

**BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD**  
**STUDENT DISCIPLINARY HEARING/REGULAR SESSION**  
**October 05, 2015**

The Bristol Virginia School Board held a Student Disciplinary Hearing and met in Regular Session on Monday, October 5, 2015, in the Bristol Virginia Public Schools Administration Office, 220 Lee Street, Bristol, Virginia. A quorum was present with the following Board members in attendance:

Ms. Beth Rhinehart, Chair  
Mr. Randy Alvis, Vice Chair  
Mr. Randall J. White

Mr. R. Tyrone Foster

Absent: Mrs. Stephanie Austin, Deputy Clerk  
Mr. Ronald Cameron

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Also present were:

Mr. Rex Gearheart, Superintendent  
Mrs. Tammy Jones, Clerk

Mr. Gary Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent

Among those in the audience for the Regular Session were:

Mrs. Tracey Mercier  
Mr. Steve Bonney  
Ms. Melissa Warren  
Mr. Ronnie Collins  
Mrs. Betsy Turnbull

Ms. Kathy Musick  
Mr. Gordon Turnbull  
Ms. Leah Ross  
Mr. Bo Love  
Mrs. Patty Bowers

Dr. Linda Brittle  
Mrs. Faith Mabe

Others were present, but failed to sign in.

Ms. Beth Rhinehart, Chair, called the Student Disciplinary Hearing to order. She asked for a motion to convene a Closed Meeting.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(A) of the Code of Virginia, Mr. Randy Alvis moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters: Discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters concerning a student or students of any state institution of higher education or any state school system as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(2) of the Code of Virginia, specifically: Consideration of Recommendation for Expulsion of Student #20SH2015,. Mr. Randy White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Alvis moved approval of agenda amendment of Discussion of Resignation of Specific Public Officer. Mr. Tyrone Foster seconded the motion and the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board went into Closed Session at 5:15 p.m.

Back in Public Session at 6:00 p.m., Mr. Alvis moved Certification of Closed Meeting as such: the Bristol Virginia School Board certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only

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

Mr. Randy Alvis moved the following for Student #20SH2015:

- Long term suspension through the remainder of 2015-2016 school year
- Probation for one year following the suspension
- Placed in Administrative Homebound Education Program at a location to be determined

Mr. White seconded the motion, Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. .  
[Note: Student #20SH2015 was found in violation of Bristol Virginia School Board Policies JFC and JFCF and Regulations JFC-R and JGD/JGE-R. These policies and regulations deal with possession, use, and/or distribution of a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or marijuana, and drug paraphernalia on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. ]

Ms. Beth Rhinehart, Chair, called the Regular Session to order at approximately 6:32 p.m. She welcomed all in attendance including and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Rhinehart asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Alvis so moved. Mr. White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rhinehart asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Alvis so moved. Mr. White 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 – July 6, 2015 – Regular Session, August 3, 2015
  - C. Approval of Special Education Advisory Committee Members and Meeting Dates
  - D. Approval of School Health Advisory Committee Members and Meeting Dates
  - E. Approval of Technology Oversight Committee Members and Meeting Dates
  - F. Approval of Letter of Retirement of Barbara Janie Hull
- (Copies of the Letter of Retirement and Approval of Committee Members and Dates, are included with these minutes.)

Mr. Gearheart, recognized Mrs. Betsy Turnbull, Guidance Counselor at Virginia High School. Mr. Gearheart expressed his sorrow in losing Ms. Turnbull. He noted that her and her husband had made Bristol better. He thanked Mrs. Turnbull for her years of dedication and service to Bristol Virginia Public Schools. He noted that it was a great lose to our system as she was a person of great knowledge. Mr. Gearheart along with board members presented Mrs. Turnbull with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Gearheart, recognized Mr. David McGee, Reporter with Bristol Herald Courier for receiving the VSBA Media Honor Roll award. Mr. Gearheart praised Mr. McGee for always reporting accurate information to the public and stressed his appreciation. He noted he was one of the most fair and kind reporter. Mr. Gearheart along with board members presented Mr. McGee with a certificate from VSBA.

Mr. Gearheart, recognized Bringing a Taste of Rhythm and Roots to Bristol Virginia Public Schools. Mr. Gearheart noted that this was a wonderful event which is held at Virginia High School. He noted that he was proud to have it in our school system. He also indicated his appreciation to Believe in Bristol for their hard work and dedication to Rhythm and Roots. He noted that the event gets larger and better every year. He added that the highlight for him was to see all 5<sup>th</sup> graders from across the district get together and perform. He noted the students were a hard act to follow. He indicated his appreciation for bringing this to our school system, as some of our students would never get to be part of the festival. Mr. Gearheart along with board members presented certificates of appreciation to Ms. Leah Ross, Mrs. Vicie Dotson, Sara Kate Tallman, and Ms. Wendy Edwards.

Mr. Gearheart, recognized Mr. Noah Ashbrook for receiving the Virginia Association of Science Teachers Award. Mr. Gearheart noted what a distinction this was and how proud he was to have Mr. Ashbrook be part of our Bristol Virginia Public School family. He indicated that Mr. Ashbrook always engages his students and loves what he does. He noted that he brings a lot to the table. Mr. Gearheart along with board members presented Mr. Ashbrook with a certificate. Ms. Rhinehart added that we are really lucky to have these recognitions at the board meetings.

Mr. Gearhart presented the Superintendent's Report which included the following:

- He indicated we are off to a fantastic start and he could not be more proud. He noted that it was a treat to visit schools. He noted he was amazed at the quality of education our students are receiving.
- He highlighted Bearcat Bandwagon that was held recently at Washington Lee. He noted that the weather wasn't the best and we still had a turnout of close to 200. He noted that was a huge crowd. He added that the school board could be credited for this ideal. He added that it was a great opportunity for our families and faculty to engage and then take in a football game as a family. He noted the next Bandwagon would be held at Van Pelt.
- He noted that our golf team won the 39 Conference Championship last week which was huge for us. He added that would be traveling to the Region Championship next week.
- He also noted our marching band was incredible. He added that if you haven't had an opportunity to see them, he would encourage you to. He noted that this is a testament to the good things we have going on in our music department. He added that our band participated in a competition at the Stone Castle and secured many awards.
- He noted that our One Act play would perform November 2 and would participate in their conference the following week.
- He highlighted the upcoming Veteran's Day program at Virginia Middle on November 11. He noted this would be held in the morning and encouraged everyone to attend.
- He noted that our One to One technology has gone off extremely well. He noted that we were just over a year into this and it looks really good. He noted that every time he visits the middle school he sees more and more using the laptops. He added that he is looking forward to implementing it at the high school next year.
- He highlighted that we are receiving three additional School Resource Officers. He noted that the City had secured a grant that would place officers in the three remaining schools.

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He added that all three schools were all 99% free and reduced lunch. He noted it was a wonderful resource for us and we look forward to having the additional officers.

- He noted that we have several Fall Festivals coming up this Saturday. Both Stonewall Jackson and Van Pelt would be Saturday evening.
- He highlighted our volleyball team had a successful beginning to their season. He added that he looked forward to watching as their season opened.
- He noted that we would have a Called Session meeting on October 19 to recognize the perfect SOL scores.
- He noted that we would have a Manufacturing Day in which we would send students to Bristol Compressors and The Robinette Company to take part in this day. He noted that we were pleased to be part of this day.
- He noted that he had recently made with Mr. Russ Nelson in regards to building community partnerships for our Lego teams. He noted this could lead to a lot of opportunities.
- He added that when he visited Washington Lee, he loved seeing the Charlotte's Web décor. He noted he was excited to know the students are reading this.
- He noted that the First Lady was with us last week to help roll out the 365 Grant. He noted that she helped in celebrating the Community Eligibility Program.
- He noted that last week we had lock down drills which were a requirement from VDOE. He added that he hoped in doing these drills it would give us an opportunity to fix the small things.
- He noted that last week he had an opportunity to view a video that Virginia High is going to enter into the VSBA competition. He noted it shows all of the wonderful things that are going on at the high school.
- He highlighted Café Central, which is held every Thursday. He encouraged everyone to visit and have a meal. He added that our students work on Thursday and Tennessee High students on Friday. He noted that the food is delicious.
- He noted that Virginia Middle is reading The Fish in the Tree. He noted that the author will be visiting with us in February. He added what a treat this would be.
- He noted that our board has made a difference across the Commonwealth every opportunity that have. He noted that advocated to anyone who would listen. Ms. Karen Cross has been asked to bring two students to the SOL Innovation Community meeting in Richmond. He noted what an exciting opportunity this would be to have our voice heard.

Ms. Rhinehart thanked Mr. Gearheart for his report. She indicated this was an impressive list of things and this couldn't be done without a strong leader. She added that the board was very proud of him. She also added that the Sorenson program was in town recently. She noted this was a leadership program and they only accept 35 people a year for the program. She added that Mr. Gearheart was the speaker for education. She added that she could not tell you the job he did. She noted that he received a standing ovation at the end of his presentation. She added it was unbelievable. She noted that he done a fantastic job in sharing our story with passion.

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The Student Board Representatives' Report included the following:

Berkley Richard and Lauren Brooks both commented on the events going on at Virginia High. They noted that had recently had "Pink Out" at the football game and raised a considerable amount of money.

- They noted that sophomore and juniors are preparing to take the PSAT.  
Mr. Gearheart thanked the Student Board Representatives for a great report.

The following individual addressed the Board during the Public Comment portion of the meeting:

- Ms. Kathy Musick addressed the board as representing VPE. She noted that she was here in Ms. Suzanne Goins place, as her mother had recently suffered a stroke. She added that she was excited to be back in Bristol and to hear all of the great things going on. She reminded everyone that VPE provides to scholarships per year and invites anyone going back to school or for your classroom to apply. She added she looks forward to working with Bristol. Ms. Rhinehart and board members requested that she give Ms. Goins our best.
- Ms. Melissa Warren and Mrs. Tracey Mercier, addressed the board as representing BVEA. Ms. Mercier indicated it was with a heavy heart that BVEA offered Ms. Rhinehart the best. Ms. Warren noted she had been a tremendous advocate for our system. Ms. Mercier and Ms. Warren presented Ms. Rhinehart with a plaque for dedication and support. Ms. Rhinehart thanked both Ms. Warren and Ms. Mercier. She noted that she appreciated this more than you know.

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 5(A) Approval of Resolution NOT to Allow Employees to Direct Hybrid Voluntary Contributions to an Employer-Sponsored Hybrid 403(b) Retirement Plan. Mr. Foster moved to approve. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of Approval of Resolution NOT to Allow Employees to Direct Hybrid Voluntary Contributions to an Employer-Sponsored Hybrid 403(b) Retirement Plan is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 5(B) Approval of Revision of Regulations for Pre-Approved Expense Reimbursements – DLC-R. Mr. Alvis moved to approve. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of Approval of Revision of Regulations for Pre-Approved Expense Reimbursements – DLC-R is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 5(C) Approval of Vendor for Specialized Consulting Services. Mr. Cameron moved to approve. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the Approval of Vendor for Specialized Consulting Services is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 5(D) Approval of 2015-2016 Budget Revision #3. Mr. Foster moved to approve. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the Approval of 2015-2016 Budget Revision #3 is included with these minutes.)

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Mr. Gearheart addressed Item 5 (E) Approval of Title III Statewide Consortium Application. Mr. Alvis moved to approve. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the Approval of Title III Statewide Consortium Application is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Gearheart addressed Item 6(A) Report on School Improvement. Mr. Gearheart noted that there had been a school in school improvement and this was nothing new. He noted the appreciation to the State for their support. He emphasized the tremendous amount of work that goes into this process. He added this was a trial and we are always looking for ways to improve. He noted we are improving and continue to improve. He noted that we have 46 less employees than this time last year and we continue to do more.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia, Mr. Alvis moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters: Discussion of Personnel as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) per the Code of Virginia, Specifically,

- A. Discussion of Personnel
- B. Approval of Additions to Substitute Teacher List
- C. Approval of Employments of Guidance Counselor at Virginia High School

Mr. Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:31 p.m.

Back in Public Session at 8:53 p.m., Mr. Alvis 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 convening the closed meeting were considered. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Alvis moved Approval of Additions to Substitute Teacher List. Mr. White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the Approval of Additions to Substitute Teacher List is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Alvis moved Approval of Employment of Virginia High School Guidance Counselor. Mr. Alvis moved to approve. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the Approval of Employment of Virginia High School Guidance Counselor is included with these minutes.)

No items were discussed during the Old and New Business portion of the meeting.

Ms. Rhinehart adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

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Stephanie R. Austin, Deputy Clerk

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Beth D. Rhinehart, Chairman

