

**BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD  
CALLED SESSION  
MARCH 17, 2008**

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in a Called Session on Monday, March 17, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the School Board Office, 222 Oak Street, Bristol, Virginia. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Butch Tolley, Chair  
Mr. Eric Clark

Mr. Ronald Cameron, Vice Chair  
Mrs. Virginia Goodson

Absent: Mr. Randall J. White

Also present were:

Dr. Douglas E. Arnold, Superintendent  
Mr. Joseph Lyle, School Board Attorney  
Mrs. Cathy Moss, Deputy Clerk

Dr. Michael K. Amstein, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Tammy Jones, Clerk

Among those in the audience were:

Mrs. Joy Berry  
Mrs. Andrea Birchfield

Officer Robin Loudy  
Mr. Jeff Shelton

Mr. Gary Ritchie  
Mr. Terry Caldwell

Mr. Butch Tolley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Tolley asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Virginia Goodson moved that the agenda be amended to include Item 5(A)(3) Approval of Employment of Virginia Middle School Girls' Track Coach. Mr. Ronald Cameron seconded the motion to amend the agenda, and the motion carried unanimously.

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:

- A. 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 for Expulsion – Student #09SH2008

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

The Board went into Closed Session at approximately 5:05 p.m.

Back in Public Session at approximately 6:05 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 the following regarding Student #09SH2008: Student will be suspended for 364 days, until March 2, 2009. However, student will be permitted to return to school on March 31, 2008, with the understanding that any violation of school rules, School Board policies and regulations, and/or laws of the

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Commonwealth of Virginia may result in the imposition of the suspension until March 2, 2009. The following conditions will apply for the student's readmission on March 31, 2008:

1. Student will attend the LIFE Program during the suspension (March 18-20).
2. Upon readmission on March 31, 2008, student will be placed on school probation for one calendar year, until March 3, 2009.
3. Student will be required to meet monthly with the school guidance counselor during the term of probation. (At Virginia Middle School and Virginia High School)
4. Student will be required to meet monthly with the school resource officer during the term of probation. (At Virginia Middle School and Virginia High School)
5. Student will be subject to locker and/or personal search during the term of probation.

Mr. Eric Clark seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. [Student found in violation of Bristol Virginia School Board Policies JFC and JFCD and Regulations JFC-R and JGD/JGE-R. These policies and regulations deal with the possession of a weapon on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.]

Dr. Doug Arnold, Superintendent, addressed Item 4(A) Approval of 2008-2009 School Board Budget. He reviewed the various scenarios representing a range of proposed salary increases. After considerable discussion, Mr. Clark moved approval of the budget which would include a 2% plus step increase for employees and adjustments to VRS, health insurance, and carryover figures to allow for the salary increase without increasing the \$9,027,000 figure for local funding and carryover which was presented to city council earlier. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the 2008-2009 School Board Budget is included with these minutes.)

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 4(B) Approval of Travel Requests. He noted that two requests were received for band travel. Mr. Cameron moved approval of the travel requests. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (Copies of the travel requests are included with these minutes.)

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:

- A. Discussion of personnel as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, specifically:
  - (1) Discussion of Personnel Issues
  - (2) Discussion of Superintendent's Contract
  - (3) Employment of Virginia Middle School Girls' Track Coach

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

The Board went into Closed Session at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Back in Public Session at approximately 8:25 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 approval of employment of Margaret Davis as Virginia Middle School Girls' Track Coach. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation for employment is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Cameron discussed the following issues:

- A concern about individuals sending email messages ,which were political in nature, to school employees – Dr. Arnold stated that outside of locking the system down, little could be done to prevent the receiving of these emails. However, he stated that School Board Policy prevents employees from distributing such information and engaging in political activity while at work. He noted that he would send an email to all staff members to remind them of the policy.
- Mr. Cameron was concerned that an individual, who previously addressed the Board about the attendance policy, did not receive a response regarding her request. Board members concurred that they did not wish to revisit the attendance policy at this time. Dr. Arnold stated that he would correspond with the individual about the matter.
- Mr. Cameron presented a concern about transporting students to after school practices at the various facilities throughout the city. He indicated that a plan needed to be implemented to provide transportation for students. There was discussion about the shortage of buses as well as drivers needed for providing transportation to the various practice fields.

Mr. Tolley adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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Cathy M. Moss, Deputy Clerk

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Butch Tolley, Chair