

**BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**October 2, 2023**

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 2, 2023, in the Bristol Virginia Public Schools Administration Office, 280 Lee Street, Bristol, Virginia. A quorum was present with the following Board members in attendance:

Mr. Randy Alvis, Chair  
Mr. Steve Fletcher  
Mrs. Vanessa Guffey

Mrs. Breanne Forbes Hubbard, Vice Chair  
Mr. Frank Goodpasture

Also present were:

Dr. David Scott, Superintendent  
Mrs. Tammy Jones, Clerk

Mr. Gary Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Stephanie Austin, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Randy Alvis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Alvis asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Mrs. Breanne Forbes Hubbard so moved. Mrs. Vanessa Guffey seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 2 (A) Superintendents Report. Dr. David Scott, Superintendent, highlighted there was definitely a topic to discuss in detail. However, before getting into the event at Virginia High School, he wanted to provide updates on several other normal matters.

- State Budget – updates in the latest budget revision will incorporate changes in the state budget. While we are still awaiting the release of the calc tool from VDOE, we have seen estimates of the allocations that will be coming our way. There has been some publicity about a possible 2% raise. Our current budget revision does not include a 2% raise.
- Connect 4 Event – elementary school students from all four elementary schools are going to be mingling at Sugar Hollow next week. Our principals have been working together to coordinate events that will allow our students from the various schools to interact as one student body in anticipation of next year’s combination of the schools. As much as this event is for the students, it is also for the teachers.
- Work Orders – due to system efficacy, we have been looking under the hood of our work order system;
- Restrooms – two restrooms at Virginia High School should be complete; renovation for the band room (flooring and walls) is in the works and band students should not be displaced too much longer.
- Sound System – a report from Mr. Harper that Bristol Sign was able to move some of the existing speakers from the baseball field to the football stadium. Everything is working and we should have quality sounds for the Homecoming game Friday night.
- Homecoming – there will be spirit activities this week, including the CTE homecoming carnival on Thursday and a student dance on Saturday. The Bearcats will host the Tazewell Bulldogs at 7:00 on Friday.

**Bristol Virginia School Board**  
**Regular Session – October 2, 2023**  
**Page 2**

- Athletic Trainer – this position has been posted and we have already received applications. Mr. Harper will be coordinating with Ms. Hudson to get interviews scheduled.
- Cell Phone Policy – a delightful and insightful meeting with our student board representatives to the school board was held on September 22. They have prepared survey questions for a student survey. We have also developed a set of survey questions for parents and a set for teachers. The hope is to have survey results in time for the November meeting.
- All in VA - a brief overview of the state initiative and expectations were reviewed and discussed in detail.

Mr. Alvis thanked Dr. Scott for his report.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 2 (B) School Board Representative Report. Diya Turakhia, Katie Rankin, Emma Taylor and Wilson Hartley presented a PowerPoint introducing the junior board representatives and the following:

- All four of the representatives recently met with Dr. Scott regarding the Cell Phone Policy and have drafted a student survey. The survey consists of ten questions total, with two open-ended questions and eight questions that can be answered with a Likert scale. The hope is that the survey will allow the representatives to collect student data that will help draft a new phone policy that students agree with.
- The PTO will be sponsoring the homecoming dance which will take place on October 7 in downtown Bristol.
- The PTO has also talked about the athletic booster club, and their current plan is to have one parent from each high school sport serve as a representative on the committee.
- The PTO also wants to redo the teacher's lounge at Virginia High to create a calming space for teachers.
- The Interact Club had its first meeting this month. They will focus on community service projects. World Language Club had its first meeting this month as well. Mrs. Clear gave an interesting presentation about her trip to Scotland. The club will meet again this month to watch a scary foreign film. Beta Club sent out their first invitations last week. There are over eighty bearcats eligible for this honor!
- Spirit Squad has been very active so far this year, and they have helped put together a spectacular student section. Along with this they have contributed to the homecoming carnival and the homecoming dress up days.
- Our news crew starts our school day with daily announcements, sports, and what's for lunch. It creates a community inside the green room and helps students know what is going on in school.

Mr. Alvis thanked Diya, Katie, Emma, and Wilson for their report.

**Bristol Virginia School Board**  
**Regular Session – October 2, 2023**  
**Page 3**

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 2 (C) Discussion of Update on Cell Phone Policy. Dr. Scott noted he had met with all four School Board Representatives and was pleased with their feedback. He noted surveys were open to students, parents, and staff. He added with the sensitive topic of the events at Virginia High last Thursday, he was fearful the results would have been polarized if the survey would have gone out at that time.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 3 (A) Public Comment. Ms. Kathy Musick, Ms. Ashley Postell, and Mr. Dan Hardwick addressed the Board.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 4 (A) Recognition of 2022-2023 Retirees. Dr. Scott and School Board Members recognized, Ms. Tracey Mercier, Ms. Rebecca Meadows, Ms. Rita Rust, Mr. Mike Tolbert, Mr. Randy Hodge, Ms. Brenda Blevins, Ms. Jane Hagy, Ms. Kathy Hicks, Mr. Mark Gouge, Ms. Melissa Peters, and Mr. Carlos Lee for their dedication and exemplary service to Bristol Virginia Public Schools.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 5 (A) Approval of Consent Agenda. Mrs. Forbes Hubbard moved approval. Mr. Steve Fletcher seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of Payment of Bills
- B. Approval of Minutes – Regular Session – September 11, 2023
- C. Approval of Technology Reimbursement Resolution
- D. Approval of Technology Reimbursement Resolution – Crossroads
- E. Approval of the Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted 2023-2028

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 6 (A) Approval of 2023-2024 School Board Budget Revision #2. Mr. Fletcher moved approval. Mrs. Guffey seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 6 (B) Approval Receipt of Donation of Outfitter 400 Red ATV for Band Use. Mrs. Guffey moved approval. Mrs. Forbes Hubbard seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, Mrs. Forbes Hubbard moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) the Code of Virginia, Specifically,

- A. Discussion of Certain Personnel and Recommendation for Employment.

Mrs. Guffey seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:32 p.m.

Back in Public Session at 9:08 p.m., Mrs. Forbes Hubbard moved Certification of Closed Meeting as such: the Bristol Virginia School Board certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting and only such public matters as were identified in the motion

**Bristol Virginia School Board**  
**Regular Session – October 2, 2023**  
**Page 4**

convening the closed meeting were considered. Mr. Goodpasture seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Guffey moved Approval of Attachment (A) as recommended. Mrs. Forbes Hubbard seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Alvis adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:10 p.m.

  
Stephanie R. Austin, Deputy Clerk

  
Randy Alvis, Chairman