

BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
February 5, 2018

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, February 5, 2018, in the Bristol Virginia Public Schools Administration Office, 220 Lee Street, Bristol, Virginia. A quorum was present with the following Board members in attendance:

Mr. Randy Alvis, Chair
Mr. Randall J. White
Mr. Steve Fletcher

Mr. R. Tyrone Foster, Vice Chair
Mr. Ronald Cameron

Also present were:

Dr. Keith Perrigan, Superintendent
Mrs. Stephanie Austin, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Gary Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Tammy Jones, Clerk

Among those in the audience for the Regular Session were:

Ms. Virginia Goodson	Mr. and Mrs. Matt Hudson	Ms. Kathy Hicks
Ms. Tracey Mercier	Ms. Melissa Warren	Mr. Bill Shanks
Mr. Jason Matlock	Ms. Faith Mabe	Ms. Erin Eads
Ms. Kathy Musick	Dr. Linda Brittle	Ms. Megan Boswell
Ms. Mary Argenbright	Ms. Autumn Dowdy	

Others were present, but failed to sign in.

Mr. Randy Alvis, Chair, called the Regular Session to order at approximately 6:14 p.m. He welcomed all in attendance. He opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Alvis asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Ronald Cameron so moved. Mr. Tyrone Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 1(C) Bearcat Elite. Dr. Perrigan highlighted the following individuals for Bearcat Elite:

Ben Hazelwood – not present

Dawson Garrett – not present

Mr. Brad Harper, Athletic Director of the Year.

Dr. Perrigan and School Board Members presented Mr. Harper with a Bearcat Elite certificate.

Mr. Alvis asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Randy White so moved. Mr. Steve Fletcher seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2018
- B. Approval of Payment of Bills

Dr. Perrigan presented the Superintendent's Report, which included the following:

- He presented a report from Mr. Bill Buckles, about the work that was completed when schools closed for inclement weather on February 2, 2018 regarding sanitization of buildings. He noted even though we are within normal ranges for absenteeism; we wanted to take advantage of this day to disinfect our schools. He noted areas of concerns:

1. Cafeterias
2. Class Room Desk
3. High Touch Areas, Doors, Water Fountains
4. Restrooms

He noted sanitizers were used at each school wiping down all areas listed above. He noted there were crews in each building beginning at 7:30 am thru 5:30 pm. He also noted, school buses were cleaned and treated with foggers at the Transportation Building. He noted calculated man hours spent on sanitization:

1. Van Pelt – 24 hours
2. Stonewall Jackson – 20 hours
3. Highland View – 16 hours
4. Washington Lee – 16 hours
5. Virginia Middle – 32 hours
6. Virginia High – 40 hours
7. Transit – 8 hours

- He highlighted February is School Board Appreciation Month. He noted he is thankful that Bristol has such a student and employee centered Board. He noted he hoped everyone would let them know how much you appreciate them this month and every month. He highlighted it is also School Counselor Week, CTE Month, and Black History Month. He noted he was looking forward to all the events and activities associated with these important designations.
- He noted VDOE released sample reports about how our schools would fare under the new accreditation standards using last year's data. The new standards look at more than just achievement and graduation and have 3 designation levels for each category. He noted none of our schools had more than one Level 3 and two of our schools had all Level 1 scores.
- He noted our Comprehensive Plan Teams have been working hard to revise our Plan. He noted he would be sending draft Vision/Mission statements out soon for our staff and parents to review. He noted we are on track to present our plan to you this spring.
- He highlighted we were very thankful to have received \$10,000 from United Way for our Reading Buddies program. He also noted we were grateful to our volunteers who make this program possible.

- He noted it goes without saying that we have a big night ahead of us as the Board makes a historic decision about school consolidation. He noted he was very proud of the transparency that has been a part of this process so far. He also noted so far this school year we have discussed the project at 3 regular School Board Meeting, 1 Called Meeting, 4 Public Hearings, 1 School Board Retreat, 3 City Council Meetings, 1 PTA Meeting and he also presented the plan to the Lions Club, Optimist Club, and Tip Club. He noted this does not include the multiple media coverages and individual meetings he has had with interested citizens.

Mr. Alvis thanked Dr. Perrigan for his report.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 3(B) School Board Student Representative Report. Fletcher Dalton noted that Abi was unable to attend because she is currently in Richmond on a Bristol Youth Leadership trip. He noted this past Wednesday he and Abi met with Dr. Brittle to talk about the various activities and programs going on at Stonewall Jackson. He noted it has been a school wide effort there to push coding, computer technology, and other STEM related subjects. He noted Stonewall is teaching kids as young as Pre-K the basics of coding through a program called Code Mouse. He noted other coding and technological programs happening included Cubbeto, 12 Sphero, which are little spherical robots, and finally drones. He noted the technologies help our youngest students prepare for our new modern world. He highlighted Dr. Brittle also praised two of our own Virginia High students, Peyton Epperson and Mary Douthitt, for teaching 2nd grade students the importance of money and financial literacy. He noted during the second semester, Stonewall will also be offering various programs after school, which include; tutoring in reading and math, book study, sign language, and Girls on the Run (which helps empower young girls while they exercise and learn life lessons). He also noted that during the month of February, Stonewall would be hosting their annual Fun and Fitness night, which combines music and movement, and encourages healthy eating, and general wellness. In addition, coming up in March they will have their Festival of Arts, Dr. Brittle informed us that the school will bring a pianist, students will go see a production by Bristol Ballet, and they will display student's art work. Fletcher noted it was truly nice to meet with Dr. Brittle and Mrs. Boswell because they really care about the children and they want what is best for them.

Mr. Alvis thanked Fletcher for a wonderful report.

Mr. Gary Ritchie, Superintendent, addressed Item 3(C) School Presentation- Stonewall Jackson and Washington Lee. Dr. Linda Brittle, Stonewall Jackson Principal, highlighted the many wonderful things happening at Stonewall Jackson and Washington Lee. Dr. Brittle noted the One-to-One Initiative had opened a new world for the students. She introduced both Ms. Mary Argenbright and Ms. Megan Boswell, Guidance Counselors. Ms. Boswell and Ms. Argenbright presented a PowerPoint, which detailed the responsibilities of School Counselors. They also explained in detail with each grade level the many different areas they begin career selection. Numerous students were present, performed a mock job interview, and discussed testing which identified their strengths. Dr. Perrigan read a Proclamation for Guidance Counselor Week and expressed his sincere gratitude for everything Ms. Argenbright and Ms. Boswell do, along with our other Counselors throughout the system.

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Mr. Alvis addressed Item 3(D) Recognition of School Board Appreciation Month. Dr. Perrigan thanked the Board for everything they do and all of the hard work and dedication they each display. Board Members were presented with a certificate from VSBA.

Ms. Kathy Musick addressed the Board during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Ms. Musick highlighted the recent happenings in Richmond. She thanked Board Members for including a raise for employees in the budget.

Mrs. Virginia Goodson also addressed the Board. Mrs. Goodson voiced concerns regarding the dates chosen for the Public Hearings. She noted it was a poor choice to have the meetings on a Wednesday night, as this is a church night. She also noted that schools were closed due to weather and Public Hearings were still held. She added her concerns for the final three locations chosen and stated she was not in favor of the locations. She stated her main concern, was the emphasis on the quality of education, and the attention students will receive. How will this effect accreditation? How will students perform in a large setting when we no longer have the smaller and more personalized schools with a community environment? Mrs. Goodson voiced her concerns on what would happen to the current schools once they are closed. She noted there had been no plans revealed regarding this. She noted another major concern was the traffic. Would there be a street expansion? She stated we need another school, not a two-school model. She stated her concern in regards to the financial responsibility. Who is responsible and for how long? She voiced her concern for the possibility of lost jobs/personnel. She added her concern of city funding and if it would continue. Mrs. Goodson agreed that we need a new school but she disagreed to closing three schools and also with a two-school model. She requested the School Board to slow the process down, do more research, and reveal more information. She noted she felt things were moving too fast.

Mr. Bill Shanks also addressed the Board. Mr. Shanks thanked the board for all of their hard work, effort, and time they have put into the consideration of consolidation. He noted he agreed that Bristol Virginia students deserve a 21st Century School. However, he expressed his concerns about the possibility of the school being built at the Van Pelt location. He ask the board to consider the many factors of closing down the current schools and having one centralized location.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 4(A) Formal Approval of Consolidating Four Elementary Schools into Two Elementary Schools. Mr. Ronald Cameron moved Formal Approval of Consolidating Four Elementary Schools into Two Elementary Schools. Mr. Tyrone Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 4(B) Approval of Site Selection for New Elementary Construction. Mr. Ronald Cameron moved Formal Approval of Consolidating Four Elementary Schools into Two Elementary Schools. Mr. Tyrone Foster seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes; Mr. Cameron, yes; Mr. Fletcher, yes; Mr. Foster, yes; Mr. White, no; Mr. Alvis, yes.

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Mr. Alvis addressed Item 4(C) Approval of School Calendar Proposals for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. Mr. Randy White moved Approval of School Calendar Proposals for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. Mr. Steve Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes; Me. Cameron, yes; Mr. Fletcher, yes; Mr. Foster, no; Mr. White, yes; Mr. Alvis, yes.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 4(D) Approval of 2017-2018 School Board Budget Revision #6. Mr. Tyrone Foster moved Approval of 2017-2018 School Board Budget Revision #6. Mr. Ronald Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Alvis addressed Item 5(A) Discussion of Requirements to Participate in Commencement Exercises. Dr. Perrigan discussed Policy IKF and Requirements to Participate in Commencement Exercises. He noted if a student was short one verified credit, was it possible for them to participate without receiving a diploma. He noted we had a student, which was unable to participate, because of one SOL. However, the student had passed all parts of the SOL, but not on one test. He also noted he was working with Delegate O'Quinn on Legislators passing the Super Testing Bill. He noted he planned to bring this Item back as an Action Item next meeting.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia, Mr. Foster moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters:

A. Discussion of Certain Personnel, Recommendation for Employment, Resignations.

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

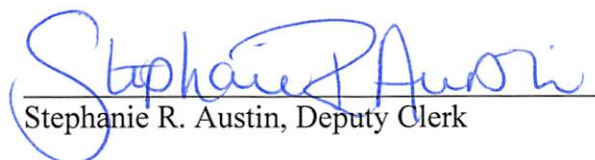
The Board went into Closed Session at 8:50 p.m.

Back in Public Session at 9:50 p.m., Mr. Foster 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. Fletcher seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Foster moved Approval of Attachment A as presented. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Alvis adjourned the meeting at 9:53 p.m.


Stephanie R. Austin, Deputy Clerk


Randy Alvis, Chairman