

**BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD
JOINT SESSION WITH BRISTOL VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 6, 2008**

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Joint Session with the Bristol Virginia City Council on Monday, October 6, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at the School Board Office, 222 Oak Street, Bristol, Virginia. The following Board and Council members were present:

Mr. Ronald Cameron, Chair	Mr. Eric Clark, School Board Member
Mr. Tyrone Foster, School Board Member	

Mayor Jim Rector	Mr. Fred Bowman, Vice Mayor
Mr. Guy Odum, Council Member	Mr. Ernie Sprouse, Council Member

Also present were:

Mrs. Ina Danko, Acting Superintendent	Mr. Bill Dennison, City Manager
Mrs. Tammy Jones, Board Clerk	Mrs. Cathy Moss, Deputy Board Clerk

Among those in the audience were:

Mrs. Mary Shaffer	Mrs. Helen Marlowe	Students from King College
Mr. David McGee, <i>Bristol Herald Courier</i>		WCYB-TV

Mr. Ronald Cameron, Board Chair, and Mayor Jim Rector called the meeting to order. Mr. Cameron opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Cameron welcomed Council members and the students from King College who attended the meeting. Mr. Cameron expressed appreciation to Council members for the continuation of the joint sessions, as these sessions foster a cooperative working relationship between Council and the School Board.

Items of mutual interest were discussed which included:

- Funding for an elevator project at Virginia High School – Mr. Cameron thanked Council for supporting this project through grant funding.
- Economic Development Study – Mayor Rector explained this cooperative effort between the school division and business leaders to determine how schools can meet the needs of local businesses through vocational education. He indicated that possibly an option for businesses to provide instruction time and partner with schools would be studied. Mayor Rector noted that not all students are college-bound, but indicated that these students could be successful after high school graduation if they possess the necessary skills for employment.
- Mrs. Ina Danko, Acting Superintendent, updated Council members on efforts being made to reduce fuel costs. She noted that an additional \$80,000 was budgeted to cover anticipated rate increases – a total of \$180,000 was added to the budget this year. She also expressed appreciation for funding assistance from the city for the VHS elevator

project. She distributed a brochure highlighting school division accomplishments for the 2007-2008 school year. She agreed that a cooperative effort to meet with the business community and determine skills needed for employment would be beneficial to students.

- Mayor Rector discussed the typical cash flow problems experienced prior to collection of taxes in November. He indicated that all City departments have been asked to delay any major capital purchases until December to help alleviate the cash flow issue. He asked that the school system also delay any major purchases if possible. He and Mr. Bill Dennison, City Manager, discussed the impact of the current economic crisis as it relates to borrowing funds. Mr. Dennison indicated that hopefully by curtailing major spending during October and November, the need to borrow funds could be avoided. Mr. Cameron indicated that the division would fully cooperate with this request.
- Mr. Dennison discussed the 2008-2009 state budget cuts in local aid. He also noted that significant cuts were expected again next year which would result in a very lean year. Mrs. Danko indicated the division would study all areas of the budget to be as fiscally responsible as possible to prepare for anticipated budget cuts.

Mr. Cameron commended Mrs. Danko for her leadership and also commended Virginia High School Principal Martin Ringstaff for his leadership as well.

Mr. Eric Clark and Mr. Fred Bowman discussed the athletic facilities at Honaker. They commented on the playing surface which would accommodate numerous sports.

Mayor Rector and Mr. Cameron discussed the need to relocate the Central Office.

Mr. Cameron announced that the search for a superintendent would begin immediately and noted that VSBA would conduct the search at no cost to the division. He again commended Mrs. Danko for her leadership and thanked her for agreeing to serve.

Mr. Cameron adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Cathy M. Moss, Deputy Clerk

Ronald Cameron, Chair