

BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
November 2, 2009

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, November 2, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the School Board Office, 222 Oak Street, Bristol, Virginia. The following Board members were present:

Mrs. Virginia Goodson, Chair
Mr. Eric Clark

Mr. Randall J. White, Vice Chair
Mr. Tyrone Foster

Absent: Mr. Ronald Cameron

Also present were:

Mrs. Ina Danko, 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. Jim Norton
Mrs. Anna Combs
Ms. Frances Almaroad
Mrs. Patty Bowers
Mrs. Helen Marlowe
Mr. David McGee, *Bristol Herald Courier*

Mr. Mike Braswell
Mr. Tony Venable
Mrs. Angie Johnson
Ms. Charlotte Honaker
Mr. Jeff Shelton
Dr. Linda Brittle

Mr. Dennis Staton
Mr. Kevin Jessee
Mrs. Joyce Campbell
Dr. Terry Caldwell
Dr. Martin Ringstaff
Mrs. Jennifer Hurt

Others may have been present, but failed to sign in.

Mrs. Virginia Goodson, Chair, called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

At this time Mrs. Ina Danko, Superintendent, noted two corrections to the Consent Agenda: Item 3.F. – change location of employee to Virginia High School and Item 3.H. add an additional name to the substitute list – Alex Littleton.

Mrs. Goodson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the corrections as noted. Mr. Clark moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Tyrone Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

A. Approval of Minutes

- (1) Regular Session – 10/05/09
- (2) Called Session – 10/19/09
- B. Approval of Payment of Bills
- C. Approval of Requests for Transfer of Sick Leave
- D. Approval of Advisory Committees for 2009-2010
 - (1) Special Education
 - (2) Technology
 - (3) Health
- E. Approval of Letter of Resignation from Brenda Hanson, Virginia Middle School
- F. Approval of Letter of Retirement from Judith Blankenship, Virginia High School
- G. Approval of Letter of Resignation from Whitney Erwin, Virginia High School
- H. Approval of Additions to Substitute Teacher List

(Copies of the report outlining sick leave transfer requests, list of advisory committee members, letters of resignation, letter of retirement, and list of additions to substitute teacher list are included with these minutes.)

No one addressed the Board during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Danko presented the Superintendent's Report. She introduced Dr. Terry Caldwell, Director of Personnel and Support Services, who presented the Transportation Report. Dr. Caldwell presented a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the following:

- Bus Fleet Information
- Staffing of Transportation
- BVPS Transportation Driver Handbook
- Emergency Management Procedures
- Staff Development
- Measures taken to increase efficiency such as: revisions to unloading and loading procedures, reduction in idling time, reduction in time spent on bus for students, and reduction in total mileage due to route adjustments and rezoning
- Transit Budget
- BVPS Transportation Web Site
- Extra precautions in place for sanitation

Mrs. Danko thanked Dr. Caldwell for his informative report. Mrs. Goodson thanked Dr. Caldwell as well and indicated her appreciation for the transportation staff.

At this time, Mr. Clark noted that the division was saving 6,000 miles per month which could result in a significant savings over the year.

Mrs. Goodson updated the Board on the Linwood Holton Governor's School. She was pleased to report that 16 VHS students were participating in the program. She thanked Patsy Huff, VHS Guidance Counselor for representing the division at a recent appreciation luncheon.

Mrs. Tammy Jones, Director of Finance, addressed Item 5(A) Approval of 2009-2010 Budget Revision #3. She outlined the revisions to both revenues and expenditures. Mr. White moved

approval of 2009-2010 Budget Revision #3 as presented. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of 2009-2010 Budget Revision #3 is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Randy White addressed Item 5(B) Approval of Dedication of New Virginia High School Gym Floor as the Ballard Lee Floor. He indicated that he placed this item on the agenda as several members of the community had approached him about dedicating the floor in honor of Ballard Lee. Mr. White moved approval of the dedication of the new VHS gym floor as the Ballard Lee Floor. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Mr. Clark indicated that he was concerned that no policies or guidelines were in place for naming buildings or areas in honor of individuals. He stated that he had no problem dedicating the floor to Ballard Lee but felt that a policy outlining procedures and criteria should be in place first. He added that he did not think the item was brought forth in the proper manner. Mrs. Goodson also felt that a policy should be in place. She also thought the decision should be made with the full Board present. She stated that the Board needed more time to develop a policy and criteria. She suggested that an application form be designed for nominees. She expressed appreciation to the individuals who brought this forth but felt a policy should be in place to guide the Board. Mr. White indicated he would welcome a policy, but thought it was a good time to do this. Mr. Foster agreed and also indicated that the timeframe was appropriate and a good time to honor Coach Lee. The motion failed with Mr. White and Mr. Foster voting “aye” and Mr. Clark and Mrs. Goodson voting “nay.”

Mr. White addressed Item 6(A) Discussion of Block Scheduling. He indicated that during an Advanced Programs Advisory Committee meeting, concerns were presented that electives were being impacted by the increase in state mandated, required courses. Mr. White expressed concern that electives would suffer and he felt electives are an integral part of the curriculum. He added that either a block or modified block schedule would promote the opportunities for students to take electives. After considerable discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to appoint a committee to go and observe surrounding schools that operate on either a block or modified block schedule. Dr. Amstein was designated to form the committee.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(A) of the Code of Virginia, Mr. White 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 JV Basketball Coach
 - (2) Approval of 8th Grade Girls’ Basketball Coach
 - (3) Approval of JV Girls’ Basketball Coach
 - (4) Approval of 2009-2010 Winter Coaching Assignments
 - (5) Approval of Letter of Retirement
 - (6) Discussion of Superintendent Search

- B. Discussion or Consideration of Admission or Disciplinary Matters Concerning A 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: Request for Release from Compulsory School Attendance due to Religious Convictions -Student #01CA10

Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:55 p.m.

Back in Public Session at 8:20 p.m., Mr. White 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. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Foster moved employment of the following individuals: Mr. Todd Lee, JV Basketball Coach; Mr. Carlos Jerome (CJ) Lee, 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach; Tina Shockley, JV Girls' Basketball Coach; Ed Cressel, Head Wrestling Coach; Chad Cross, Assistant Wrestling Coach; Jason Stevens, Head Boys' Basketball Coach; Scott Jones, Asst. Boys' Basketball Coach; Barry Reed, Head Girls' Basketball Coach; Brandi Owens, Asst. Girls' Basketball Coach; Carlos Lee, 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach; Woody VanNostrand, Head Swimming Coach; Molly Boyle, Asst. Swimming Coach; Randy Hodge, Athletic Trainer; Chris Thurman, Weight Training; Josh Shuler, Middle School Wrestling Coach; Vanessa Meyers, Middle School Cheerleading Coach; Laura Cyphers, Forensics; Brad Hutchinson, Forensics; Carol Propst, Scholastic Bowl; and Hunter Meade, Scholastic Bowl. (Copies of letters of recommendations for employment are included with these minutes.)

Mr. Clark moved approval of the letter of retirement from Shirley Blake. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of retirement is included with these minutes.)

Mr. Clark moved approval of the request for release from compulsory school attendance due to religious convictions for Student #01CA2010. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Clark, Mr. Foster, and Mrs. Goodson voting "aye" and Mr. White voting "nay." (A copy of the request for release for compulsory school attendance is included with these minutes.)

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

- Mrs. Danko updated the Board on the enrollment numbers for 5th grade at Washington-Lee. She indicated that Washington-Lee had 28 students in both 5th grade classes and had no space for another classroom. She stated that a third 5th grade was needed. She discussed moving the Pre-K class at Washington-Lee to Stonewall Jackson to free up the space for an additional 5th grade. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the plan to move Pre-K at Washington-Lee to Stonewall Jackson.

- Mrs. Danko updated the Board on a transportation issue. She noted that more savings would be realized if the practice of using two bus drivers on a bus, one as an aide, was discontinued. She noted that aides could be used resulting in significant savings.
- Mr. Foster expressed concern about buses making so many stops, stopping at every house. He had observed this when driving behind a bus.

Mrs. Danko reminded the Board about a student hearing scheduled for November 16, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Cathy M. Moss, Deputy Clerk

Virginia Goodson, Chair