

**BUENA VISTA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD
BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA
MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.
February 23, 2023**

W. P. Ramsey Education Center

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

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

Agenda needs to be amended to add item D under presentations – Verkada Camera System. Mac Felts made the motion to approve the Agenda as amended. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Recognitions

Carli Camden is February’s Senior of the Month.

February’s Employee of the Month will be recognized at the next meeting.

VSBA Certificates were presented to each School Member in honor of School Board Appreciation Month. VSBA Certificates were also presented to the School Board Clerk and Deputy Clerk in honor of Clerk’s Appreciation week.

Writing Contest winners: Lexington Women’s Club Writing Contest - were Ivy Talley placed 3rd, Becca Hansen placed 1st and Anileese Mahaffey placed 2nd.

Presentations

Budget Update – Set up a budget work session. There are 3 budgets – the Governor’s, the House and the Senate Budget. We based our budget on the Governor’s budget. Governor’s Budget has a 5% raise. The House and Senate has additional money and a 7% raise. Finished the pay band for 20+ years based on 5% pay increase.

Mac Felts – Does the budget include a request for additional funding.

Dr. Francis – I will ask for additional funding from the City for Salaries. The State funding only covers teachers and does not cover everyone else.

John Roberts – Does the pay band increase need City funding?

Dr. Francis – That is funded through State funds.

John Roberts – So it seems promising that we will get the pay bands completed?

Dr. Francis – yes as the pay bands are #1 priority. Insurance went up 5.4%, 10% increase for natural gas and electric, increase other maintenance lines by 10%. School materials and supplies will increase by 7%. Increase our paper expenses by 15%. These are some things that may need help with funding from the City – additional school nurse, restore the guidance position, need to hire a part-time ELL teacher, which

is a state requirement. Looking to add a media specialist at the elementary level as required by the state. We are about \$150,000 short from the Governor's Budget.

2022-2023 Calendar Adjustment – Like to add April 11th as a holiday. April 21st will become a teacher workday. May 26th, 30th and 31st as early release days. Last day of school will be May 31st. June 1st as a teacher workday.

2nd Grade Possible Move to Enderly – Dr. Miller and Dr. Nicely

Move 2nd grade from Kling due to overcrowding to Enderly for 2023 – 2024. Instructional reasons include – 2nd grade can plan with 3rd grade SOLs. 2nd grading scale is the same as the 3rd grade. Allow us to put all of the preschool grades together in one building. Operational advantages are not enough room at Kling. Speech will have a classroom – it's now being taught on the stage while other students are having lunch. Have a need for a self-contained room at Kling and don't have room for it now. This is a good time because of the upcoming change in administrative personnel. Staff movement to Enderly is volunteer bases. No one will be moved against their will. This will also allow 2nd grade to participate in the Best After School Program. Will need to have 4 teachers, 2 aides, and 1 pal's aide.

Dr. Nicely – Want to keep 2nd grade apart from the 5th grade. 2nd grade classes will be on the 1st level, which separates them from the rest of the kids. Make it easier for them to get to cafeteria, and classrooms. We are required by law to schedule 25 minutes for lunch. I have already talked to the cafeteria staff about this. Each grade level will get the cafeteria to themselves for 30 minutes. Keeps down interaction between grade levels. There will be 2 – 3 lunch monitors during lunch at all times. Have to work with Transportation about the bus routes. Set up special schedule – allows teachers to have a 45-minute planning block and give them time to co-plan together. They will either have specials in the morning and recess in the afternoon or recess in the morning and specials in the afternoon. Safety issues – Enderly now has a full time SSO. He fits in really well with us. Working on getting a 2nd officer which can work on the other levels. New 8 ft. fence has been installed. Privacy fence on the 501 side. Will be able to lock out people if needed. Getting radios for all staff so we can communicate with each other without everyone hearing. This will also help with the 2nd grade on the lower level.

John Roberts – Has anyone looked at the increased traffic?

Dr. Francis – That has been taken care of with the fence. We have moved some parking spaces down to the lower parking lot, which will leave more space for the buses and parent's cars to get through easier. You will notice the increased traffic in the afternoons with pick up. We will have to monitor and make some adjustments if necessary if it becomes a problem. Dr. Nicely has already changed the pickup procedures. It is now faster and runs smoothly. Dr. Nicely – Will change the traffic pattern by moving the parking spaces, so the cars will align with the sidewalk and kids will not have to walk between cars. There will be no blind sides. The buses now do not come into the circle, they stay on the road and kids are unloaded first. This allows the buses to get in and out faster and does not slow down other traffic. This will take some time to get things going, talking to staff. Will need to educate parents on the process and explain things. Technology will have a lot to do to get the classrooms set up.

Dr. Francis – Dr. Nicely will have meetings with staff, parents and kids to get feedback.

Verkada Camera System – Alex - demonstrated the new camera system installed at the High School for the Board. Showing what the system is capable of doing. We would like to add this system in the elementary schools through the security grant. This provides the next level of security. It can notify

administrators if a camera stops working. It is fully functional at the High School now. Includes vape detectors. Shows where all cameras are located in the building. Motion detectors – especially good at night to alert administrators while at home. Has facial recognition. Create a profile of sex offenders and people who should not be on school grounds. The system will notify school officials if they are on the grounds or at the front entry. Prevent problems. Cloud based system. We can allow the police access to the system if an active shooter event should occur. Can store footage for an unlimited time. Can remotely open doors and close them. Can see where people have been in the building. Can set up places people don't need to be, can go back and review who was in the area. Set up access for teachers and subs so they can get into the building. Push a button to lock down the school. Air quality alerts and alarms. Also has license plate recognition. Morgan Henderson as School Resource Officer has already added profiles of people who should not be on the school campus. It is a very impressive system. Cuts down on the time looking for footage.

Dr. Jones – it's very quick and we are still learning, but it has already helped. Staff can also see what is going on at the High School through their phones.

Welcome of Visitors – no comments.

Consent Agenda

Mac Felts made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda that includes Minutes from the 1-14-2023 Reorganization/Retreat Meeting and 2-1-2023 Regular Board Meeting, vendor and payroll payments. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Actions Items

2023-2024 Academic Calendar – 80% of staff preferred Draft B with a request of an additional day (Jan 2nd) for Christmas Break and make Jan 3rd as a teacher workday. Mac Felts made the motion to approve Draft B of 2023-2024 Academic Calendar with modifications of extending Winter Break. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Budget Public Hearing – Re-schedule March School Board and Finance Meetings – Hold Public Hearing on March 28th at 5:00 pm and School Board Meeting at 6:00 pm and Finance Meeting on March 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm. Mac Felts made the motion to hold the Public Hearing on March 28, 2023 at 5:00; School Board Meeting at 6:00 pm and Finance Meeting on March 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Budget Work Session – March 9, 2023 at 6:00 pm. John Rice made the motion to hold the Budget Work Session on March 9, 2023 at 6:00 pm. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

2022-2023 Calendar Adjustments – Mac Felts made the motion to approve the adjustments to the 2022-2023 Calendar as presented earlier. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Informational Items

Policy Committee Report – No policy updates at this time. They sent out some explanations of what School Board Members need to know about special education law and what they should expect in that area as part of their school board service.

Finance Committee Report – Finance Committee met this past Tuesday to approve bills and payroll. We are 54% through the budget year and we have spent 46% of our budget.

Additional School Board Reports –No additional reports.

Student Representative Report – Baylee Slagle gave the Student Representative report on the activities going on at the High School as related to academic, athletics and events.

Superintendent's Report – No additional information at this time. Has gone over everything in his presentations.

Instructional Report – Completed all of the mid-year meetings. Putting in a new library system called Destiny. We had a situation where a child at Kling checked out a book that was not appropriate. This book has been removed. Will enter all parents' email and when a child checks out a book an email is sent to the parent letting them know what the child is checking out. So if they have a problem with the book they will notify the school. We are looking throughout the library inventory to make sure we have nothing else in our libraries that should not be there. Looking to replace Performance Matters with Master Connect. Plan to get feedback from teachers. Master Connect is our testing platform. Has all of our benchmark assessments. Aligns with the Virginia SOLs, teachers can create their own test banks. It is user friendly.

Presentation for history and science curriculum for grades k-8. They deal with only Virginia SOLs. It will be a digital subscription. We are waiting on ELA, and cannot really do anything with English until the State approves the standards.

SPED Report/Nurse Report

You have a copy of my report and there are no changes to it. I will have my Annual Plan ready for the March meeting.

Nurse Report – There have been a lot of mandates, requirements and reports that have increased the demand on Nurse Kelly. The School Nurses provided a list of their daily duties they perform. They are always busy. The grant for the 2nd school nurse ends in May and because of the high demand in taking care of student's needs, it's impossible for one nurse to cover the entire division. They have a very heavy work load. Showed the need for 2 full time nurses to cover the workload.

HR Report- SSO will be trained in March. I will be doing a Teacher recruitment at Radford tomorrow.

Maintenance- Busy working on the capital improvement plan. Getting a lot of things taken care of.

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 John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

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

The Certification was read and the Board was polled:

Mr. Felts – yes

Mr. Roberts – yes

Mr. Rice – yes

Mr. Mohler – yes

Ms. Ellison – yes

Mac Felts made the motion that we hire Lilian Eskelsen as a Substitute effective March 1, 2023, Gracy Darrington as a Substitute effective March 1, 2023 and Angie Burroughs as a Substitute effective March 1, 2023 all subject to a successful background check. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion that we hire James Emore II as an Assistant Softball Coach effective Spring, 2023 subject to a successful background check. It was seconded by Roy Mohler and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion that we accept the Retirement of Rad Patterson PE Teacher and Coach effective June 30, 2023. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion that we accept the Resignations of Jenny Bingham effective February 24, 2023, Heather Dobbins effective June 30, 2023, Hilda Radick effective June 2, 2023, Cheryl Wright effective February 9, 2023, Sadona Schley effective March 3, 2023 and Amber Carter effective February 20, 2023. It was seconded by John Rice and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Roy Mohler made the motion that we appoint Jeremiah Brockenbrough as the Varsity Head Football Coach for the 2023-2024 School Year. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed by a 5-0 vote.

John Rice made the motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Roy Mohler and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Teresa Ellison

Teresa Ellison, Chairman

3-28-2023

Date

Sandra Mohler

Sandra Mohler, Clerk

3/28/2023

Date