

**BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**July 06, 2015**

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, July 06, 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. Ronald Cameron

Mr. Randy Alvis, Vice Chair  
Mr. Randall J. White

Absent:

Mr. R. Tyrone Foster  
Ms. Tammy Jones, Clerk

Also present were:

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

Among those in the audience for the Regular Session were:

Mr. Steve Bonney	Mr. Bo Love
Ms. Tracey Mercier	Dr. Linda Brittle
Mrs. Jennifer Hurt	Mr. Jeff Shelton
Mayor Catherine Brillhart	

Others were present, but failed to sign in.

Ms. Beth Rhinehart, Chair, called the Regular Session to order at approximately 6:06 p.m. She welcomed all in attendance and recognized Mayor Catherine Brillhart. Ms. Rhinehart added that it was a pleasure to see all of the students and families. She opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Ms. Rhinehart asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Ronald Cameron 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 –Student Disciplinary Hearings June 01, 2015
  - C. Approval of Resignation of Assistant Girls’ Track Coach
  - D. Approval of Resignation from Stacey Crouse, Teacher at Washington Lee
- (Copies of the minutes and letters of resignation, are included with these minutes.)

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Mr. Rex Gearheart, Superintendent, addressed item 3(A) Recognition of Highland View Pre-K Art. Mr. Randy White noted that he was visiting Highland View and noticed fantastic art displayed. He encouraged everyone to go by and take a look. He commended Ms. Lori Ayers and Debbie Snowden for doing a phenomenal job. Ms. Pam Smith, Principal, introduced Ms. Lori Ayers and Ms. Debbie Snowden. Ms. Ayers gave a brief description of the Pre-K program. She noted that their curriculum is Tools of the Mind. She noted that students learn by doing and communicating. She noted that they try and give lots of opportunities to do so. She added that their daily activities include students sharing the daily news with each other during their daily activities. She also added they do an activity called message of the Day, which is a teacher directed message and the students help write that on the dry erase board. Mr. Randy White noted his was blown away by the art displayed in the hallway at Highland View and thanked both Ms. Ayers and Ms. Snowden. Ms. Rhinehart thanked them for their report.

Mr. Gearheart addressed item 3(B) Recognition of Virginia High Varsity Baseball 2A State Champions. Mr. Gearheart congratulated the team, coaches, and parents, on an outstanding season. He noted this was a great honor and an amazing thing to win back to back championships. Mr. White added that you can always tell a Virginia High student, as they do stand out. Mr. Ronald Cameron added that it was unbelievable and congratulated everyone on a back to back championship. Mr. Gearheart and board members presented each player and coach with a certificate of recognition.

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

- He highlighted the PUSH! Film Festival. He noted this was such a special event and thanked the Virginia Middle School film crew and all teachers for getting this off the ground.
- Mr. Gearhart highlighted that 170 students participated in the Bearcat Enrichment Camp and it had proven to be very successful.
- He highlighted the After School Academy at Virginia Middle will be traveling to Williamsburg, VA. He noted his hopes were to continue the program. He noted that we are still waiting on an answer in regards to the extension for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant. He noted we have ended our third year of this program.
- He noted the upcoming professional development opportunities: Fast Forward and Reading Strategies and noted he hoped our staff would take full advantage.
- He also noted he participated in a conference call with Superintendent Steve Staples in regards to Community Eligibility for Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This would provide meals to students at no cost which would be very beneficial.
- He highlighted upcoming dates: Annual Day in the Park to be held August 1. He added that this was a wonderful day for the community and out students. Convocation will be held August 4 starting at 9 a.m. School Board Retreat next Monday at 6 p.m. City Council meeting July 14 and also the Capital Conference to be held in Richmond, VA on July 20. He also added the New Teacher Orientation to be held at the School Board Office on Friday, July 31.

Ms. Rhinehart thanked Mr. Gearheart for his report.

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No one addressed the Board during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Ms. Rhinehart acknowledged Mrs. Catherine Brillhart. She noted that she had certainly been a die-hard advocate for education and thanked her for her dedication and commitment.

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 4(A) Approval to Amend the 2015-2016 School Calendar. Mr. Alvis moved approval to Amend the 2015-2016 School Calendar. Mr. White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. The amendments would include a change to exam dates and data days. (A copy of Approval to Amend the 2015-2016 School Calendar is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 4(B) Review and Approval of VSBA Policy Updates. Mr. Cameron moved Review and Approval of VSBA Policy Updates with the understanding to stricken the second sentence of policy IGAJ. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Each policy was read and discussed. (A copy of Review and Approval of VSBA Policy Updates are included with these minutes.)

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 4(C) Approval of Surplus Computers for Sale. Mr. Alvis moved approval of Surplus Computers for Sale. Mr. White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of Approval of Surplus Computers for Sale is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 4(D) Approval of Student Athletic Insurance. Mr. Cameron moved approval of Student Athletic Insurance. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of Approval of Student Athletic Insurance is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 4(E) Approval of VSBA Advocate for Education Award. Mr. White moved approval of VSBA Advocate for Education Award. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rhinehart noted that we are a team which makes this a bigger honor. Mr. White added that is true but Ms. Rhinehart's leadership is exemplary. (A copy of Approval of VSBA Advocate for Education Award is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 5(A) Report on School Improvement. Mr. Gearhart requested that Mrs. Jennifer Hurt, Director of Title One give a brief report. Mrs. Hurt updated the board on the progress. She noted that several things contribute to being under an improvement plan. She noted that staff and administration have adapted well as we move along to reach our goals. She noted that Washington Lee Elementary was recognized as a focus school two years ago. She added that the final report for the 2014-2015 school year was received and they were very grateful and pleased that they are no longer under improvement for math. She added that the focus is now reading as 65% of students in grades 3, 4, and 5 receive reading assistance. She noted that the poverty level has increased in our families which reflects a decrease in vocabulary. She noted that we continue to strive to meet federal guidelines. She added that Washington Lee has been focusing on developing lessons plans to be aligned with the curriculum framework. She also noted that there was also work to be done in the classroom, which will be a huge focus. She noted that Ms. Sarah DeBusk will be brought on board as a literacy coach in hopes of closing the gaps. She added that Ms. Mabe will be taking several teachers to Georgia for responsive classroom training. She added that our preliminary scores are showing us that we have accomplished quite a bit. She noted that

this information will be coming out in the later part of July. She added that she wanted to be very transparent and let everyone know where we are and remain proactive. She noted that this has helped us to take a closer look at our teachers and students.

Mr. Gearheart noted that we have gotten tremendously better. He thanked Ms. Hurt for her report. Ms. Rhinehart noted that she hopes that in working to meet these goals, that we remember the tremendous strides we have made and never forget to reward the things that really matter.

Mr. Gearhart addressed Item 5(B) Discussion of 2014-2015 School Board Focus Goals. He noted that this team last year we developed school board goals at the school board retreat last year. He noted that he felt we had a great school year. Mr. Gearheart went through each goal and advised the board where we were and the accomplishments made throughout the school year.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) (2) of the Code of Virginia, Mr. White 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 of Any State School System as Authorized by Section 2.2-3711 (A) (2) of the Code of Virginia, Specifically;

- A. Discussion of Certain Personnel
- B. Discussion of Vacancy of School Board Member
- C. 2014-2015 Completion of Annual Evaluation of Superintendent
- D. Finalize Employment Status for a Specific Employee
- E. Approval of Re-Turning Fall Coaches 2015-2016
- F. Approval of Employment of VMS Mathematics Instructor
- G. Approval of Employment of VMS Guidance Counselor
- H. Approval of Employment of VMS Mathematics Instructor
- I. Approval of Employment of Washington Lee Elementary Teacher

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

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:55 p.m.

Back in Public Session at 10:45 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 Resolution to Dismiss from Employment. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the approval of Resolution to Dismiss from Employment is included with these minutes.)

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Mr. Cameron moved approval of Returning Fall Coaches for 2015-2016 as recommended. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the approval of Returning Fall Coaches for 2015-2016 as recommended is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Alvis moved approval of Employment of Mathematics Instructor at Virginia Middle School as recommended. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the approval of Employment of Mathematics Instructor at Virginia Middle School as recommended is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Cameron moved approval of approval of Employment of English Teacher at Virginia Middle School as recommended. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the approval of Employment of English Teacher at Virginia Middle School as recommended is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Alvis moved approval of approval of Guidance Counselor at Virginia Middle School as recommended. Mr. White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the approval of Guidance Counselor at Virginia Middle School as recommended is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Alvis moved approval of Mathematics Instructor at Virginia Middle School as recommended. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the approval of Mathematics Instructor at Virginia Middle School as recommended is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Cameron moved approval of Washington Lee Elementary School Teacher as recommended. Mr. White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the approval of Washington Lee Elementary School Teacher as recommended 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 10:55 p.m.

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Stephanie R. Austin, Deputy Clerk

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Beth D. Rhinehart, Chairman