

**BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
March 5, 2024**

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, in the Bristol Virginia Public Schools Administration Office, 280 Lee Street, Bristol, Virginia. A quorum was present with the following Board members in attendance:

Mrs. Breanne Forbes Hubbard, Chair
Mr. Randy Alvis
Mr. Frank Goodpasture

Mrs. Vanessa Guffey, Vice Chair
Mr. Steve Fletcher

Also present were:

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

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

Mrs. Breanne Forbes Hubbard, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard addressed Item 2 (A) Superintendents Report. Dr. David Scott, Superintendent, presented the following:

School Construction:

- Some decisions about landscaping and signage; we will be getting room numbers labeled and signage ordered for the building; that will lead naturally into assigning teachers and so forth to the rooms.
- There is work going on throughout the building, and we are seeing some areas getting into the detail work – millwork and cabinets and so forth.
- Recent tours with community members and parents – all in an effort to highlight what we believe will be an outstanding place for the young children of our community to learn.
- Seems there is still some convincing that needs to happen, but by and large, everyone who visits walks away with positive comments.

Traffic Patterns at the Elementary Site:

- Now, despite the positive responses to the layout of the building, there are still some monumental challenges in front of us. The traffic pattern is obviously a big one. We have dedicated time to reviewing various approaches to bringing cars into driveways and how our buses will move through the two schools in the most efficient way possible. There are no clear-cut solutions, and so we are continuing to look at it from more and more angles.
- We are also looking at parking lots and plans to maximize spaces for staff and public visitors.

Renovations at Van Pelt/Virginia Primary School:

- We have made some decisions about how much renovation we can undertake at what will be Virginia Primary School.

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- Extensive renovations to the pods that are the current second-grade and first-grade pods on the far side of the media center if one enters from the front of the building. That corridor will be home to the Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms next year.
- The corridor near the office—the current fourth and fifth grade pods—will be first-grade classrooms next year.
- In addition to the moving of classrooms, the renovation on the back hallway will be pretty disruptive once school is out. We are planning to get a jump on the preparations for those renovations even while the school year is ending. The renovations will include upgrading sections of the fire alarm system, and some of that work will even begin during Spring Break.
- We will also be getting final inspections of the two new classroom additions during Spring Break.

Technology – Renovations:

- Mr. Shelton is unable to be here to receive recognition for the installation of the View Sonic Smart Panels at the high school. These were recently installed throughout the school, and the reviews have been very positive so far.
- We did hear that some people would have preferred to have those installed during a break in the calendar, but with renovations happening throughout the school division, we really have limited options in terms of when the work can be done.
- For instance, Virginia Middle School's intercom/public address system will be getting its upgrade during our upcoming spring break.
- We are also preparing for the implementation of the Centegix push-button card response system. There is some cabling work to be done for that system, and then that system can begin to be integrated with the new PA system.

Black History Month Educational Experiences:

- We had an absolutely wonderful culminating event to celebrate Black History Month on February 27th. While many of our staff members contributed to the planning of this event, there are a few I would like to single out for their efforts. To begin with Mrs. Karen Cross at VMS – Mrs. Cross took a lot of initiative in creating a full-day experience for her middle school students and was able to bring around 100 students and staff members to the Central Office to hear Mr. Jerry Jones recount experiences of growing up here and attending Douglass High School. But more than just working the schedule out to allow our students to see and hear Mr. Jones, Mrs. Cross was instrumental in getting our students to have a viewing of the movie "Till" at the Legacy Theater and then having an opportunity to visit the historic Resting Tree on the old plantation next to Sugar Hollow.
- Dr. Scott noted he would like to thank Brad Harper and all of the hardworking members of the transportation department for working out the buses on that day; thank you to Mrs. Leeah Parks and her staff for being flexible with the provision of lunches for both the middle and high school students who were in attendance that day. Mr. Collins and your social studies department for ensuring that some of the high school students were able to see and hear the speaker, too. And Mr. Buckles, thank you to you and your staff for setting up the room and get it back in order afterwards. Dr. Scott highlighted he understood that Cody deserves a special thank you for his efforts, not to diminish anyone else's time and effort.
- He also noted his appreciation for Mr. Randy White for this event. Mr. White, as you know, is passionate about the history of Bristol, the history of our schools, and in particular, the history of

the treatment of black Americans in Bristol and the surrounding areas. We are grateful to Mr. White for sharing his historical knowledge, artifacts, and passion with our students.

- We did have other important Black History Month experiences throughout the month, and he does not intend to skip over them. There were great things happening in all of our schools, whether that was in the form of units on the Harlem Renaissance or biographical reports of celebrated African Americans. He noted he would like to call attention to is the Cosmetology exhibit at Virginia High School. He noted he was going to put Diya on the spot here in a moment and ask her to tell us about what is on display. But first, he wanted to let her, and her fellow student board reps know that we love to fuss over our students, and we are going to make it a point to fuss publicly over our reps.

Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation:

- Formerly the GENAN Foundation – has increased its support for the Bearcat PAWS program. They have very generously given an additional \$25K to the program, bringing their amazing contribution for this year to more than \$200K. We want to give our friends at the Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation a sincere thank you. We'd also like to thank our own Education Foundation for helping to receive and facilitate those donations. Brittany Shortt and the Board for the Education Foundation have just been very supportive in all of our conversations and continue to be great partners – both from a financial perspective and from a thought-partner perspective.

Lockdown Drills in February:

- We conducted lockdown drills in February, which met our requirement under the Code of Virginia. As promised, and just as importantly, as required by the statute, we provided notice of the drills prior to initiating them.
- Findings: good response from students; staff compliance went well; a couple of discussion points about specific classrooms and their relative location to features in the buildings (like gymnasiums, cafeterias, hallway restrooms, etc.)
- Findings: High level of compliance with exterior doors and occupied rooms being shut and locked; did find some gaps in our intercom coverage, and we are working to correct these issues.
- Opened discussion for future rounds and getting more prepared; initiating lockdowns from different parts of the building
- Opened discussion for future communications, expectations for parents, planning with the City and even the media

Upcoming Events:

- The elementary schools are collaborating on another multi-school event to encourage community throughout the school division. On March 26th, there will be a Spring Wellness Event hosted at Virginia High School. While this is being hosted at the VHS, this event is being spearheaded by Ms. Holly Rolan and the elementary PE teachers. And it is my understanding that this is a physical fitness event. Please be on the lookout for more information on that. And, other than the budget discussion, which is waiting in the wings, the last big topic to draw attention to is the Virginia High School Boys Basketball Team and their State Championship game this Thursday.
- Before getting into that, he wanted to offer the following disclaimer: We have many students and teams that do outstanding, commendable things throughout the year; and our intention is to highlight their accomplishments at Board Meetings. We are going to pull together the Best of the Best, hopefully at the April Board Meeting, to celebrate their achievements. He added he knows we have had state qualifiers and state champions and a new indoor track record set – we want to

make sure that we can invite these students and their parents to a board meeting and give them the recognition they deserve.

- Now, regarding the Boys trip to the state championship – We are still developing and revising our plans for how best to approach Thursday. He noted if he may speak for himself and the Board, he knows the sentiment Friday night was one of jubilation and there was very quickly agreement that we need to show our boys basketball team all of the support we can. Now, how we do that is not exactly obvious. We have a whole school division to take into consideration, and he knows there is no shortage of opinions on what would be the best thing to do. As of right now, we are still planning to have school on Thursday, and we are planning to send one, if not two, spirit buses to Richmond to cheer on our boys. Additionally, he added he is hearing a lot of support for local watch parties, and we have not ruled out the possibility of canceling school for the occasion.
- Dr. Scott wanted to remind us that the right decision is not always what lines up with the wishes of the people who vocalize or broadcast their opinions. So, we are actively trying to gauge how many staff members, students, families, and so forth are going to make the trip to Richmond, and we are going to do our best to make a decision during the day tomorrow.
- He thinks it is a shame that our game is scheduled for 2:30 on a Thursday afternoon, which makes travel all the more problematic. But that is beyond our control.
- We will provide updates about seat availability tomorrow, and he did want to state publicly for all of the students who have tuned in to our meeting remotely, purchasing a game ticket will allow you to be counted present on Thursday, whether you ride the spirit bus or not. We want everyone to be safe in their travels, and we also want to avoid a thousand absences on Thursday if possible.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard thanked Dr. Scott for his report.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard addressed Item 2 (B) School Board Representative Report. Student Representatives presented a PowerPoint on the following:

- The Honors Luncheon was recently held at Virginia High. Our Culinary Arts students prepared a lunch for students who achieved A's and B's last semester. Over 200 students were recognized with a certificate for their academic excellence.
- At the State VHSL wrestling competition, Orrion King took third place, Mason Harrington took fourth place, and Quentyn Daggs took sixth place, concluding the 2024 wrestling season.
- On Saturday, February 24, the VHS men's basketball team won the region 2 basketball championship at Gate City. Junior Teron Woolen had a half-court shot at the final buzzer. WCYB interviewed Teron on 2/26/2024 for his game-winning shot.
- Scheduling has been in full force as students prepare for their 2025 school year. Classes and extracurriculars will be offered to students as well as virtual classes. Students can choose from DE or AP classes to further their high school and college career with a wide selection of fun programs. Some of the classes students can pick include intro to culinary arts, fine arts, auto tech, strength and conditioning, drama, and cosmetology.
- The Interact Club has found several volunteer opportunities available for all high school students. These include: Wrapping books for elementary students in the area. Assisting with umpiring, concessions, bookkeeping, announcing, and field maintenance for the Bristol Virginia Little League. Organizing activities and tutoring at Children's Inc. Visiting elderly patients and assisting a nurse/social worker at a local healthcare facility
- The Virginia High School Beta Club is currently in search of service projects. The team of officers have been meeting to discuss potential projects with local nonprofits. Some of which include River's Way, the Children's Advocacy Center, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Tennessee.

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- The Queen of Hearts campaign is still underway for senior Paris Martin and sophomore Carlei Keeney. Carlei is gearing up for a dog play day at Sugar Hollow Park on Saturday, March 23rd from 1:30-3:30. Paris recently finished her Valentine's Day basket raffle. We encourage everyone to support our candidates as they raise money for the American Heart Association.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard thanked everyone for their report.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard addressed Item 2 (C) Discussion of Policy JFCH – Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products. Dr. Scott noted last Board Meeting the discussion was held regarding the problem with vapor products in our schools and how harmful they can be. He added he was directed by the Board to take swift action to ensure we had a policy in place on what to do with violators with vape and tobacco products. Dr. Scott added he would be remiss not to mention there was a policy in place, but it does require a Regulation. He added between last meeting and tonight he had developed the following proposed Regulation JFCH. Dr. Scott read the Regulation.

Mr. Noah Ashbrook, Mr. Brandon Guffey, and Mr. Brad Hutchinson addressed the Board during Public Comment.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard addressed Item 4 (A) Approval of Consent Agenda. Mr. Alvis moved approval. Mr. Frank Goodpasture 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 – February 5, 2024
- C. Approval of Contract Purchase Great than \$50,000.00 – Various furniture. KI via Sourcewell contract #121919-KII fir a total cost of \$483,124.68
- D. Approval of Contract Purchase Great than \$50,000.00 – 24 laptop carts from Datum via TIPS contract #230301 for a total cost of \$51,739.35.
- E. Approval of Contract Purchase Greater than \$50,000.00 - various furniture items from MooreCo Inc. via NCPA contract #07-108 for a total cost of \$83,950.51.
- F. Approval of Contract Purchase Greater than \$50,000.00 - moving materials, installation and delivery of new products, and tagging and moving existing furniture from Envision Collaborative Interiors for a total cost of \$153,353.08.
- G. Approval of Contract Purchase Greater than \$50,000.00 - various furniture items from SitOnIt Seating (Exemplis LLC) via Omnia Partners contract #R191803 for a total cost of \$52,871.94.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard addressed Item 5(A) Approval of School Board Budget Revision #6. Mr. Fletcher moved approval. Mr. Goodpasture seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard addressed Item 5(B) Approval of 2024-2025 School Board Budget. Mr. Alvis moved approval. Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard addressed Item 5(C) Approval of Resolution to Offer Advantage 65 Plans. Mrs. Guffey moved approval. Mr. Goodpasture seconded the motion, Mr. Alvis abstain, and the motion carried.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard addressed Item 5(D) Approval of RFP #02-2023/24; 01/18/2024- For a Term Contract for Architectural Services. Mr. Fletcher moved approval. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard addressed Item 5(E) Approval of Granting Superintendent Permission to Hire New Employees Between March 6, 2024 and April 15, 2024 in Consultation with the School Board. Mr. Goodpasture moved approval. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

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Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, Mrs. Guffey 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 and Resignations
Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

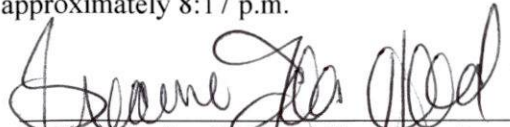
The Board went into Closed Session at 7:15 p.m.

Back in Public Session at 8:16 p.m., Mrs. Guffey 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.

Mrs. Guffey moved Approval of Attachment (A) as recommended. Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion, Mr. Goodpasture was absent for voting, and the motion carried.

Mrs. Forbes Hubbard adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:17 p.m.


Stephanie R. Austin, Deputy Clerk


Breanne Forbes Hubbard, Board Chair