

## **Roanoke Valley Governor's School Regional Board**

### **DRAFT Minutes of October 2, 2023 Meeting**

The Roanoke Valley Governor's School Regional Board met on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 6:30 PM in the Governor's School Lecture Hall. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Trace Bellassai	Craig County School Board
Dr. Nancy Bradley	Salem City School Board
Dr. Kevin David	Franklin County School Board
Ms. Laura Leroy	Floyd County School Board
Dr. Susan Mele	Bedford County School Board
Mrs. Anna Weddle	Botetourt County School Board
Mr. Michael Wray	Roanoke County School Board
Mr. Mark Cathey, Chair	Roanoke City School Board

#### **Also Present**

Roanoke City Public Schools' Superintendent, Dr. Verletta White, representing the Committee of Superintendents; RVGS Director Mark Levy; and Clerk Dawn Winter-Ware. Deputy Clerk Paula Buch was absent.

#### **Call To Order**

Mr. Cathey called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Mr. Cathey thanked Mr. Michael Wray for his service to the RVGS Regional Board as his term on the Roanoke County School Board was coming to a close. RVGS Regional Board members praised Mr. Wray for his dedication and outstanding service to students in the Roanoke area. Mr. Wray said he enjoyed his service to the RVGS Board and counted it as one of his favorite Boards he had the privilege to serve on while a Roanoke County School Board member. Mr. Wray praised the dedication of Mark Levy as Director of RVGS and stated Mark Cathey's service as Chair of the RVGS Board is exemplary. Mr. Wray ended by saying RVGS will always hold a special place in his heart. Mr. Cathey recognized and thanked Dr. Susan Mele her service on the Board as her term ends. Board Members agreed Mr. Wray and Dr. Mele provided outstanding and dedicated service to the Board and RVGS students.

### **Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Mr. Wray and seconded by Dr. David, the October 2, 2023, agenda was approved as distributed.

### **Approval of the June 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

On motion by Dr. Mele and seconded by Ms. Leroy, the June 5, 2023, meeting minutes were approved.

### **Proposed 2024 RVGS Regional Board Meeting Calendar**

On motion by Dr. Bradley and seconded by Mr. Bellassi, the 2024 Meeting Calendar was approved as distributed and included the following meeting dates:

- February 5, 2024
- April 15, 2024
- June 3, 2024
- October 7, 2024.

Meetings will begin at 6:30 PM at the Roanoke Valley Governor's School Lecture Hall unless otherwise noted.

### **State Funding Updates**

Mr. Levy stated there was no additional information to provide and no change to RVGS status.

### **Final 2023 State Diversity Report**

Mr. Levy presented Board members with the final submitted copy of the *Academic Year Governor's School Diversity Goals and Report*. Mr. Levy pointed out Floyd County was included in the report as a new participating school district. Mr. Cathey added that the report is a State requirement.

### **Financial Report/Budget Briefing**

Mr. Levy stated RVGS is building up to full capacity, adding that Craig County is sending their largest number of students since 2016, and Bedford County is building back student numbers as well.

When summarizing the budget, Mr. Levy said the budget was based on 268 students, which is a good and solid enrollment. An enrollment much smaller and RVGS struggles with the budget. Briefly touching on the budget, Mr. Levy said \$40,000 had been budgeted for utilities at the school in the

previous year, but \$50,000 is earmarked for the 2023-24 school year. He also reminded members of the \$400,000 contingency funds/buffer that is used for emergencies or unforeseen expenses such as if a school district needed to pull out unexpectedly. At the conclusion of the budget briefing, Dr. Bradley commended Mr. Levy for remaining fiscally responsible.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Levy said the beginning of school year was smooth, freshmen are orienting themselves and overall, it seems to have gone well for the new students.

The college application process is a priority and supported by the counselor, Ms. Sebolt and Mr. Levy. RVGS informational meetings for recruitment and application distribution will be held in January 2024. A recorded version of the meeting will be available online for families who are unable to attend an in-person meeting. Applications will be due by February 1.

Important dates to note: RVGS Project Forum is February 3, 2024, at the PHHS cafeteria and the 2024 Senior Dinner is scheduled for May 6, 2023 at Hotel Roanoke.

### **Board Discussion Items**

Chairman Mark Cathey said he appreciates the efforts of all Board members, especially those members who travel a distance to the Board meeting.

### **Superintendent's Discussion Items**

Dr. Verletta White expressed appreciation and gratitude to Board members Dr. Susan Mele, and Mr. Michael Wray for their service and leadership on the RVGS Board. Dr. Ken Knicely, Superintendent of Roanoke County Public Schools thanked both Board members for their investment to RVGS.

Mr. Wray again recognized Mr. Cathey for his leadership and time spent serving on the RVGS Board and referred to him as, "a true and valued leader."

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the RVGS Regional Board is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.