

BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2008

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 7, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 300 Lee Street, Bristol, Virginia. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Butch Tolley, Chair
Mr. Eric Clark
Mr. Randall J. White

Mr. Ronald Cameron, Vice Chair
Mrs. Virginia Goodson

Also present were:

Dr. Douglas E. Arnold, Superintendent
Mrs. Tammy Jones, Clerk

Dr. Michael K. Amstein, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Cathy Moss, Deputy Clerk

Among those in the audience were:

Mrs. Debbie Leonard
Mr. Terry Smith
Mr. Clyde Nophlin, Jr.
Dr. Linda Brittle
Mr. Gary Ritchie
Dr. Terry Caldwell
Mr. David McGee, *Bristol Herald Courier*

Mrs. Patty Bowers
Mr. Bo Love
Mrs. Brenda Carroll
Ms. Rebecca Meadows
Mr. Mike Braswell
Ms. Lynda McClanahan

Mrs. Pam Smith
Ms. Jackie Nophlin
Mrs. Ina Danko
Mrs. Joy Berry
Mr. Dennis Staton
Mrs. Mary Shaffer
Mr. Jeff Shelton

Others may have been present but either failed to sign in or their signatures were not legible.

Mr. Butch Tolley, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Tolley asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Virginia Goodson so moved. Mr. Eric Clark seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tolley asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Randy White so moved. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - (1) Regular Session – December 4, 2007
 - (2) Joint Session with City Council – December 11, 2007
- B. Approval of Payment of Bills
- C. Approval of Additions to Substitute Teacher List
- D. Approval of Requests for Donation of Sick Leave Days

(A copy of the Additions to Substitute Teacher List and a copy of the Requests for Donation of Sick Leave Days report are included with these minutes.)

During the Public Comment portion of the meeting the following individual addressed the Board:

- Ms. Jackie Nophlin expressed her concern to the Board as to the procedure for individuals who address the Board during Public Comment to receive feedback from the Board regarding concerns presented. She also addressed Mr. White and Mrs. Goodson individually about

concerns about failing benchmarks and community concerns which had been previously expressed. Mr. Tolley thanked Ms. Nophlin for her remarks.

The Focus on Instruction portion of the meeting highlighted the Virginia High School Career and Technical Education Department. Mrs. Brenda Carroll presented a report on the cosmetology program at Virginia High School. She noted that the program was growing and was a three-year program. She distributed program brochures and shared a slide presentation which included pictures of students at work in class as well as student fantasy creations which were entered in a regional skills competition. She thanked the Board for supporting the program. Ms. Lynda McClanahan demonstrated a robotics activity which was being used by computer programming students. She reviewed the software which was funded through Tech Prep funds. She indicated a gaming and robotics course would be offered as a dual enrollment class next year. Mr. Tolley thanked Mrs. Carroll and Ms. McClanahan for the most informative report.

Dr. Doug Arnold presented the Superintendent's Report which included the following:

- He informed the Board that Bonnie Parks, teacher at Virginia High School, was awarded a grant from Target in the amount of \$1,000 which she will use to take her students to the Natural History Museum in Gray, Tennessee.
- He also informed the Board that nine English instructors at Virginia Middle School received a Virginia Commission of the Arts Grant in the amount of \$300 each.
- He added that several programs had been nominated for the 2008 Excellence in Education Award offered by Virginia Tech.
- He indicated that a summer school program would be offered for autistic students this summer. Mrs. Patty Bowers, Director of Student Services and Special Education, reviewed the program to be implemented this summer.
- Dr. Arnold stated that January 14-18 had been designated as Virginia School Principal Appreciation Week. Mr. Tolley presented each principal a framed certificate of appreciation from Governor Tim Kaine.
- Dr. Arnold introduced the three teachers selected as the first participants in the Bristol Virginia Public Schools Leadership Initiative: Mr. Paul "Bo" Love, Ms. Rebecca Meadows, and Mrs. Pam Smith. Mr. Tolley presented each teacher with a new laptop computer. Dr. Arnold noted that as a participant, each would receive tuition reimbursement and additional training opportunities. Mr. Tolley indicated that the establishment of this initiative had been a goal of the School Board for many years and stated that he was thrilled that the program was in place to support staff who aspires to be administrators.

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 5(A) Approval of Additional Special Education Aide Position. He outlined the need for this additional position and noted the position would be funded through Title VI B funds. Mr. Ronald Cameron moved approval of the position as presented. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the memo requesting the new position is included with these minutes.)

Dr. Terry Caldwell addressed Item 6(B) Report on Emergency Communication System Test. He reviewed the procedures for notifying staff members of an emergency and also reviewed the results of the test. Mr. Tolley thanked Dr. Caldwell for the report.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(A) of the Code of Virginia, Mr. Cameron moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters: Discussion of Personnel as Authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, Specifically:

- (1) Employment of 8th-Grade Assistant Baseball Coach
- (2) Employment of Elementary SOL Resource Teacher
- (3) Employment of Part-Time Remedial Teacher for Highlands Detention Center
- (4) Employment of Middle School Mathematics SOL Resource Teacher
- (5) Employment of Middle School Social Studies SOL Resource Teacher
- (6) Employment of Assistant Boys' Track Coach
- (7) Employment of Elementary SOL Resource Teacher
- (8) Employment of 8th-Grade Assistant Softball Coach
- (9) Employment of Middle School Language Arts SOL Resource Teacher
- (10) Employment of 8th-Grade Baseball Coach
- (11) Employment of 8th-Grade Softball Coach
- (12) Employment of Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach
- (13) Approval of Employment and Approval of Resignation(s) as needed

Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board went into Closed Session at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Back in Public Session at approximately 7:40 p.m., Mr. Cameron 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. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cameron moved employment of Jeffrey Davidson as 8th-grade assistant baseball coach. Due to a lack of a second, the motion died.

Mr. Cameron moved employment of Veronica Price as an elementary SOL resource teacher. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

Mrs. Goodson moved employment of Carrie Cornett as part-time remedial teacher for Highlands Detention Center. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Cameron moved employment of Sue Melkowski as middle school mathematics SOL resource teacher. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Clark moved employment of Sarah Hampton as middle school social studies SOL resource teacher. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

Mrs. Goodson moved employment of Chris Lark as assistant boys' track coach. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Clark moved employment of Renee Dye as elementary SOL resource teacher. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Cameron moved employment of Michael Minnick as 8th-grade assistant softball coach. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Clark moved employment of Melissa Dolinger as middle school language arts SOL resource teacher. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Clark moved employment of Kreg Ramey as 8th-grade baseball coach. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Cameron moved employment of Brandi Owens as 8th-grade softball coach. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

Mrs. Goodson moved employment of Tehan Redman as assistant girls' soccer coach. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation of employment is included with these minutes.)

During the Old and New Business portion of the meeting, the following was discussed:

- Dr. Arnold asked the Board for direction regarding a student disciplinary issue. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule student disciplinary hearings on January 21, 2008, to consider the disciplinary recommendations.
- Dr. Arnold asked the Board for direction regarding the location of future meetings. It was the consensus of the Board to meet for regular sessions in the library at Virginia High School.
- There was some discussion about the need for better facilities for the central office. It was the consensus of the Board to meet to possibly tour several available properties.
- Mrs. Goodson indicated she would not be present for the February regular session as she would be attending the Federal Relations Conference in Washington, DC.

Mr. Tolley adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m.