

BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 2, 2006

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 2, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Virginia Middle School auditorium. 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. Patty Bowers
Mr. Gary Ritchie
Mr. Mike Braswell
Mr. Ben Birchfield

Mr. Terry Caldwell
Mr. Dennis Staton
Dr. Linda Brittle
Mr. Joseph Marler

Mrs. Ina Danko
Mrs. Debbie Leonard
Mrs. Andrea Birchfield
Ms. Shaily Patel

Others were present, but either failed to sign or their signatures were not legible.

Mr. Butch Tolley, Chair, called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Tolley asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Randy White moved to amend the agenda to move the recognition of students with perfect SOL scores to follow immediately the approval of the agenda. Mr. Eric Clark seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Doug Arnold, Superintendent, welcomed the many parents and students in attendance. He commended both the parents, guardians, and students for their hard work and determination as evidenced in their stellar SOL scores. He stated that the Bristol Virginia students had 190 perfect scores representing 153 individual students.

At this time all students receiving perfect SOL scores were recognized and presented a certificate of achievement. At the conclusion of the recognition program, the Board recessed for a brief reception for the students in attendance.

The Board reconvened at approximately 7:45 p.m.

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

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - (1) Regular Session – September 18, 2006
- B. Approval of Payment of Bills
- C. Approval of Requests for Transfer of Sick Leave
- D. Approval of Letter of Resignation from Sharon Acuff, Virginia High School Instructor
- E. Approval of 2006-2007 Technology Oversight Committee

F. Approval of 2006-2007 Special Education Advisory Committee

G. Approval of Title III Consortium Agreement

(Copies of the report outlining requests for transfer of sick leave, letter of resignation, advisory committee members, and Title III Consortium Agreement are included with these minutes.)

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

- Mr. Adam Sells, Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, addressed the Board about a request to distribute Upward Basketball brochures to students.

Mr. Tolley thanked Mr. Sells for his comments.

- Mr. Joseph Marler, teacher, shared statistics about public schools in general with the Board. He discussed how public schools have changed over the years, and he outlined the many services offered to students that were non-instructional, i.e., speech therapy, school nurses, school psychologists, extended day care.

Mr. Tolley thanked Mr. Marler for his comments.

At this time, Mrs. Goodson commented on the recent VHS dance sponsored by the CADRE club. She said she was very proud of the students and everyone enjoyed the dance which was held at the Old Post Office.

During the Focus on Instruction portion of the meeting, Ms. Kathy Hicks, Food Service Coordinator, and her staff presented a program on school nutrition. Statistical data from 2005-06 outlining the number of meals served, participation levels, etc., was presented. The report also outlined the required meal components and examples of lunches were on display. Dr. Arnold thanked Ms. Hicks and her staff for the informative report.

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

- He indicated Highland View Elementary School has submitted an application for the National Title I Distinguished School Program.
- He updated the Board on student enrollment as of 9/29/06 – 2,334 (K-12) and 74 Pre-K students. He noted that the enrollment was up approximately 10 students from this time last year.
- He updated the Board on current capital projects as follows:
 - Outdoor Lighting at Van Pelt – should be complete within the next two weeks
 - Highland View Bathroom Renovation – the first stage of the project has begun with the ordering of materials.
 - VHS Bleachers – Bids will be opened on October 9. If bids are acceptable, the project will move forward with the installation of the bleachers during the Christmas holidays. He indicated a called meeting would be scheduled to approve the bids.
 - VHS Track Project – Final retainage payment has been paid to the contractor for the track project as the project is complete.
- He commended the Bearcat Band for their performance in a recent band competition held in Knoxville. He noted that the band would compete in Salem, Virginia, on October 7.
- He reviewed the 2006 SOL Scores and accreditation status for all schools. He distributed a news release from the Virginia Department of Education which noted that 92% of schools met SOL benchmarks. He also distributed an article from *Richmond Times Dispatch* about the controversial math scores in 6th and 7th grade. The article outlined a request that these scores not be included in

the three-year average used to determine accreditation as there was a problem with the tests. Dr. Arnold noted that VMS is accredited with warning due to the math scores. He also added that the school missed the 3-year average benchmark by one point. He indicated that all other schools in the division were fully accredited. He added that the State Board of Education could not eliminate the math scores due to a state law that prohibits that option. He also stressed that there was a problem with the tests, not a problem with teaching.

- He indicated that the system wide newsletter, *Communiqué*, would be taken to the printer this week and hopefully will be distributed within two weeks.
- He updated the Board regarding the planned purchase of school automobiles. He indicated that he planned to purchase from the state contract one Malibu and four Cobalts.
- He updated the Board about the LIFE Program. He indicated that the grant had been awarded and the division would use in-kind services for the required matching funds. He stated that the program should be in place by mid to late October.
- He informed the Board about the upcoming Youth Behavior Risk Survey which would be conducted in late October or early November. He added that an opt-out component was available.
- He reminded the Board that November has been designated as "Take Your Legislator to School Month." He asked the Board members to email dates to Mrs. Moss that they would be available to meet with Senator Wampler and Representative Johnson for lunch and a visit to the schools.

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 5(A) Approval of 2006-2007 Budget Revision #2. Mrs. Goodson moved approval of 2006-2007 Budget Revision #2 as presented. Mr. White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the 2006-2007 Budget Revision #2 is included with these minutes.)

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 5(B) Approval of Renewal of Contract for Solid Waste Services. Mr. Cameron moved approval of the renewal of the contract with Allied Waste Services as presented. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the information outlining the renewal is included with these minutes.)

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 5(C) Second Reading and Adoption of June 2006 VSBA Policy Update. He indicated that these policies were presented last month for first reading. Mr. Cameron moved adoption of the June 2006 VSBA Policy Update with the exception of Policy LBD Home Instruction. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Goodson then moved approval of Policy LBD Home Instruction and Mr. Cameron seconded the motion. There was discussion about the revision to the policy which allows parents with a high school diploma to home school per a revision to the Code of Virginia. The motion was defeated with Mr. Tolley and Mr. Cameron voting "aye" and Mr. Clark, Mrs. Goodson, and Mr. White voting "nay." (A list of the policies included in the June 2006 VSBA Policy Update with the exception of Policy LBD Home Instruction is included with these minutes.)

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 6(A) Report on 2006-2007 Pupil Teacher Ratios in Elementary Schools. He reviewed the report, which is required by the State Standards of Accreditation, and he indicated that no resource teachers were included in these figures only classroom teachers. (A copy of the report is included with these minutes.)

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 6(B) Discussion of Attendance Zones. He indicated that a Board member had requested that this item be included on the agenda. Mr. Clark expressed his concerns about the boundaries which made no sense to him. He stated that he thought the boundaries needed to be redrawn as currently Highland View has a very small area to draw from for enrollment. Mr. White agreed that this issue needs to

be considered especially with the new housing project in the Van Pelt area. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to conduct a special meeting possibly in January to start the review process.

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) Approval of Employment of Part-Time Special Education Instructor
 - (2) Approval of Employment and Approval of Resignation(s) as needed
 - (3) Interim Evaluation of Superintendent

- 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 Request for Release from Compulsory School Attendance: Student #04CA2007

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

The Board went into Closed Session at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Back in Public Session at approximately 9:45 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 Ms. Annette Harris as part-time special education instructor at Virginia High School. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation for employment is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Cameron moved approval of the request for release from compulsory school attendance for Student #04CA2007 as recommended. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- Commonwealth Scholars – Mrs. Danko displayed the banner presented to VHS during the Commonwealth Scholars Kick-Off.
- Public Comment – Dr. Arnold explained the dynamics to the Board regarding the statements made during public comment by Mr. Sells. He discussed the Board policy regarding distribution of materials. It was the consensus of the Board that the superintendent would determine what is to be distributed to students. Dr. Arnold added that he would design a regulation which would further clarify materials which would be distributed.
- Mrs. Goodson expressed a concern that some duplication was included in the FYI section of the Board packet in the purchase orders in excess of \$5,000.

- Mr. Cameron requested that the Board reschedule the November Regular Session as he would not be able to attend the next two meetings. It was the consensus of the Board to reschedule the November Regular Session to Tuesday, November 7, 2006.

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

Cathy M. Moss, Deputy Clerk

Butch Tolley, Chair