

**COVINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Minutes**  
**February 25, 2020**

The Covington City School Board held a special called meeting in the Board conference room on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Tamala Preston, Chair  
Bert Baker, Vice-Chair  
Jonathan Arritt  
Erika Hunter  
Tonya Jones

Superintendent Melinda Snead-Johnson was present, as were Shannon Fuhrman, Director of Instruction and Technology, and Rebecca Irvine, Board Clerk.

Mrs. Preston called the meeting to order and requested a moment of silence. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2019 – 2024 LOCAL PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE GIFTED**

The Board reviewed the Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted, and Dr. Fuhrman was available to address questions.

Upon a motion by Mr. Arritt, seconded by Mr. Baker, the Board unanimously approved the 2019 – 2024 Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted.

**2020 – 2021 BUDGET**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that she and Ms. Irvine met with the City Manager to discuss the School Budget and the local appropriation amount. Ms. Onaitis understands that state revenue projections have been received from the Governor, Senate, and House, but a final state budget has not been approved. The City Manager advised using the FY 19-20 local appropriation of \$3,377,635, less the \$50,000 that was appropriated for a special education teacher, for the upcoming budget. The City has requested that a Board approved budget be submitted by March 6, 2020.

Ms. Irvine presented a spreadsheet showing the revenue difference between the Governor, Senate, and House budget versions. The Governor's budget includes the state share of Compensation Supplement funds based on a 3% salary increase effective 7/1/21. The Senate budget calculates the state share of Compensation Supplement funds based on a 4% salary increase effective 7/1/21. The House of Delegates budget calculate the state share of Compensation funds based on a 2% salary increase effective 7/1/20.

The General Assembly is also considering legislation that would increase the state's minimum wage from the current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour. An increase in the state minimum wage would require a salary scale revision foe Cafeteria Workers and Instructional Aides. Ms. Irvine reviewed the potential impact of revising the salary scales for these two classifications.

## **MINUTES – FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

Ms. Irvine noted that new health care rates have been received, and rates will decrease by 3% for the upcoming year. This will result in a projected saving of over \$200,000 from the preliminary budget which included a 10% increase.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that she has meet with principals to review budget needs, and she presented the following budget priorities:

- Literacy Coach Division-Wide – Full-Time, EPS Guidance – Full-Time
- Raises – 3% + step (all)
- Minimum wage increase if enacted by General Assembly
- \$10,000 for Virginia College Advising Corps Counselor CHS 2020-2021
- Replace retiring teachers
- Maintain current staff in all 3 schools
- Maintenance Helper – division
- Bus Driver
- Custodian – EPS/JWIS
- Health Insurance Increase for staff
- Capital Improvements – Handicapped Parking Space at SBO, Asbestos Abatement at CHS
- New Duplicators for Schools and SBO

Some discussion ensued regarding each of these recommended budget priorities.

The Board agreed by consensus to schedule a meeting for Monday, March 2, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Irvine will present a revised budget at that meeting for Board approval and submission to the City Manager. Ms. Irvine will incorporate as many budget priorities as funding allows in the revised budget. Any budget approved will require further revision once state revenues are finalized.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved an executive session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss matters in relation to the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) Personnel.

Upon a return to open session at 8:47 p.m., the Board agreed to certify the closed session under the Code of Virginia, Section 2.1-3711 (A) (1) Personnel with a roll call vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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Tamala Preston, Chair

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Rebecca Irvine, Clerk



