

**BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
NOVEMBER 7, 2006**

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the School Board Office. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Butch Tolley, Chair
Mrs. Virginia Goodson

Mr. Ronald Cameron, Vice Chair
Mr. Randall J. White

Also present were:

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

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

Among those in the audience were:

Mrs. Ina Danko

Mr. Gary Ritchie

Mr. Jeff Shelton

Mrs. Norma Lester

Dr. Linda Brittle

Mrs. Deb Read

Mrs. Suzanne Vermillion

Mr. Kreg Ramey

Mrs. Jennifer Hurt

Mrs. Tracey Mercier

Ms. Jennifer Rutherford

Mrs. Joan Minnick

Mr. Ted Castle

Mrs. Jenny Hustad

Mrs. Susan Sims

Mrs. Joy Berry

Mrs. Mary Shaffer

Mrs. Patty Faulkner

Others may have been present but failed to sign in.

Mr. Butch Tolley, Chair, called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Randy White moved that the agenda be amended to add the following items to Closed Session: Discussion of Discipline of Certain Student, Discussion of Pending Resignations, and Discussion of Substitute Teacher, and that Item 6(A) 2005-2006 Audit Report be moved from Reports and Discussion to immediately follow the Focus on Instruction Report. Mrs. Virginia Goodson seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tolley asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. 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 – October 2, 2006
- B. Approval of Payment of Bills
- C. Approval of Requests for Transfer of Sick Leave Days
- D. Approval of Additions to Substitute Teacher List
- E. Approval of Letter of Retirement from Peggy Heath, Virginia Middle School

(Copies of the Report Outlining Requests for Transfer of Sick Leave Days, Additions to Substitute Teacher List, and Letter of Retirement from Peggy Heath are included with these minutes.)

At this time Dr. Doug Arnold, Superintendent, acknowledged that the letter of retirement from Mrs. Peggy Heath was approved as part of the Consent Agenda. He commended Mrs. Heath for her 31 years of service with the division and wished her the best in retirement.

The following individual addressed the Board during the Public Comment portion of the meeting:

- Mr. Ted Castle, parent, expressed concern on behalf of parents of students participating on the swim team. He expressed concern about the selection of a head swimming coach. He stated support of one specific individual and expressed concerns about another specific individual.

As part of the routinely scheduled Focus on Instruction Reports, Dr. Linda Brittle, Principal of Stonewall Jackson Elementary School, and Mrs. Jennifer Hurt, Title I instructor, presented a report on the reading program, Fast ForWord. A very informative PowerPoint presentation, which outlined this research-based program, was viewed. Dr. Arnold thanked Dr. Brittle and Mrs. Hurt for the most interesting report. He also noted that all schools were using the Fast ForWord program and stressed the paramount importance of reading. He also thanked Mrs. Norma Lester, Title I Coordinator, as this program is provided through federal funding. Dr. Brittle distributed an informational packet to the Board members. Mr. Tolley thanked Dr. Brittle, Mrs. Hurt, and the staff at Stonewall Jackson for the report.

Mr. Richard Linnen, Brown Edwards & Company, presented the 2005-2006 Audit Report. He reviewed the financial documents and asked for questions. Dr. Arnold thanked Mr. Linnen for the Audit Report presentation.

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

- He noted that several administrators were not able to attend the meeting due to illness and travel to workshops. He also noted that Board member Mr. Eric Clark was not present due to illness.
- He discussed the proposed letter to the mayor which outlined the governor's amendment to address the miscalculation of sales tax revenue by the state. It was the consensus of the Board to send the letter to the mayor and city officials.
- He outlined a proposal to hire two permanent substitute teachers who would be assigned to Virginia Middle School. He indicated that these subs would be paid at an aide's hourly rate and would work a full day (7 ½ hours). He noted that if no subs were needed at VMS, these subs could be used at other schools as well, and if no subs were needed elsewhere, the subs would be assigned to other duties either at the middle school or another school. He indicated the budget impact and stated that he would bring this proposal to the Board for approval in December. There was some discussion about the rate of pay for substitutes.
- He discussed the plan to install cameras in all school buses. He indicated an equipment representative would be meeting with him and demonstrating the cameras.
- He discussed the purchase of a mower to be used on the practice field. He indicated that he would recommend purchase of this equipment before spring.
- He informed the Board about the plan to install a middle handrail in the wide stairway at the front entrance of Virginia Middle School.

- He commended Ms. Amy Whistler, aide at VMS, as she has been named *Parent of the Year* by Radford University.
- He discussed the schematic drawing of the bleachers which would be installed in the VHS old gym.
- He indicated that next month the Focus on Instruction Report would include a report on the Commonwealth Scholars Program and an Athletic Fall Report.
- He commended the VHS Bearcat Band students for their performances in competitions and he congratulated the students and the band directors for the impressive scores.
- He updated the Board on the fall sports
 - Volleyball – in regional playoffs
 - Football – VMS had an undefeated season
 - Football – VHS named Highlands District Champion for the third consecutive year – the next game would be regionals in Richlands.
 - Girls' Cross Country – participating in state competition
- He reminded the Board of the upcoming VSBA Annual Convention next week in Williamsburg, Virginia. He noted that Bristol Virginia Public Schools would present a seminar as part of the conference, which focused on the ninth-grade transition program at Virginia High School.
- He informed the Board that possibly two State Board of Education Board Members, Mark Emblidge and Tom Brewster, would be visiting and touring Van Pelt Elementary School on Friday. He invited Board members to attend the tour and indicated that when the time was finalized he would notify Board members.
- He distributed tickets to Board members to the VHS production, *Grease*, which would be presented on Friday and Saturday nights.

Mrs. Jones addressed Item 5(A) Approval of 2006-2007 Budget Revision #3. Mr. White moved approval of the 2006-2007 Budget Revision #3 as presented. Mr. Ronald Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of 2006-2007 Budget Revision #3 is included with these minutes.)

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 5(B) Approval of Request to Establish a Textbook Fund. He outlined the request which would be sent to city council upon Board approval. Mr. Cameron moved approval of the request as presented. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of request is included with these minutes.)

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 5(C) Approval of Bid for Telescopic Bleachers for VHS Old Gym. Mrs. Goodson moved approval of the award of the bid to J. H. Pence Company at a bid price of \$39,300. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the bid tabulation sheet is included with these minutes.)

Mrs. Jones addressed Item 5(D) Adoption of Agreement for 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan. Mr. White moved adoption of the agreement as presented. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the agreement is included with these minutes.)

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 5(E) Adoption of Revised School Board Policy LBD Home Instruction. Mrs. Goodson moved adoption of the revised policy as presented. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mrs. Goodson, Mr. Cameron, and Mr. Tolley voting "aye" and Mr. White voting "nay." (A copy of School Board Policy LBD Home Instruction is included with these minutes.)

Dr. Arnold addressed Item 5(F) Approval of Swimming – Male Supervisor Position Mr. Cameron moved approval of the position as presented. Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the Revised Extra-Curricular Supplements is 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) Approval of Employment of Marketing Instructor at VHS
 - (2) Approval of Employment of Certain Extra-Curricular Staff
 - (3) Approval of Employment and Approval of Resignation(s) as needed
 - (4) Discussion of Pending Resignations
 - (5) Discussion of Substitute Teacher

- 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: Discipline of Certain Student

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

The Board went into Closed Session at approximately 8:50 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 approval of employment of Aimee Pilgrim as a marketing education teacher at Virginia High School, contingent on a satisfactory background check. 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 approval of the following extra-curricular staff, contingent on satisfactory background checks when applicable:

Andrew Belcher – Softball

Robert Sturgill – 7th Grade Girls Basketball

Deborah Gilbert – Band Tutor

Brandi Owens – Assistant Girls' Basketball

Leslie Byington – Head Swimming

Mike Locke – Head Boys' Soccer

Brent Compton – Swimming – Male Supervisor

Mrs. Goodson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the letter of recommendation for employment is included with these minutes.)

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

- Correspondence with Firestone regarding roofing issues
- VMS Scoreboards – Dr. Arnold indicated scoreboards will be ordered for VMS.

Mr. Tolley adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:50 p.m.

Cathy M. Moss, Deputy Clerk

Butch Tolley, Chair