

**BUENA VISTA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD
BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA
MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.**

February 1, 2023

W. P. Ramsey Education Center

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence were observed. Mac Felts made the motion to approve the Agenda. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Recognitions

Like to recognize Ashley Davis as our new Administrative Assistant.

Senior of the Month will be recognized at the next meeting.

Employee of the Month

Mike Cartolaro

Presentations

2023-2024 Superintendent Annual Goals – Provide updates to the Strategic Plan in June. By June 30, 2023 develop and put into effect a competitive salary structure in order to keep qualified teaching staff. Classified staff salary scales will be modified by June 30, 2024. Continue to meet State accreditation requirements. Improve reading and writing scores annually. By Jan 2024 we will have a social emotional support program in place to assist students with issues that impact their academic progress. Dr. Francis will continue to work with the School Board, City Manager, City Council, DOE and community stakeholders to develop a plan to fund a school construction project that meets the needs of Buena Vista City 2023-2026. Need to move the 6 & 7th grades out of the Middle School.

2023-2024 Calendar

The calendar committee put the calendar together based on the survey results from staff. There are 2 options to choose from - Draft A and B. Draft A is similar to this year's calendar. School year will begin on Aug 16th and end on May 30th. Parent/Teacher conferences in November and February. Three days for Thanksgiving. Winter break starts December 20th and ends on January 2nd with a teacher workday on January 3rd. March 29th is Easter holiday. Spring break is April 1 – 5th. Added 3 early dismissal days on the day before each break. Draft B – begins August 16th and ends May 30th. Parent/Teacher conferences in November and February. Three day break at Thanksgiving. Differences are – winter break begins December 20th and ends on January 1st, with a teacher workday on January 2nd. Spring break - March 18 – 22nd. Easter break would be March 29th and April 1st. 1 pm dismissals before winter break, spring break

and the last day of school. Staff will vote for the calendar of their choice and I will inform you of their choice at the next meeting.

Welcome of Visitors – High School PAC Representative-very thankful for the SB's support of students, staff and substitute teachers to help staff. Grateful for the new security system at the High School. Thanked the School Board for their help and support.

Mrs. Wheelock-parent – Thank you for reviewing the salaries and benefits for teachers. Like to see the trees along the back of the baseball, football and softball fields trimmed. Need to level the softball field. Like to see an awning added for the outdoor space. Need to paint the parking lot. Like to thank everyone for the great response during the lockdown.

Mike Cartolaro – We are going to address the issue of the trimming of the trees in the next 6-7 weeks. Plan to clean up the area around the fields. Gravel the area from the dugout out to the right field and back to the maintenance road. Clear out the weeds, move bleachers down to the right field line for baseball. Fix drain issues and level both the softball and baseball fields.

Consent Agenda

John Rice made the motion to approve the consent agenda that includes Minutes from the 12-8-2022 Regular Board Meeting, vendor and payroll payments. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Actions Items

MOU Sheriff's Office – It was posted for 30 days and received no comments. They can do drug searches, but it has to be coordinated with Dr. Francis. Mac Felts made the motion to approve the MOU Sheriff's Office agreement. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Informational Items

Policy Committee Report – No policy updates at this time.

Finance Committee Report – Finance Committee met on the 24th, to approve bills and payroll. We are 50% through the budget year and we have only spent 39% of our budget.

Additional School Board Reports – John Roberts wanted to commend the community, police, our staff and students for the handling of the threat to the community last Thursday. It was done well, I heard no complaints. We need to keep trying to get a k-7 building on the same campus as the High School, because of the simple fact of what happened last week. We spread our law enforcement resources thin because of our 4 buildings being in different locations. My other fear is this incident happened a few blocks from our most unsafe school because of its construction. It is our duty to make sure we do everything we can to provide the best facility for our students. This made me realize that we need to do more. It was an outstanding job by everyone involved.

Superintendent's Report - We need to change the March School Board meeting and the Finance meeting because of Spring Break. My recommendation is to hold the School Board meeting on Mar 28th and the Finance Meeting on March 27th. The Budge would be sent to the City by March 31, 2023.

Update on the incident last Thursday. Everyone did a fantastic job, they made it work. The staff did what they needed to do. All students were picked up by 4:15. This happened close to our most difficult school

to ensure safety because of its design and location along 501. Contractors have started installing the fence at Enderly, which will help. Law enforcement worked very well with us, kept us informed, and we made decisions together. Central office staff did a great job, everyone pitched in. Communication was key.

Mrs. Ellison – By working together it gives us more resources for help.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to hear from the Principals.

Dr. Jones – High School – Commends the parents on how fast they came to pick up their kids after the message was sent out. It was outstanding. The response from the community was great in how they handled all the changes.

Dr. Clark – Kling - We had art and PE, the kids did not know what was going on. The biggest challenge was releasing the kids that afternoon. All kids were picked up within an hour after parents received the message. All of my staff joined to help get the kids to their parents. I commend the parents for their response.

Dr. Nicely – Enderly – Being in the center of the situation and having a military background, I had a different mindset. I was super impressed with my staff and their response. It was very important that I didn't tell the students what was going on. We were able to keep the kids inside and keep them busy. Told the kids that police were inspecting the school. You could see the dogs searching the grounds. I had a Sheriff come up to me and said this school is terrible to defend. Through it all my kids did not know what was going on. I had parents call and thank me that their kids were not scared all day. We were able to do this and maintain security and safety. I had kids come to me and ask "Can we do that again?" One thing I thought that went beautifully was the communication. It is good to keep communication to a minimum so people can do their job. Every time I called the School Board, someone answered. I thought the whole process worked. I told my staff that I was proud of the job they did and their willingness to help. It turned out to be a great day, the kids loved it. Want everyone to realize what a wonderful job everyone did from top to bottom. I did not have any complaints, and that is rare. Kids were picked up in under an hour. When I told the kids they would be going home by car, they started crying. So you can imagine what the reaction would have been if I had told them what was going on. Transportation helped take 5 kids home that needed a ride home.

Mrs. Gilbert – Middle School – Everything went smoothly. I was surprised the most when a parent called when they heard shelter in place. She wanted to come and pick up her child. I appreciate the fact that they trusted us to keep their children safe and take care of them.

Ashley Davis – I would like to commend Dr. Francis for his actions. Being new I knew nothing. He kept me informed and I was able to communicate with parents.

Ms. Ellison – I always said Buena Vista is an amazing place. When there is adversity people come together and do what needs to be done. This is an example of that.

Mr. Roberts – This was an unplanned event and it went so smoothly. Great Job!

Instructional Report – I have been working with Dr. Jones and the history staff to get a history curriculum in place. Also working with Dr. Nicely, Mrs. Gilbert and staff to put in place a history curriculum in their schools. Math seems to be pretty solid across the division. We'll be looking at English once the DOE approves the curriculum. We had Title I, IV and III monitoring last month. We survived! We have some things to work on but it went well. Working with Robin Williams and Sherrie Wheeler to set up Frontline Central. This is the hub where we will do contract and HR electronically. DARE graduation on February 20th at Enderly went well. Finals for the Spelling Bee will be tomorrow at the middle school. The winner will go to the Roanoke district regional event. Working on family engagement with administrators. Starting on the mid-year data on Feb 7th. We have been having some conversations about Kling. They are out-growing their space. Talks about how to handle this. One thought was to move 2nd grade to Enderly. Head Start TAP at Enderly will move to Kling. We have a couple of teachers who want to move to Enderly next year. We would not have to displace any teachers from Kling. Right now students are having speech services on the stage while kids are eating. Not good. Need a self-contained classroom for Kling and this move would accomplish this. This move would clear up 4 classrooms at Kling. TAP would move to Kling, and leave 3 classrooms for other usage. 2nd grade would move to the 1st level at Enderly.

Mac Felts-Has enrollment increased? Because when we were trying to design the new school, the City said we were building it for too many students as the student population was decreasing.

Lisa Clark – They had incorrect data.

Mac Felts – This is a very important factor.

Lisa Clark – We start in January, making calls to determine how many kids will be attending in the fall.

Roy Mohler- You have to do what needs to be done to make space better for the students.

But we would be moving kids to the most unsecure building we have. Recommend more full-time police officers at Enderly.

Dr. Francis – Terry Martin is going to submit another grant for a SRO for Enderly. The fence will be in place soon. The SSO that we have for approval tonight is a former SRO. We need to do everything we can to provide a safe environment.

Dr. Miller – Change is always hard, so communication will be key.

Mac Felts-Do we have any numbers on homeschooling?

Sherrie Wheeler-The majority of homeschooling students are at the elementary level.

Mac Felts – With a new facility, we could get some of these students back.

John Roberts- Can Enderly handle 79 more students? Dr. Nicely said Enderly has the whole first level-6 classrooms available. We also have a couple classrooms available on the 2nd and 3rd levels. We could handle 79 or more if needed. Will need to prep the classrooms if this is going forward.

John Roberts-Is is going to be permanent, it's not going to be a 2-5-year fix and then revisit it again?

Dr. Francis-Only other move would be if we built a new school.

SPED/Nurse Report

You have a copy of my report and there are no changes to it. Does anyone have any questions?

Enrollment is going down. We would like to add a 2nd nurse? Nurses will present a snapshot of their day at the next board meeting.

Nutrition/Transportation/Maintenance/HR Report

Nutrition-Have purchased new equipment for all 4 schools. Received a \$11,000 grant to purchase fresh vegetables & fruits. They will have a federal review for the BEST program, Nutrition provides BEST with snacks.

Maintenance-Still waiting on a motor for the gate on 23rd street. A few staff members will have a remote to open and close the gate. Mini splits for Enderly have been approved by Dr. Francis. Started the fence at Enderly.

Transportation-240 students ride the bus in the morning. 466 students ride the bus in the afternoon. And 36 students ride the bus for the BEST program.

HR Report-We are presenting 2 former retired police officers for the SSO positions. One will go to the High School and one will go to Enderly. We are also presenting the last custodian position tonight. We will be fully staffed now. We are advertising for positions for next year in the newspaper.

Mac Felts 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)} It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 6-0 vote.

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

The Certification was read and the Board was polled:

Mr. Felts – yes

Mr. Roberts – yes

Mrs. Kerr – yes

Mr. Rice – yes

Mr. Mohler – yes

Ms. Ellison – yes

Lisa Kerr made the motion that we hire Hannah Bouchelle as a Long Term Substitute in Buena Vista City Public Schools effective January 30, 2023 pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made the motion that we hire Cheryl Wright as a Custodian effective January 30, 2023 pending satisfactory background check. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion that we hire Douglas Hamilton as an SSO effective February 13, 2023, in Buena Vista City Public School System subject to a favorable background check. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion that we hire Chris Wheeler as an SSO effective February 23, 2023 in Buena Vista City Public School System subject to a favorable background check. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion that we hire Zachary Higgins as a JV Assistant Coach effective Spring 2023 subject to a favorable background check. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion that we hire Tabitha Julian as a Nutrition worker effective February 6, 2023 pending a favorable background check. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made the motion to appoint Troy Royer from a part-time Bus Driver to full-time effective January 30, 2023. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made the motion to approve the Spring Coaches Roster, no background check necessary. It was seconded by Roy Mohler and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Lisa Kerr made the motion that we accept the resignations for Jessica Hayes, Moira Miller and Karen Walker from Buena Vista City Public School System effective June 30, 2023. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Roy Mohler and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Teresa R. Ellison

Teresa Ellison, Chairman

02-23-2023

Date

Sandra Mohler

Sandra Mohler, Clerk

2/23/2023

Date