

**BUENA VISTA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD
BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
9:00 A.M.
JANUARY 14, 2023**

W. P. Ramsey Education Center

ATTENDANCE: School Board Members – Present: Teresa Ellison, John Rice, Mac Felts, Lisa Kerr, John Roberts. Absent: Roy Mohler (Family matter) and Wayne Flint (illness). Also present: Dr. Tony Francis, Gennifer Miller and Sandra Mohler.

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence were observed.

Following changes were made to the Agenda: Under Reorganization add Elect the Chair and Vice-Chair, committee appointments, meeting dates, approve the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. Also need to hold a closed session at the end of the meeting. Mac Felts made the motion to approve the amended Agenda including the changes mentioned. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

We dispense with the Welcome of Visitor as no one is present.

Dr. Francis opened the floor for nominations for Chair: John Rice nominated Teresa Ellison for School Board Chair. There were no other nominations and nominations were closed. Ms. Ellison accepted the nomination. Ms. Ellison was elected by a 5-0 vote. The meeting was turned over to Ms. Ellison.

The floor is open for nominations for Vice-Chair: Mac Felts nominated Lisa Kerr for School Board Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Kerr accepted and nominations were closed. Mrs. Kerr was elected by a 5-0 vote.

Dr. Francis recommended Sandra Mohler as the Clerk of the School Board and Sherrie Wheeler as Deputy Clerk of the School Board. Mac Felts made the motion to approve Sandra Mohler as Clerk and Sherrie Wheeler as Deputy Clerk. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 5-0 vote.

John Roberts made the motion to keep Policy, Finance and School Board Meetings at the same times and dates. Finance – 4th Tuesday at 5:00; School Board Meeting – 4th Thursday at 6:00; Policy Meetings to be held as needed. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Appointments:

Governor School Representative – Teresa Ellison

VSBA Delegates – Teresa Ellison and Lisa Kerr as the alternate

Finance Committee – Wayne Flint, Chair, John Rice and Mac Felts

Policy Committee – Lisa Kerr, Roy Mohler and John Roberts

Construction Committee – Mac Felts and Roy Mohler with John Roberts as an alternate.

Mac Felts made the motion to amend the Agenda to add an action item for the VSBA Code of Conduct for School Board Members and VSBA Code of Conduct for Clerks. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion to approve the adoption of the VSBA Code of Conduct for School Board Members and Clerks. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

School Board Retreat

Budget Update and priorities

State funding looks like we will receive an increase but most will be a one time funding.

State has a 2.8 billion surplus

Governor wants to cut taxes for corporations and businesses

Maybe some funding for teacher pay, and restore the support cap funding that was cut in 2008. Would add around \$200,000 for us for personnel.

Lottery funding: Four casinos scheduled to be up and running by 2024. Revenue projections are around \$260 million. \$200 million per year is slated to go towards school construction. In two years the State will start funding school construction. This could impact Buena Vista. The state will have to come up with a plan on how to distribute the funds.

No VRS increase.

Projections are for negative growth for the next 2 years about 3%.

1.9 million is required from the City. The City has been reducing school funding for several years.

City does not agree with how we are spending our money.

Priorities: Complete the pay bands for 20+ years.

Health insurance – We are in the black. BPA said to use a 7% increase for a preliminary figure, but it could be less. ESSER funds could be used to help offset the increase.

School Board members and the Superintendent should start attending City Council meetings.

We would like to adjust some of the expenditure lines to make it easier to complete the annual report in the fall.

Calendar Survey:

Requests for more early dismissal days for teacher planning.

Easter and spring break will be a challenge this coming year. Might have to combine them together.

Majority want to start school on a Wednesday. 20% want to start after Labor Day. We have 17 snow days left in this year's calendar. If we don't use any snow days, we could end the school year earlier or add in some early dismissal days. Need to have 990 hours of instruction. New calendar is built on 178 days of instruction.

CIP update:

We have made some progress on our list. Construction money is nice and helps, but you cannot do a lot. The HVAC at Enderly will cost \$130,000. Putting in mini-split units. Hard to find parts for the existing system. All classrooms will be on the split units and you will not need a boiler or chiller. Hope to complete this project by summer of 2024. You can take the split units with you if you leave the building. Mobile classroom at Kling will be done by this summer. Fence has been ordered and the lift will be completed this spring and summer for Enderly.

Construction Grant update:

Received 1.2 million – projects using construction funds include the following:

The fence at Enderly, the lifts at Enderly, Intrado system (panic button), the camera system at the high school, mobile repairs at Kling. Planning on spending \$600,000 this yr. and will have \$600,000 left for 2023-2024 school year. Has to be spent by 6/30/2024. The camera system is wonderful. Mr. Roberts

would like to see better lighting at the middle school on the 24th Street side at the gym. Will add it to the CIP list. Working on getting the Field House back in shape.

Workforce Center in Buena Vista:

Mountain Gateway notified us that classes are scheduled to begin January 2024. They have funding and would like to speak with the Board this July. Will give you a better timeline. They are hoping to have all renovations done by January, 2024. This will provide a huge advantage for our students. I am hoping it will go through that the State will start funding dual enrollment classes. This would free up funding in our budget.

ESSER III moving forward:

ESSER III funds will end September 2024. There will be no extensions. This will not be a problem for us. If next May, we have ESSER III money left we can use it several ways. We could provide a bonus to employees or pay towards our health insurance to help build up our reserves.

FOIA and COIA training:

Every Board member needs to complete both FOIA & COIA training this year. Training is every 2 years. I included the links for both trainings on email with the agenda. You can stop by the office and complete the training as we have a spare computer you can use. Please send me a copy of the certification at the end of the training. Or send me an email stating you have completed the training and the date it was completed.

Statement of Economic Interest forms need to be turned in by January 31, 2023 or you will have to pay a \$250 fine.

Mr. Rice had a concern about the street at the High School. Water in the road. This is a City issue and Dr. Francis has discussed this with Mr. Tyree. The City will put in a drain this summer. We also received a grant from VDOT to put in a sidewalk at the high school. VDOT will fund the project and take care of everything.

Mac Felts made the motion to 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 John Rice and passed by 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mac Felts to adjourn Closed Session. It was seconded by John Rice 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. Rice – yes

Ms. Ellison – yes

Lisa Kerr made the motion to hire Allison Coleman as a Paraprofessional in Buena Vista City Public Schools pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

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

Teresa R. Ellison
Teresa Ellison, Chairman

02-23-2023
Date

Sandra Mohler
Sandra Mohler, Clerk

2/23/2023
Date