2022-2023 School Opening Plan – Motion was made by Mac Felts to approve the VDH 2022-2023 School Opening Plan It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Approval of COVID Sick Leave – Motion was made by Wayne Flint to approve COVID Sick Leave as presented tonight. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Approval of Bonus Proposal – We will use Essser funds to cover the rest of staff bonus pay. Nutrition will fund their bonus pay. Bonus will be paid late November. Motion was made by Wayne Flint to approve the Bonus Proposal. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Informational Reports

Policy Committee Report- no policy updates at this time.

Finance Committee Report-met Tuesday to approve bills. We have spent 3% of our 22-23 budget. We also looked at the 21-20 budget and we should have \$56,199.16 left over. We are hoping to put this in our facility account pending final audit review.

Additional School Board Reports – Roy Mohler – Like to put in a sidewalk on the street leading down this hill at the high school. A lot of students are walking up and down the hill with no access to a sidewalk. Do we have any funds to provide this?

John Roberts – Who owns this street?

Dr. Francis – The city and state maintained road.

John Roberts – What are the requirements for a sidewalk?

Dr. Francis – I have a meeting with Mr. Tyree tomorrow and I will ask.

Superintendent's Report – Opening day went really well. Took a few days to get transportation squared away, but by Monday it was fine. Newspaper release some preliminary accreditation information. Dr. Miller will give you the final report at the September meeting. All of our schools are fully accredited. Staff worked really hard. Is it where we were before COVID? No, but staff worked really hard and students did show growth in the right direction. It is going to take more than a year to get us back to pre-pandemic numbers. We are heading in the right direction. I am proud of our students, parents, and staff on what they accomplished. We do need help in writing, but that was the case before COVID. We will focus on writing for the next 2-3 years. Newspaper showed the raw scores.

Instructional Report – Had 3 days of Administrative training in July. We reviewed handbooks and instruction. It was a good 3 days. Convocation and back to school went well. Professional development for staff also went well. Training for Frontline absentee management program. Vector training has been completed. Still working of the evaluation system. Working on having the system go live the day after the Sept. Board meeting. Evaluations will be done electronically now. Received a lot of useful information on school safety at the safety conference in July. Went to Richmond for monitoring training. We have 2 schools with level 2 monitoring. Discussed what would be involved if schools go to level 3. Tools we can use to be proactive and not get to level 3. Level 2 monitoring training coming up at the end of the month and is required by the DOE.

Special Education/Nurse Report – We have our first service dog at the high school this year. Guidelines will help us navigate through the process. Covers the service animal's training and handling. Copy is in your packet. Also included a copy of SPED annual performance report. We met all requirements. We have too many white students receiving speech services according to the DOE. We are required to set aside 15% of our SPED federal grant next year in order to provide coordinated early intervention services so we can reduce that number of students. Will introduce a new response intervention model. To work with those students who would not necessarily need special education services. Have a meeting in Richmond at the end of September to find out the details of usage for the 15%.

Nurse Report – Created a health workforce grant, which allowed us to hire another nurse. She will be housed at Kling. Getting software that will allow her to keep in touch with the VDH. Very busy with beginning of school data.

Transportation/Maintenance Report/HR Reports – Convocation was a huge success, like to thank Nutrition for providing the food. 2 days of new teacher orientation went well. I have been visiting new teachers to see how they are doing. Reports from the principal's say that everyone seems to be doing well. 1/3 of our new hires are PMHS graduates.

Nutrition –Salad bar has been implemented at the middle school. They received extra funding from the state this school year to be used on foods that are not processed. So each school is offering more fresh fruits and vegetables on a daily basis. Students are enjoying the variety of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Transportation – 659 students are riding the bus this year, it is the most riders in 5 years. Working on afternoon drop-offs. With Best starting, this will help with dropoffs.

Maintenance – Jimmy and Jeannie have been busy with different issues. Busy contacting contractors to get CIP projects done. Lowes is donating plants and items to landscape the area around the pavilion and Bobby Williams memorial at the field house. The locks have been installed at Enderly. All classroom doors now have the ability to be locked from the inside. Will are also installing new locks at Kling.

Wayne Flint made the motion to go into Closed Session for the consideration and discussion of personnel matters as it relates to performance, appointments, new hires, resignations and retirements according to {State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (1)} and for the discussion and consideration of student matters as it relates to religious exemption according to {State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (2)}. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by 6-0 vote.

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

Certification was read and the Board was polled.

Mr. Felts – yes

Mr. Roberts – yes

Mr. Flint - yes

Mr. Rice – yes

Mr. Mohler - yes

Ms. Ellison – yes

Motion was made by John Roberts that we accept the religious exemptions for the following students: 825-01; 825-02; 825-03; 825-04; 825-05; 825-06. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Mac Felts that we hire Kristin Spence as a Paraprofessional for the Buena Vista Public School system for the school year 2022-2023 subject to a successful background check. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion made by Mac Felts that we hire Emily Pyle as a teacher effective 8/25/2022 for the Buena Vista Public School system for the school year 2022-2023. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion to accept the resignation of Brittany Schindler from the Buena Vista Public School system effective 8/8/2022. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion to accept the retirement of Ralph Slagle, custodian at PMMS effective 9/30/2022. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

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

Teresa R. Ellison

Teresa Ellison, Chairman

9-22-2022

Date

Sandra Mohler

Sandra Mohler, Clerk

9/23/2022

Date