

BUENA VISTA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA

Minutes

September 28, 2023

W. P. Ramsey Education Center

ATTENDANCE: School Board Members – Present: Teresa Ellison, John Rice, John Roberts, Wayne Flint, Mac Felts and Roy Mohler. Absent - Lisa Kerr-work related. Also present: Dr. Tony Francis, Dr. Gennifer Miller, Addisen Roberts and Sandra Mohler.

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

Need to amend the Agenda to add Presentation E - Girls Basketball trip out of State. Mac Felts made the motion to approve the Agenda including the additional Presentation E. It was seconded by Wayne Flint passed with a 6-0 vote.

RECOGNITIONS

2023-2024 - Student Representatives - Sydney Mahaffey, Evan Cook and Addisen Roberts

September Senior of the Month – Kovyk Chandler

September Employee of the Month – Jeremiah Brockbenbrough

VSBA School Board Awards – Award of Recognition: Wayne Flint, Mac Felts and Dr. Francis

Award of Distinction: Teresa Ellison

PRESENTATION:

Budget Update – All in Virginia Plan, this is the Governor’s initiative to help offset learning loss during COVID. We are slated to receive \$515,015. We have 2 years to spend these funds. Three main categories: High intensity tutoring, address chronic absenteeism and Virginia Literacy Act. We plan to compensate our teachers and hire outside personnel to assist with the tutoring. We will spend around 60% the first year. We are looking to hire two attendance specialists, who will work with families to get students to school. The State will allow us to let students come in to reduce time missed. This could mean the student comes to school before, after, Saturdays or on workdays to be used to reduce the number of absences. Any student who misses 17 or more days is considered chronically absent no matter the excuse. Virginia Literacy Act – we plan to purchase the curriculum needed for this program. A 2% raise will go into effect January 1, 2024. Received additional funding for the support cap. This will be used to support a 2% raise for all employees. We will bring a detailed plan for our October meeting.

Accreditation Report – All of our schools are accredited. The High School is accredited with conditions because of chronic absenteeism. Enderly is under an accreditation waiver, which is a good thing. PMMS is good but has level 2 chronic absenteeism. Board member Mac Felts wanted to know if we know why there is chronic absenteeism at the high school? Dr. Jones – several reasons – Coming out of COVID, kids are getting used to coming back to school and parents are taking kids out of school more (vacation). Every absence counts against them. Most high schools across the state are having the same problem. BVCPs ranks 59th out of 132 schools in the state. We have been steadily moving up the ranks.

New Administrator Evaluation Tool – You have a copy of the handbook. We will use this to evaluate principals. This evaluation is also used to evaluate Administrators and Teachers. Contact Dr. Miller or Dr. Francis if you have any questions.

Calendar Update/Graduation – Want to move the parent/teacher conferences on Nov 2nd to Nov 3rd from 8 to 12. Graduation will be held at VMI. Need to determine if graduation will be held on Friday night or Saturday morning. Dr. Jones and his staff would like graduation to be held on Friday night. Students were ½ for Friday night and ½ for Saturday morning.

Girls Basketball Trip – Out of State and overnight trip to Gatlinburg, TN. Playing a basketball tournament on Dec 20th, 21st and 22nd. Leave on Dec 16th. Right now 8 girls are going. Vans will be used to transport students. Transportation has vans available. The estimated cost was based on 11 girls going. They will be staying at a cabin that accommodates 22 people. It has 6 bedrooms and baths. We plan to go to Dollywood for 2 days, and attend a dinner show. Someone donated money to cover the cost to attend Dollywood and the dinner show. Total cost of the trip is \$11,786. We have \$10,800 in our account, which leaves a difference of \$900. We are applying for tax exemption from TN, which will reduce the cost of the cabin by \$1000. With this cost saving, we will have enough money to cover the entire cost of the trip.

Mac Felts made a motion to add the Girls Basketball trip to the agenda as an Action Item. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Welcome of Visitors – no comments.

Consent Agenda

Wayne Flint made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda that included Minutes from the August 24, 2023 Regular School Board Meeting, vendor and payroll bills. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Action Items

- A. Calendar Update/Graduation – Mac Felt made the motion to approve the parent teacher conference on Nov 3rd and that graduation will be held at VMI on Friday, May 31, 2024 at 7:30. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed with a 6-0 vote.
- B. New Administrator’s Evaluation Tools – Wayne Flint made the motion to approve the New Administrator’s Evaluation Handbook. It was seconded by John Rice and passed with a 6-0 vote.
- C. Girls Basketball Trip – Mac Felts made the motion to approve the Girls basketball trip to Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, TN on Dec 16 to 23rd, 2023. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Informational Items

- A. Policy Committee Report – no policy updates
- B. Finance Committee Report – Committee met Tuesday and approved all vendor and payroll bills. We are 17% through the school year and we have spent 10% of the budget.

- C. Additional School Board Reports – no additional comments
- D. Student Representative Report – Band competition at Star City Classic and successful competition at Stuarts Draft and Rockbridge Showcase. Class officers have been decided. Academic Awards coming up on Nov 6th. Esports is fast becoming the most popular club. 199 students taking CTE classes.
- E. Superintendent Report – Need to schedule the School Board and Finance Meeting for Nov/Dec. My recommendation is December 7th and Finance Meeting on Dec 5th. Events – One Book one Event on Nov 2nd, is turning out to be a community event. Academic Awards on Nov 9th.
- F. Instruction Report – All in Learning - State is requiring anyone who did not pass the SOLs to receive 5 hours of tutoring a week. 10 to 1 ratio. Students with a score of 400 to 450 to receive 3 hours a week tutoring. Working with principals to set up a plan. Once the state approves the curriculum for k-8 we will purchase the necessary VLA curriculum. New digital signs will be installed at Enderly and Kling using Title 1 funds. Schools received safety training with police. You each have a copy of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.
- G. Special Education/Nurse Report – a copy of both reports are in your packet. We have been notified that we will have a Federal Monitoring in 2024. Our speech intervention program has been reduced from 49 to 29 students.
- H. Nutrition/Transportation/Maintenance/HR Reports – A list of Maintenance duties is in your packet. Blues Foundation unveiled the print they are selling for the 100-year anniversary. A Framed print will be presented to the City Council at their Oct 5th meeting.

John Roberts made the motion for Closed Session for the consideration and discussion of personnel matters as it related to Superintendent’s contract extension, performance, appointments, new hires, resignations, and retirements according to {State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (1)}. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed with a 6-0 vote.

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

The 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

John Roberts made the motion to hire Jon Rad Patterson as a Substitute Teacher effective October 1, 2023 and Leslie Royer as a Substitute Teacher effective October 1, 2023. It was seconded by John Rice and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion to hire Amelia Ditzel as a Part-time ELL Teacher effective September 12, 2023 subject to a successful background check. It was seconded by Roy Mohler and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion to hire Allie Moss as a long term Substitute effective September 11, 2023 subject to a successful background check. It was seconded by John Rice and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion to hire Trinity Zollman as a paraprofessional effective October 1, 2023 subject to a successful background check. It was seconded by John Rice and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion to hire Kenneth Jason Camden as a Custodian effective September 1, 2023 subject to a successful background check. It was seconded by John Rice and passed with a 6-0 vote.

John Roberts made the motion to hire James Sensabaugh as a Substitute Nurse effective October 1, 2023 with a successful background check. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed with a 6-0 vote.

John Roberts made the motion to accept Troy Owens, Jr. as a Volunteer for the Football team effective October 1, 2023 with a successful background check. It was seconded by Mac Felts and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mac Felts made the motion that the PMHS coaching roster for winter sports including Talen Roberts and Keaton Loughhead each require a successful background check. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed with a 5-0 vote. John Roberts abstained from the vote.

John Roberts made the motion that the Buena Vista City School Board approve the contract of Dr. Anthony H. Francis to continue as Superintendent. The contract is effective beginning July 1, 2023 and will be terminated June 30, 2026. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Voice Roll call vote as follows:

- Mr. Felts – yes
- Mr. Roberts – yes
- Mr. Flint – yes
- Mr. Rice – yes
- Mr. Mohler – yes
- Ms. Ellison – yes

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

Teresa Ellison
Teresa Ellison, Chairman

10-26-2023
Date

Sandra Mohler
Sandra Mohler, Clerk

10/26/2023
Date