

**BUENA VISTA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD**  
**BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA**  
**Minutes**  
**January 24, 2024**

**W. P. Ramsey Education Center**

**ATTENDANCE: School Board Members** – Present: Teresa Ellison, Roy Mohler, Wayne Flint, John Roberts, Paula Charlton and Lisa Kerr (remote participation). Absent: John Rice – illness. 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.

Wayne Flint made the motion to allow Lisa Kerr to participate in the meeting remotely. It was seconded by Paula Charlton and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Roy Mohler made the motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Paula Charlton and passed with a 6-0 vote.

**RECOGNITIONS**

Senior of the Month – Leyla Guevara

Employee of the Month – Mike Gibson

New Teacher Spotlight – Zach Fowler, Grace Bieglar, Mary Elizabeth Armentrout and Gabby Clark

**Presentations:**

**Budget Update/Work session** – Dr. Francis went over the staff budget survey results. Majority of staff would like to see a cost of living increase, getting the pay bands in line with the surrounding area, no increase in employee insurance premiums and additional staff. Budget goals are providing cost of living raise, move some Esser positions into the budget, maintain the cost of insurance at the current rate, increase instructional materials by 7%. We will have a draft of the budget at the Feb 21<sup>st</sup> meeting based on the Governor's budget. Like to schedule a budget work session on March 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. I will be happy to meet with any board member so they can voice your budget concerns. We hope to transition a few into current open positions. Move Assistant Superintendent and Assistant Maintenance we have to have. Will have more details later.

**Calendar Information** – 2024-2025 school year option A and B are in your folder. Based on 173-174 school days. Based on calendar survey - staff prefers starting school on Wednesday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August. Want to keep 3 days for Thanksgiving and 2 weeks for Winter Break. Schedule spring break in March. Want to have a late winter break in February. Staff will vote on option A or B. I will give you the results at the February meeting.

**Counselors** – Mark Wheeler, Laurie Armstrong, Veronica Bateman and Hannah Wheeler presented a program overview of school counselors. Counselors provide a variety of duties – provide individual academic counseling, make individual referrals for tutoring, plan and conduct school-to-school grade transition programs and orientations, plan and hold parent/counselor conferences for academic

concerns and help provide classroom academic accommodations when necessary (testing). Provide social-emotional counseling, conduct mediation sessions to resolve student conflicts. Conduct suicide assessments interviews. Report and maintain confidential files. They provide many services to students every day. Counselors are an essential part for serving BVCPS students. State ratio is 1 counselor for every 325 students. We want to have at least 4 counselors. There is not a lot of licensed counselors out there. Counselors are not allowed to obtain a provisional license.

**Welcome of Visitors** – no comments.

### **Consent Agenda**

Wayne Flint made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda that included Minutes from the December 5, 2023 Regular School Board Meeting, vendor and payroll bills. It was seconded by Paula Charlton and passed with a 6-0 vote.

### **Action Items**

- A. BVPD MOU Update – no one posted any comments about the MOU. It was posted for 30 days. John Roberts made the motion to approve the MOU with the BVPD. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 6-0 vote.
- B. Set the date for the budget work session meeting – Paula Charlton made the motion to schedule the budget work session on March 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Ramsey Center. It was seconded by Wayne Flint and passed by a 6-0 vote.
- C. Reschedule the February School Board Meeting – Wayne Flint made the motions to schedule the February SB meeting on Feb 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Ramsey Center. It was seconded by John Roberts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

### **Informational Items**

- A. Policy Committee Report – no policy updates at this time.
- B. Finance Committee Report – Committee met Tuesday and reviewed the payment of the bills. We are 50% through the financial year and we have spent 38% of the budget.
- C. Additional School Board Reports – no additional reports
- D. Student Representative Report – Addisen Roberts presented an update on academics, events and athletic events happening at the High School. Mike Gibson explained the new Workforce program through Mountain Gateway.
- E. Superintendent Report – Superintendent’s Goals for 2024-2025. Buena Vista City Public Schools will continue to meet accreditation requirements as well as individual schools; reading and writing scores will show improvement and chronic absenteeism will be reduced. We will continue to revise our classified salary scales to compete with surrounding districts and teacher salary scales will be adjusted to improve recruitment and retention. By January 2024 we will have social and emotional supports in place, we have the Stop It app. I will continue to collaborate with the school board, city council, city manager and stakeholders to plan the needs for the new school.
- F. Instructional Report – The Strategic Plan changes. Staff will receive training in the Science in Reading for VLA and All in tutoring will be provided for grades 3-8. Added 8<sup>th</sup> grade tutoring for math. History is not counted against accreditation. Increase tuition assistance from \$1200 to \$1500 per semester. Increasing grant funds, many goals were met or were updated to extend

until 2025. Enrollment has been between 800-850 for the past five years. Buena Vista birth rate and city population went up.

- G. Special Education/Nurse Report – Nothing additional. Nurse Report is included in the board packet.
- H. Nutrition/Transportation/Maintenance/HR Reports – Currently roof is being repaired at Kling. HVAC is going in at EHES – mini-splits – entire building will be completed by Spring. Paving at EHES this summer – parking lot and playground. Lot of work at the Ramsey Center and a new meeting space. Create some areas to keep everything organized, will have a new door system. Safety and security, camera systems, Intrado, etc. Security badges to enter buildings and possibly phone.

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, retirements and resignation according to {State Law § 2.2-3711 (A) (1)}. It was seconded by Paula Charlton and passed with a 6-0 vote.

John Roberts 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:

Ms. Charlton – yes

Mr. Roberts – yes

Mr. Flint – yes

Mr. Mohler-yes

Ms. Ellison – yes

Mrs. Kerr - yes

John Roberts made the motion to accept the retirement of Debbie Gilbert, Angie Patterson and Leigh Cartolaro effective June 30, 2024. It was seconded by Lisa Kerr and passed with a 6-0 vote.

John Roberts made to the motion to accept the resignation of Amanda McCaleb effective December 19, 2023. Second by Roy Mohler. Pass with 6-0 vote.

Motion for adjournment by John Roberts. Second by Lisa Kerr. Passed with 6-0 vote.

Teresa Ellison  
Teresa Ellison, Chairman

February 21, 2024  
Date

Sandra Mohler  
Sandra Mohler, Clerk

February 21, 2024  
Date