

**BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR SESSION  
January 07, 2020**

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 07, 2020, 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. Steve Fletcher, Chair  
Mr. Randy Alvis

Mr. Randall White  
Mr. Tyrone Foster

Also present were:

Dr. Keith Perrigan, Superintendent  
Mrs. Tammy Jones, Clerk

Mr. Gary Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent

Absent:

Mr. Ronald Cameron, Vice Chair

Mrs. Stephanie Austin, Deputy Clerk

Among those in the audience for the Regular Session were:

Ms. Kim Locke  
Ms. Megan Fabbri  
Dr. Linda Brittle  
Ms. Hannah Cooper  
Dr. Faith Mabe  
Ms. Karen Branson  
Mr. Dwayne Mabry

Ms. Sara Cook  
Ms. Kathy Musick  
Ms. Autumn Dowdy  
Ms. Maggi Buckles  
Ms. Alice Graham  
Ms. Tracey Mercier

Others were present, but failed to sign in.

Mr. Steve Fletcher, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. He welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Fletcher addressed Item 2 (A) Bearcat Elite. Dr. Keith Perrigan, Superintendent, and School Board Members recognized Virginia High School students who had perfect SOL scores. Each student was presented with a Bearcat Elite certificate.

Mr. Fletcher addressed Item 2 (B) School Presentation – Stonewall Jackson Elementary. Dr. Linda Brittle, Principal, expressed her gratitude to Dr. Perrigan and School Board Members for the opportunity to showcase Stonewall Jackson Elementary. Dr. Brittle highlighted the phenomenal staff at Stonewall Jackson in which makes the school an extraordinary place to be.

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Mr. Fletcher addressed Item 2 (C) School Board Student Representative Report. They highlighted Highland View Elementary has implemented a new program, Walking Classroom, that helps children to retain information by learning to walk with a pacer that clicks to reinforce ideas taught earlier in the classroom. Another program that helps tremendously is Reading Buddies. This is where trustworthy members of the community come in once a week to read to the children. Also, in order to ensure every student receives the right nutrition to start the day, Breakfast-On-The-Go allows all children to go through the breakfast line as soon as they come off the bus. In addition, if a student is tardy to school, they are still included in this program because Highland View believes nutrition is crucial to the ability to learn. They also highlighted Virginia High School's own Madison Harosky, wrote and directed a play called "Mistletoe Murder" that Virginia High performed on December 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a phenomenal to say the least. The indoor track meet competed in their first meet John Battle on December 14. The basketball teams travel to Lebanon today, and the swim and dive team hosts a meet at Virginia High. The basketball teams also play John Battle tomorrow at Virginia High.

Dr. Perrigan presented the Superintendent's Report, which included the following. As you are aware, we have had a busy return to school. He noted we had dealt with 2 potential threats that we believe to be non-credible and or a hoax. He added even though history has shown that a mass violence does not come with a date stamped warning. He noted Virginia High School was well prepared for any safety issue on Monday. He noted it was our opinion that today's threat was either a "copycat" hoax or misinformation in regards to another issue that was not directly related to Virginia Middle School. He noted the new metal detectors worked well and will be a good addition to our school safety toolbox. He suggested the Board develop a vision for future implementation. He noted to keep in mind that to operate the metal detectors on a daily basis would require a reallocation of current resources from the schools and the city. He added that the collaboration between our staff and all agencies this week was fantastic. He highlighted he was invited to the Governor's Press Conference last month as he announced new budget initiatives for K-12. He noted they include a 2% raise for teachers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the biennium, significantly increasing the At-Risk Add On, (both of which are focus areas for COSARS) and adding Games of Skill funding. He noted our advocacy efforts should be to ensure that the ARAO increase is protected and that funding for facilities are considered. He added if the Governor's recommendations stay intact, he would be recommending that the ARAO increase be used for raises in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the biennium. He noted we have a draft agreement prepared for our partnership with UVA Wise that will provide scholarships to minority students who want to become teachers. He added UVA Wise will agree to an annual amount to be given as a scholarship and we will agree to provide \$XXX per month to any in our service. He added this goes along with your goal to recruit a workforce that looks more closely resembles our student body. He added Board Members had a draft agreement for their review. Dr. Perrigan highlighted this has been a historic month for Bristol Virginia Public Schools. He added we have had a TODAY Show Cameo by Highland View and the Bristolian of the Year, a double All-American runner at Virginia High School, Veterans were honored and cared for by Virginia Middle School and Stonewall Jackson Elementary, a safety vestibule was installed at Van Pelt Elementary, and Washington Lee Elementary was named a National School of Distinction. He added he was so proud of our students, staffs, and schools. He highlighted Bristol Virginia Public Schools is truly thriving and part of that is due to the leadership of our School Board Members.

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Mr. Fletcher thanked Dr. Perrigan for his report.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of Payment of Bills
- B. Approval of Minutes – Regular Session – December 2, 2019 – Called Session – October 11, 2018

Mr. Fletcher addressed Item 4(A) Approval of Program Director of Data Management Position. Mr. Randy Alvis moved approval. Mr. Tyrone Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fletcher addressed Item 4(B) Approval of 2021 Budget Priorities. The decision was made to table this Item until February meeting when there is a full board available. Mr. Foster moved approval. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fletcher addressed Item 4(C) Approval of National School Counseling Week Proclamation. Mr. Foster moved approval. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fletcher addressed Item 5(A) Public Comment. No one addressed the Board.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1)(2) of the Code of Virginia, Mr. Alvis 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)(A)(2) per the Code of Virginia, Specifically,

- A. Discussion of Certain Personnel, Recommendation for Employment, and Resignations.
- B. Review of Superintendent's Contract.
- C. Approval of Request for Release from Compulsory School Attendance Due to Religious Convictions #01CA2020.

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

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:19 p.m.

Back in Public Session at 8:21 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. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

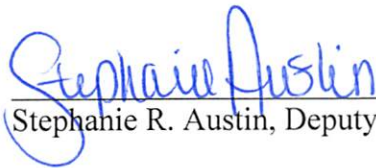
Mr. Foster moved Approval of Attachment (A) as recommended. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Alvis rejected Approval of Request from Compulsory School Attendance Due to Religious Convictions: #01CA2020 due to the fact that the letter was dated in November and the student was not enrolled in our system. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.



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Stephanie R. Austin, Deputy Clerk



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Steve Fletcher, Chairman