

## COVINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD

### Minutes

May 4, 2020

The Covington City School Board held a special called meeting in the Board conference room on Monday, May 4, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Bert Baker, Vice-Chair  
Jonathan Arritt  
Erika Hunter  
Tonya Jones (Per Conference Call)

Superintendent Melinda Snead-Johnson was present, as was Rebecca Irvine, Board Clerk.

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **FY 20-21 BUDGET REVISION**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that the purpose of this meeting is to consider recently announced reductions in state funding and an amended annual school budget for the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year. The City Manager has requested a revised budget from the School Board to present to City Council on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Based on Governor Northam's recommendations and the reconvened General Assembly session as a result of COVID-19, state funding for the Covington School Division was reduced by \$182,457. Given that the final March 31<sup>st</sup> ADM for the current year was 952.5, we have also revised our ADM projection for FY 21 from 960 to 945. With this ADM decrease, combined with the General Assembly state fund reductions, Ms. Irvine prepared a revised budget for FY 20-21 totaling \$11,981,024. This represents a total decrease from the budget approved by the School Board and submitted to City Council at the end of March, of \$287,766.

The budget includes \$11,465,236 for General operations and \$515,788 for the Cafeteria Fund. Funding for Textbooks has been moved to Operations.

Ms. Irvine reviewed expenditure reductions necessary to balance the budget with the state fund reduction. While step increases for all eligible staff remain in the revised budget, the 2% salary increase has been eliminated. The revised budget does include funds to accommodate the mandatory minimum wage increase. The minimum wage for Cafeteria Workers has been adjusted to \$9.50 per hour and the minimum wage for Instructional Aides has been adjusted to \$10.25 per hour. Instructional Aides will be contracted to work 195 days for 7.5 hours per day. The General Assembly did delay the implementation date for the mandatory minimum wage increase until May, 2021. For the revised budget the start date remains July 1, 2020.

The vacant Speech/Language pathologist position at CHS will be eliminated, and these services purchased through contract at a cost of approximately \$50,000. This contract was initiated this year and has worked well for the division. The guidance position and the Literacy Coach position at EPS will remain at part-time rather than increase as projected in the approved budget. One new bus driver position is included for \$28,000. This position has been filled temporarily this year with savings from the maintenance helper position which has been eliminated.

## **MINUTES – MAY 4, 2020**

Five vacancies at CHS due to retirements have resulted in savings with some staff transfers. One Special Education and one English teacher from EPS will move to CHS. A Special Education aide at JWIS will move into a teaching position, and the aide position will be eliminated. The remaining vacant positions due to retirements and staff transfers are expected to be filled with teachers at lower steps on the salary scale.

Open enrollment has been completed, so the cost of health care for current staff has been finalized. Vacant positions have been budgeted to include the cost of a dual plan.

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Hunter, the Board unanimously approved this budget revision as recommended.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that she would submit the budget to the City Manager today, but cautioned that additional revision may be necessary.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

---

Bert Baker, Vice-Chair Chair

---

Rebecca Irvine, Clerk

