

**BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD
WORK SESSION/REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 5, 2009**

The Bristol Virginia School Board conducted a Work Session on rezoning of attendance zones on Monday, January 5, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the School Board Office, 222 Oak Street, Bristol, Virginia. The Board also met in Regular Session immediately following the Work Session. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Ronald Cameron, Chair
Mr. Eric Clark
Mr. Randall J. White

Mrs. Virginia Goodson, Vice Chair
Mr. Tyrone Foster

Also present were:

Mrs. Ina Danko, Superintendent
Mrs. Cathy Moss, Deputy Clerk

Dr. Mike Amstein, Assistant Superintendent

Among those in the audience were:

Dr. Terry Caldwell
Mr. Mike Braswell
Dr. Linda Brittle
Ms. Becky Nave
Mrs. Tricia Sale
Mrs. Joy Berry

Mrs. Patty Bowers
Dr. Martin Ringstaff
Mr. Dennis Staton
Mr. Bo Love
Mrs. Helen Marlowe

Mr. Jeff Shelton
Mrs. Debbie Leonard
Mr. Gary Ritchie
Mr. Randy Alvis
Mr. David McGee, *Bristol Herald Courier*

Others were present, but failed to sign in.

Mr. Ronald Cameron, Chair, called the Work Session to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. He welcomed all in attendance and reviewed previous work sessions held to consider proposals for rezoning attendance zones. He indicated that the attendance zones had not been revised for over 17 years and indicated that the Board was considering three proposals to adjust the zones. He thanked Dr. Terry Caldwell for his work on this project.

Mr. Eric Clark invited members of the audience to express their views and welcomed an open discussion.

Mr. Randy White thanked those in attendance.

Members of the audience discussed the following:

- Out-of-zone/Tuition Students – would the division still allow these requests?

Mrs. Ina Danko, Superintendent, responded that out-of-zone and tuition requests would continue to be considered but until final numbers are known, requests would not be approved.

- Grandfathering of current students (allowing them to remain in current schools)

Mr. Cameron responded that no grandfathering would occur. He added that out-of-zone requests would be considered.

Mrs. Virginia Goodson stated that currently Board Policy allows teachers' children to attend the school where the teacher works. Mr. Cameron indicated that he anticipated the policy would continue.

There was considerable discussion as to why the Board was considering revising the attendance zones. Mr. Cameron indicated the main reason for rezoning is to equalize enrollment among the elementary schools. He noted that Van Pelt had experienced a large increase in enrollment this year. Mr. Clark stated his concern about the amount of time students spend riding school buses due to the current boundaries, and he indicated that improving transportation to reduce time spent on the buses as well as revising routes to be more efficient was also a contributing factor.

Dr. Terry Caldwell reviewed the three proposals for rezoning and fielded questions about each proposal.

A parent in attendance indicated that the work sessions were not publicized enough and parents were not aware that the Board was considering revising the attendance zones. Board members indicated that they were pleased that some parents did attend the meeting and encouraged them to spread the word to other parents as the Board welcomed input from families. It was the consensus of the Board to attend PTA meetings at all of the elementary schools to discuss rezoning and field any questions parents and staff may have. Principals will furnish Mrs. Danko with dates in January for PTA meetings.

After discussion of the three proposals, it was the consensus of the Board to eliminate Proposal Number 1. Proposals 2 and 3 will be presented for discussion at each elementary school during a PTA meeting in January.

Mr. Cameron adjourned the Work Session at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Cameron called the Regular Session to order at approximately 6:25 p.m. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Cameron asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Goodson moved that the agenda be amended to add the following item: 7(B) Discussion or Consideration of Admission or Disciplinary Matters Concerning Any 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 to Change Placement for Student #16SH2008. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cameron asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Goodson so moved. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - (1) Called Session – November 17, 2008
 - (2) Work Session/Regular Session – December 1, 2008
 - (3) Called Session – December 5, 2008
- B. Approval of Payment of Bills
- C. Approval of Letter of Resignation from Bonnie Parks, Virginia Middle School Instructor
- D. Approval of Requests for Transfer of Sick Leave Days

(Copies of the letter of resignation and the report outlining the requests for transfer of sick leave days are included with these minutes.)

During the Public Comment portion of the meeting, the following individuals addressed the Board:

- Mrs. Becky Nave, parent, requested that the Board consider reviewing the tardiness policy as it relates to exam exemptions at Virginia High School. She indicated that her son was not allowed to exempt exams due to one tardy.
- Mr. Randy Alvis, parent, inquired about the process for filling the head football coaching position.
- Mrs. Tricia Sale, parent, also requested that the Board review the current tardy policy in place at Virginia High School as it relates to exam exemptions. She noted that her child was not allowed to exempt exams due to one tardy.

Mr. Cameron thanked the individuals for their comments. Mr. Cameron explained there was a process in place for filling the vacant head football coach position and suggested that Mr. Alvis talk with Dr. Martin Ringstaff, VHS Principal.

Mrs. Danko presented the Superintendent's Report which included the following:

- She thanked the Board for the reception it hosted prior to the work session in her honor.
- She updated the Board regarding 2009-2010 state budget information available at this time. She noted that at least a 5-8% reduction was expected. She also added that these cuts could be permanent and urged everyone to contact their legislators about this issue. She stated that the Board would be meeting jointly with City Council to discuss budget issues after more concrete numbers were available. She reviewed several reductions in place this budget year to non-critical spending areas, i.e., cell phones, land phones, bus routes, turning off lights and computers at night. She commended the principals for their cooperation in this team effort to reduce spending.
- She announced that VHS received a Bronze Medal from the U.S. News and World Report magazine. In this study, schools were judged on how well the entire student body was served and judged how well students met or exceeded state proficiency guidelines. The study also assessed how well schools prepared students for college-level work.

Mr. Cameron thanked Mrs. Danko for her report. He added that the budget standpoint this year was very bad and all options to reduce spending must be considered. He added that the Board's priority was to protect instructional programs and tough decisions would have to be made.

Mrs. Danko addressed Item 5(A) Approval of 2008-2009 Budget Revision #5. She reviewed the revisions in both revenues and expenditures. Mr. White moved approval of 2008-2009 Budget Revision #5 as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of 2008-2009 Budget Revision #5 is included with these minutes.)

Mrs. Danko addressed Item 5(B) Adoption of Resolution to establish Deferred Compensation Plan and Approval of Employer Adoption Agreement to Join the Deferred Compensation Plan of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. White moved adoption of the resolution and approval of the agreement as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the resolution and the Employer Adoption Agreement is included with these minutes.)

Mrs. Danko addressed Item 6(A) Discussion of Parent/Employee Survey Results. She reviewed the results of the recent survey regarding transportation, calendar, and scheduling issues.

Mrs. Danko addressed Item 6(B) First Reading and Discussion of New School Board Policy GBR – Voluntary Retirement Savings Program. She noted that this policy would be presented for adoption next month.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(A) of the Code of Virginia, Mrs. Goodson moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters:

- A. Discussion of Personnel as Authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, Specifically:
 - (1) Approval of Coaching Supplements
 - (2) Approval of Part-Time SOL Resource Teachers
 - (3) Approval of Temporary Science Instructor at VMS

- B. Discussion or Consideration of Admission or Disciplinary Matters Concerning Any 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:
 - (1) Consideration of Recommendation to Change Placement for Student #16SH2008

Mr. White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. The Board went into Closed Session at 7:10 p.m.

Back in Public Session at 8:40 p.m., Mrs. Goodson 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. Clark seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Foster moved approval of the following coaching supplements: Sara DeBusk, Assistant Girls' Track; Josh Shuler, Middle School Track; Maggie Davis, Middle School Track; Ben Talley, Middle School Golf; and Terry Smith, Track Head Coach Boys'. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the memo recommending the coaching supplements is included with these minutes.)

Mrs. Goodson moved approval of employment of the following part-time SOL resource teachers: Terry Guill, Monica Hoffman, Rebecca Loudermilk, and Janet Meadows. Mr. White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letters of recommendation for employment is included with these minutes.)

Mrs. Goodson moved approval of employment of Brandon Hulsey as temporary 8th-grade science instructor. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation for employment is included with these minutes.)

Mrs. Goodson moved approval of the recommendation to place Student #16SH2009 in a regular program upon return to school on January 20, 2009. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mrs. Goodson, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Cameron voting "aye" and Mr. White and Mr. Foster voting "nay."

The following was discussed during the Old and New Business portion of the meeting:

- Mrs. Danko informed the Board of a student disciplinary incident which may require a Board disciplinary hearing.
- Mr. Cameron asked the Board for direction regarding the tardy policy at VHS which was discussed during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. It was the consensus of the Board to keep the current policy intact.
- Mrs. Danko informed the Board that the Joint Session with City Council had been scheduled for January 27, 2009, at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- Mr. Cameron indicated a contractor had contacted him about possible building opportunities for relocation of the School Board Office. He indicated that he would schedule the contractor to present to the Board possible options.

Mr. Cameron adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:10 p.m.

