

The Rockbridge County School Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at the County of Rockbridge Administration Building.

Present: Vice-Chairman Heather Hostetter; Trustees, Corey Berkstresser, David McDaniel, and Neil Whitmore; Superintendent Phillip Thompson and Clerk Rhonda Humphries. Absent: Chairman Wendy Lovell.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Hostetter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

STUDENT / STAFF RECOGNITION:

Moment of Recognition for 2019 Retirees: Lori Apgar, Faye Austin, Christopher Bowring, Pamela Burks, Mary Ellen Carter, Bernadette Crews, Joanne Groah, Laura Harrawood, Brenda Hill, Mary Jones, Lawrence Nelson, Sandra Nye, Karen Posten, Edward Smith, Donna Swisher

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon recommendation by Vice-Chairman Hostetter, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee McDaniel, the board approved the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes: 1) May 14, 2019 [Regular Meeting]
- Field Trip and Bus Use Requests
- Fundraiser Requests
- Application for Use of Facilities
- Enrollment Update
- Appointments and Resignations

Appointments

Professional Staff

Skyla Thorpe, Teacher, Central Elementary School, 2019-2020 school year
Brian Dietz, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, 2019-2020 school year
Emily Berquist, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, 2019-2020 school year
Melissa Weeks, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, 2019-2020 school year
Kilee Ferguson, Elementary Teacher, 2019-2020 school year
Hayley Smith, Teacher, Central Elementary School, 2019-2020 school year

Support Staff

Jennifer Conner, Teacher Assistant, Fairfield Elementary School, 2019-2020 school year
Brandy Montgomery, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, 2019-2020 school year
Reneda Chittum, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, 2019-2020 school year

Car Drivers

Calvin Sorrells

Resignations

Professional Staff

Jennifer Irwin, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, resigning end of 2018-2019 school year

Jennifer Matthias, Teacher, Rockbridge County High School, resigning end of 2018-2019 school year

Janene Winslow, Teacher, Central Elementary School, resigning end of the 2018-2019 school year

Retiring

Professional Staff

Donna Swisher, Teacher, Maury River Middle School, retiring end of 2018-2019 school year

- **Business Items**

- o Approval of debt service payment of \$370,265.37 due July 1, 2019, to US Bank for Rockbridge County Public Schools lease for Energy Performance Contract at Rockbridge County High School.

- Approval of debt service payment of \$2,424,683.14 due July 15, 2019 to US Bank for Rockbridge County Public School VPSA bonds.
- Approval of appropriations to Fund 50 in the amount of \$92,134.00 of additional revenue: National Forest Reserve \$63,860.00; City of Lexington \$26,460.00; Private Tuition \$1,800.00; and other funds \$14.00.
- Approve Monthly Financials \$3,176,221.76.

BUDGET PLANNING: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT:

Ms. Susan Mahood, STEM Teacher, provided information on the Third Grade Project Based Learning Outdoor Classroom. She also shared a video that the students had created to express the benefits of the newly created Outdoor Classroom.

- Vice-Chair Hostetter expressed her sentiment that the program is excellent representation of what students can accomplish with the Project Based Learning program.

Mr. Haywood Hand, Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. Timothy Martino, Director of Elementary Education, provided a Project Based Learning Update.

- Mr. Martino stated that Project Based Learning (PBL) prepares students for academic, personal, and career success and readies young people to rise to the challenges of their lives and the world they will inherit. He anticipates that 52% of all Rockbridge County Public School teachers will have participated in PBL 101 by the end of July 2019 and that he anticipates that approximately 75% of staff will have participated in PBL Professional Development at the conclusion of the 2020 summer.
- Mr. Hand reiterated that Ms. Mahood's presentation of the Outdoor Classroom is a result PBL in that learning is presented in a different way. He stated that Problem Based Assessments (PBA) are similar to PBL but the length and depth are not as long or as rigorous. He stated that these are used as a substitute assessment in grades 3-6 replacing grade 3 History/Science, 5th grade Writing/History, and 6th Grade History. He further stated that the Problem Based Assessments have the potential to be a substitute for SOL's in High School History/Social Science and EO English Writing. The assessments will present what is to continue in the instruction as well as what is to be pulled away. Mr. Hand described that "Virginia Is For Learners" is the Commonwealth's commitment to make sure every public school student is ready to thrive after graduation with college, workforce, and life. This leads to the "Profile of a Graduate" which describes the knowledge, skills, experiences and attributes that students must attain to be successful in college and/or the work force and to be "life ready." He noted that there is no exact recipe on how to move forward and referenced that there will be a scoring event this fall, which will help with the balance the design of the rubric. He expressed that the Rockbridge County Public Schools are ahead of some school divisions in the development of PBA, and that teachers have done a great job at embracing the concept.
 - Trustee Berkstresser inquired for an assessment example.
 - Ms. Mahood stated that, as an example, the Third Grade Outdoor Classroom has a PBL Brief and Rubric that is in place. The students look at what needed to be done, did research on the outdoor classroom concept, citing three resources, completed fact checking by looking at multiple sources and provided the oral presentation as contained in the video that was shared with the Rockbridge County School Board. She noted that PBL gives students a choice on how to share information, which coordinates with standards of learning.
 - Vice-Chairman Hostetter stated that she is excited to see the continuing development of PBL and hopes that the Rockbridge County School Board will continue to be used as a target audience.
 - Trustee McDaniel inquired if PBA are going to replace SOL's, how this will be assessed by DOE? How will this affect accreditation?
 - Mr. Martino responded that the school division must be prepared to produce documentation for review. It is not clear at this point, how it will effect accreditation.

- o Superintendent Thompson expressed his sentiment that PBA will become more meaningful each year with the Department of Education making sure that school divisions are using PBA.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Mr. Hand provided information on the VSBA Policy Manual Updates, which are now in effect.

Mr. Billy Thomas, Principal, Maury River Middle School, provided a review of Schools' Crisis Plans for 2019-2020. It is anticipated that this will be presented for action at the July 9, 2019 meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board.

ACTION ITEMS:

Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved a .10 cents price increase to the school lunch prices as follows:

Elementary Lunch Price: \$2.30
Middle Lunch Price: \$2.55
Secondary Lunch Price: \$2.55

Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Whitmore, seconded by Trustee Berkstresser, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the Consolidated and Title III Federal Grant Applications and Migratory Children Certification.

Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Berkstresser, seconded by Trustee McDaniel, and passed by a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the request of Heritage Hall to extend the current agreement through June 30, 2020 to use Maury River Middle School as an evacuation shelter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent Thompson made a congratulatory announcement that Dr. Melanie Falls has completed her doctorate through University of Virginia Curry School of Education.

SCHOOL BOARD

The next regular meeting of the Rockbridge County School Board will be on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 / 5:00 PM / Location: County of Rockbridge Administration Building, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Whitmore, seconded by Trustee McDaniel, and passed by 4-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.


Heather C. Hostetter, Vice-Chairman


Rhonda B. Humphries, Clerk of the Board