

**COVINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Minutes**  
**June 29,2020**

The Covington City School Board held its year end closeout meeting in the Board conference room on Monday, June 29, 2020, at 6:30 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, Clerk.

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

**2020 – 2021 BUDGET**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson requested Board approval of the FY'21 revised budget totaling \$11,648,261. This revision is necessary due to the \$332,763 reduction in local funds. The majority of savings are from reductions in staffing at CHS. One English teacher and one Science teacher position, vacated due to retirements, are unfilled, and one Science position is budgeted at part-time. Athletic supplements have also been reduced by 5%, and the additional \$10,000 allocated to athletics has been eliminated. A vacant custodial position has also been eliminated at JWIS. Current Virginia legislation includes a minimum wage increase to be implemented in May, 2021. Since this minimum wage increase could be in jeopardy due to COVI-19, funds budgeted for this have been eliminated. Other reductions include savings due to decreased worker's compensation and property insurance premiums, elimination of contingency funding, and decreased health insurance premiums.

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved the revised budget as presented for FY'21. (A copy of the approved budget is attached to these Board minutes.)

**REVISED 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson requested Board approval of a revised 2020 – 2021 School Calendar, which delays the school start until September 9, 2020. This calendar is more consistent with the calendar adopted by Alleghany County Schools, so students attending Jackson River Technical Center are better accommodated. A delayed opening also provides more time to plan for virtual learning opportunities which may be necessary due to COVID-19.

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved the revised school calendar for 2020 – 2021. (The approved calendar is attached to these Board minutes.)

## **MINUTES – JUNE 29, 2020**

### **GRANT APPLICATION APPROVALS**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson requested Board approval of the following continuing Federal Grant Applications:

Title I, Part A, Improving Basic Instruction - \$247,415.53

Salaries & Benefits for Teacher/Family Engagement Coordinator, Paraprofessional & PALS Tutor/Part-Time

Title II, Part A, Supporting Effective Instruction - \$32,337.39

Class Size Reduction Teacher

Title III, Part A, Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students - \$338.90

Instructional Materials for ELS Students

Title IV, Part A, Student Support & Academic Enrichment - \$19,982.28

Contracted Services for Mental Health Counselor

Title V, Part B, Subpart 2 – Rural & Low-Income School Program – \$20,114.59

Simple K12 Online Learning Platform for Staff Professional Development, On-time Graduation Support, STAR Reading program for EPS students, Accelerated Reader for JWIS students

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved these Federal Grant Applications as presented.

### **FEBRUARY 2020 & MAY 2020 VSBA/CCPS POLICIES**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson requested Board approval of the VSBA/CCPS policy updates for February, 2020 and May, 2020.

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Baker, the Board unanimously approved the policy updates as presented. (A list of these updates is attached to these Board minutes)

### **RESOLUTION - RACISM**

Action on this resolution was tabled until the next Board meeting scheduled for July 7, 2020.

### **RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS 2020 – 2021**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that staff are working diligently on a plan for school re-opening. Strategic Planning Committee assignments are in place, and a group of staff, parents, and community representatives will review the plan before presentation to the School Board in July. An instructional plan as well as a health care plan must be developed and submitted to the Virginia DOE prior to school re-opening.

## **MINUTES – JUNE 29, 2020**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson provided Board members a copy of the CEA survey results, with 57 staff responding. A division-wide survey for parents has also been developed and will be distributed this week. Feedback from each of these surveys will guide staff planning.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson distributed information on the total meals served during the summer feeding program. During the month of June, 633 meals were served.

## **BOARD DOCS SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson requested Board approval to sign a contract with Diligent Corporation for the purchase of the BoardDocs electronic program for management and dissemination of Board materials. The annual subscription cost is \$3,000, and the subscription begins upon implementation. Electronic devices would need to be purchased for Board members at a cost of approximately \$1,500.

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of the BoardDocs Program.

## **DISCUSSION – SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Arritt noted that parents and community members who have been in contact with him have been in support of in-school instruction.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that Governor Northam moved Virginia into Phase 3 of the COVID-19 pandemic recovery, which permits gatherings of 250 individuals on July 1, 2020. The Board scheduled a meeting for July 21, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at Curfman Hall to discuss the school re-opening plan. Future Board meetings will most likely require a larger space as well.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson shared correspondence sent to City Council and City administration expressing appreciation for their support with the Graduation Ceremonies held at the Amphitheater on June 12 and June 13, 2020.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved an executive session at 7:40 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 8:25 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 Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved the classified employee reappointments as presented. Mr. Baker recused himself on the reappointment of Beverly Baker. (A listing of these reappointments is attached to these minutes.)

## **MINUTES – JUNE 29, 2020**

Ms. Irvine noted that Courtney Horner, Christina Linsin, and Michelle Reid were listed with the annual renewal appointments approved by the School Board on May 18, 2020. These three teachers should have been listed as probationary status.

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Melinda Snead-Johnson as Superintendent for a two-year term beginning on July 1, 2020.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

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Tamala Preston, Chair

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Rebecca Irvine, Clerk



