

COVINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Minutes
January 13, 2020

The Covington City School Board held its regular meeting in the Board conference room on Monday, January 13, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

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

Superintendent Melinda Snead-Johnson was present as were Shannon Fuhrman, Director of Instruction and Technology; Derek Cantrell, Principal of CHS; Chris Jones, Assistant Principal of CHS; Rob Bennett, Principal of JWIS; Cynthia Morgan, Principal of EPS; .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.

RECOGNITIONS/DELEGATIONS

The School Board recognized and congratulated several students on their participation and successes.

VFW Patriot Pen Student Essay Student Essays “What Makes America Great”

Judith Gravely	1 st Place
Merridith Schmeidler	2 nd Place
Brayden Wolfe	3 rd Place

CHS Fall Athletes

Volleyball – Team Won Pioneer District Regular Season

Reese Myers	First Team All Pioneer District, First Team All-Region 1C, Second Team – Libero, All 1A State
Kathryn Woodward	First Team & Player of the Year Pioneer District, First Team All Region 1C
Madison Bennett	Second Team Pioneer District
Mackenzie Carter	Second Team Pioneer District
Zoe Spangler	Second Team Pioneer District
Ariel Barber	Honorable Mention Pioneer District
Mary Tyree	Coach of the Year, Region 1C Award of Merit

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Golf

Allison Douglas	Second in Pioneer District Tournament, 7th in Region 1C Tournament, Qualified and Participated in Girls VHSL State Open Championship
Charles “Massey” White	6 th in Pioneer District Tournament, Qualified and Participated in Region 1C Golf Tournament

Cross Country

Ethan Forbes	12 th in Pioneer District, 34 th in Region 1C
Jalen Angell	16 th in Pioneer District, 23 rd in Region 1C
Mitchell Tallman	19 th in Pioneer District, 45 th in Region 1C
Luke Fisher	22 nd in Pioneer District, 49 th in Region 1C
Logan Pritts	25 th in Pioneer District, 54 th in Region 1C
Hunter Tallman	26 th in Pioneer District, 58 th in Region 1C
Conlan Staunton	27 th in Pioneer District, 57 th in Region 1C
Jeran Smallwood	28 th in Pioneer District
Shawn Shifflett	29 th in Pioneer District

Football

Austin Angel	1 st Team Defensive Back Pioneer District, 2 nd Team Defensive Back All Region 1C
Skyler Barnett	1 st Team Punt Returner, 1 st Team Wide Receiver Pioneer District, 1 st Team Defensive End, 1 st Team Punt Returner, 2 nd Team Wide Receiver Region 1C
Shaun Smith	1 st Team Linebacker, 1 st Team Running Back, Offensive Player of the Year Pioneer District, 1 st Team Running Back, 2 nd Team Linebacker, Region 1C, 2 nd Team Running Back State 1A
Chadwick Tacy	1 st Team Punter Pioneer District, 2 nd Team Punter Region 1C
Jabari Williams	1 st Team Defensive Lineman, 1 st Team Tight End Pioneer District, 1 st Team Defensive Lineman, 2 nd Team Tight End Region 1C, 2 nd Team Defensive Lineman State 1A
Desmond Jones	2 nd Team Defensive Lineman Pioneer District
Tristan Hall	2 nd Team Linebacker, 1 st Team Offensive Lineman Pioneer District, 2 nd Team Offensive Lineman Region 1C
Jacob Crawford	2 nd Team Defensive Back Pioneer District
Blaine Pettit	2 nd Team Center Pioneer District
Hunter McLain	2 nd Team Offensive Lineman Pioneer District
Hunter Smith	2 nd Team Running Back Pioneer District
Simon Gibson	2 nd Team Quarterback Pioneer District
Dante Samuels	Honorable Mention Pioneer District
George Young	Honorable Mention Pioneer District
Darian Williams	Honorable Mention Pioneer District

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Zachary Ratliff Honorable Mention Pioneer District

All Area Band

Omarija Rice	Megan Rickett	Amara Shelton
Kirsten Weinger	Allison Douglas	Gabriela Taylor
Grayson Siers	Desmond Taylor	Aaijah Long
Robbie Harmon	Joey Wright	

All District Choir

Josie Feritg Cameron Frye

The School Board presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Debbie Jones, representing “God’s Covering Snack Program” for their efforts to provide healthy snacks to students in need over weekends and holidays.

The School Board presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Officer Roldan and the Covington Police Department for the “Shop with a Cop” program which helped several students with Christmas shopping.

Gary Fisher addressed the School Board regarding lack of sufficient funding for Indoor Track.

Eddie Clemons addressed the School Board with concerns and positive comments regarding the consultation report presented to the Joint Services Committee. He encouraged all citizens to read the report.

Kevin Hanna updated the School Board on staff interest in “Lobby Day” in Richmond, scheduled for January 27th. Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that the School Board will provide professional leave and transportation for staff who wish to attend this event.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Arritt, seconded by Mrs. Hunter, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of December 9, 2020

FINANCE

Upon a motion by Mr. Arritt, seconded by Mr. Baker, the Board unanimously approved invoices totaling \$916,603.27.

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

Ms. Irvine reviewed state revenue projections based on Governor Northam’s proposed amendments to the current (FY20) budget (Caboose Bill) and the 2020-2022 biennial budget.

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Projecting a reduced ADM of 966, based on current enrollment, state revenues for the current year will be reduced by approximately \$198,000. This is a considerable shortfall that will need to be addressed during the remainder of the current year. The vacant Speech Language Pathologist position and reduced employee participation in the Health Care plan will result in significant budget saving for the current year.

Governor Northam's proposed budget for the new 2020 – 2022 biennium is very favorable toward K-12 education. Changes include technical rebenchmarking updates to the Standards of Quality (SOQ), Incentive, Categorical, and Lottery-funded accounts for salary, prevailing support costs, enrollment projections, and other technical updates, and various policy changes. Even with a reduced ADM of 965, state revenues for Covington City Schools would increase by \$278,139 with the Governor's proposal. Ms. Irvine is developing a preliminary budget for Board review in February.

The Board scheduled a Public Hearing on the FY 20-21 budget for Monday, February 10, 2020 at 5:45 p.m.

SMART GOALS UPDATE/STRATEGIC PLAN

There have been no updates since the December Board meeting.

Ms. Jones noted that the VA State Reading Conference is scheduled for March 26 – 28, 2020 in Roanoke. Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that staff will be attending this conference.

Ms. Irvine reminded Board members the Statements of Economic Interests are due February 1, 2020.

CHS – ALL DISTRICT CHOIR OVERNIGHT TRIP, FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2020

Mrs. Snead-Johnson requested Board approval an overnight field trip for the CHS All District Choir to travel to George Washington High School in Danville on February 7 – 8, 2020.

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Baker, the Board unanimously approved the overnight field trip for the All District Choir.

2020 – 2021 COVINGTON CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROPOSED CALENDAR

Mrs. Snead-Johnson presented a proposed calendar for the 2020 – 2021 School Year. Staff worked with staff from Alleghany County Pubic School to develop this calendar. The first day of school is scheduled for August 6, 2020.

Upon a motion by Mr. Arritt, seconded by Mr. Baker, the Board unanimously approved this calendar as presented.

COMMITTEE & JOINT BOARD REPORTS

The JRTC Joint Board of Control will meet on Tuesday, February 11th at noon.

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DISCUSSION/OTHER NEW BUSINESS – SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Arritt updated the Board on recent Joint Services Committee meetings. The fiscal analysis by consultants is complete and review of this document is ongoing. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for a facility assessment is being drafted to define the scope of this assessment. Mr. Arritt will travel to Richmond tomorrow with other Committee representatives to meet with area legislators.

Mrs. Preston noted that the fiscal analysis contained good information, but a summary would be helpful for the public.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Mrs. Snead-Johnson presented a membership report and noted that current enrollment is 963.

Chronic Absenteeism is being addressed in all schools and a meeting will be held on February 7th to discuss this issue.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that Governor Northam has proclaimed January 19 - 25, 2020, as Principal Appreciation Week, and she thanked all principals for their hard work and dedication to the community.

National School Counseling Week is scheduled for February 3 – 7, 2020.

February is School Board Appreciation Month.

January 2nd and 3rd were professional development days for all staff. Dr. Fuhrman, Mrs. Morgan, and Mr. Cantrell gave updates on topics addressed with staff.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson updated the Board on Family Engagement activities as well as Diversity/Equity/Inclusive practices within the division.

The Board reviewed a video presentation on Board Docs, an electronic system for managing Board informational documents. This system is utilized by several School Boards and supported by the Virginia School Board Association. A company representative is also available to visit the School Board for a demonstration.

Pre-Kindergarten orientation is scheduled for March 3rd and 4th, and Kindergarten orientation is scheduled for March 17th and 19th at EPS.

Staff will attend a job fair for recruitment on January 25, 2020, in Salem.

The Chamber Dinner is scheduled for March 7, 2020, at the Homestead.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Hunter, the Board unanimously approved an executive session at 8:31 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 9:54 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.

No action was taken after the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Tamala Preston, Chair

Rebecca Irvine, Clerk

