

COVINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes

September 9, 2019

The Covington City School Board held its regular meeting in the Board conference room on Monday, September 9, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Tamala Preston, 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, Clerk.

Mrs. Preston called the meeting to order and requested a moment of silence. Melinda Snead-Johnson expressed condolences to the family of Annette Byer-McFadden. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS/DELEGATIONS

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that William Windham, Chief Executive Office of Lewis Gale Hospital – Alleghany, will need to reschedule his presentation.

Tara Brewster, CHS Girls Basketball Coach, addressed the Board regarding the team trip to Florida, December 18 – 23, 2019. Mrs. Brewster noted that nineteen tickets have been purchased and the tournament fee has been paid. The team continues to hold fundraisers. The price for each team member is \$1,376, and the goal is to raise funds for 12 girls.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of August 12th and August 26th with minor name corrections to the minutes of August 26th.

FINANCE

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Hunter, the Board unanimously approved invoices totaling \$859,828.18.

The Board reviewed expenditure allocations from JWIS and EPS and the division-wide budget analysis through August, 2019.

SMART GOALS UPDATE/STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Arritt noted that full accreditation for all schools is an important goal for him as well an emphasis on citizenship for all students. Mrs. Preston reviewed existing Board goals.

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SCHEDULED MEETING DATES/REVISION

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that October 14, 2019, and April 13, 2020, are during Fall and Spring Breaks. Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Hunter, the Board unanimously agreed to change the October meeting to October 7th and the April meeting to April 6th. Ms. Jones will not be present at the December meeting, but may join the meeting electronically.

DISCUSSION/OTHER NEW BUSINESS – SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Arritt briefed the Board on two Joint Schools Committee meetings held on August 22nd and September 5th. The goal of the committee is to present a consolidation plan to the Virginia Department of Education by December 19, 2019.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that there had been some discussion of per pupil costs for both the Alleghany County and Covington school divisions. Mrs. Snead-Johnson presented information from the Virginia Department of Education website which includes per pupil costs for all school divisions in Virginia for FY 2018. The per pupil cost for Alleghany County was \$11,952, and the per pupil costs for Covington was \$11,418. The state average for FY 2018 was \$12,548. Mrs. Snead-Johnson will share this information with the Joint Schools Committee.

COMMITTEE & JOINT BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Arritt noted that the Committee on Joint School Services traveled to Richmond on July 26th to meet with staff of the Virginia Department of Education and state legislators. The joint committee continues to meet monthly.

The JRTC Joint Board of Control will meet on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at noon.

Mrs. Preston noted that the Jackson River Governor's School has six students from CHS for the first semester.

Mrs. Hunter commended staff and students for a successful band camp.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted some items to be included on the October meeting agenda: 2019 retiree recognition, Bully prevention, GEAR-UP Virginia presentation, Family Engagement presentation, and Literacy update.

Atif Qarni, Virginia Secretary of Education, is planning a visit with his staff to the Highlands on October 9 -10, 2019. Dr. Kotulka and Mrs. Snead-Johnson are working on an agenda for this short visit to all schools.

Covington Schools have an early release on September 13th with professional development scheduled for staff in the afternoon, interim reports are due on September 16th, and parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for September 23rd.

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The current ADM is 960.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Hunter, the Board unanimously approved an executive session at 7:34 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 8:50 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.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the following personnel appointments:

Broughman, J.B
Dressler, Cheryl
Lambert, Matthew

Substitute Teacher/Aide
Substitute Nurse
CH/Volunteer Wrestling Coach

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Tamala Preston, Chair

Rebecca Irvine, Clerk

