

The Washington County School Board convened for a School Board Meeting on Monday, March 5, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the School Board Office, 812 Thompson Drive, Abingdon, Virginia. Present were:

Dr. Brian C. Ratliff, Superintendent	Dr. Doug Arnold
Ms. Melissa Caudill, Director of Finance & Clerk of the Board	Mr. Terry Fleenor
Mr. Billy Brooks	Mr. Sanders Henderson
	Ms. Elizabeth Lowe
	Mr. Dayton Owens

1. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Billy Brooks, School Board Chair.
2. Determination of quorum – six of seven board members were present. Mr. Musick was absent.
3. Dr. Brian Ratliff led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Upon motion by Ms. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Henderson, by 6-0 vote, (Mr. Musick absent), the meeting agenda was approved.
5. Mr. Brooks called for public comment. No one signed up or came forward to speak.
6. Upon motion by Mr. Fleenor, seconded by Ms. Lowe, by 6-0 vote, the following items were approved on the consent agenda as presented:
 - Minutes of the February 19, 2018, School board Meeting
 - Bill Date 3/5/2018
 - General Fund: \$ 747,494.86
 - Textbook Fund: \$ 21,080.82
 - 2/9/2018 Payroll Warrant # 180209 \$ 37,920.10
 - 2/9/2018 Payroll Warrant # 180223 \$ 2,383,341.01
7. Dr. Ratliff led a discussion regarding school safety. He noted that the Abingdon police department had been contacted regarding a possible threat to Abingdon High School on March 2, 2018, and determined that the threat was unsubstantiated and distorted through social media posts. Public statements were made in an effort to inform the students, parents, staff and other community members that the matter had been investigated fully and concluded that there was no evidence of a credible threat to Abingdon High School. Dr. Ratliff reminded everyone that our school system has an actively functioning safety committee that investigates all security and safety issues as well as maintains the school safety plan and training. Unfortunately, the rumors and social media postings advising students not to attend school that day resulted in low attendance at the high school. However, this day was also initially designated as a spring break day. This day subsequently reverted to a snow make up day which may also explain the low attendance and was possibly a factor in the creation and propagation of the rumor, particularly on social media.
8. Dr. Ratliff acknowledged the presence of Washington County Sheriff, Fred Newman and Major Byron Ashbrook at the meeting and expressed appreciation for the great working relationship our school system has with local law enforcement.

Sheriff Newman informed the School Board that at the Joint Board of Supervisor meeting last week, February 28, he requested funding for six more School Resource Officers (SRO), which would allow each school to have a designated security officer. Since that meeting, the Board of Supervisors has tentatively approved two additional SROs.

Sheriff Newman also discussed proactive joint initiatives with Dr. Ratliff such as the implementation of a school safety task force. This task force will also be open to participation by parents and county public safety officials.

Sherriff Newman said the media has contacted him about arming teachers in schools. He noted that he is not in favor of this plan as security is not a typical educator's role and therefore this proposal would require comprehensive training that would potentially be both costly and time consuming.

Several School Board members stressed the importance of community involvement and communication between the community, law enforcement and school officials. Dr. Ratliff noted that the request for local funding for FY 2019 included funding for security and safety initiatives for items detailed in our CIP plan electronic security doors other technology features to assist with locking all doors and access areas at the school buildings in the School Construction Fund (Fund 316). The FY 2019 budget request that was submitted to the Board of Supervisors and county administrator for FY 2019 did not request any additional local funds to reinstate the local cuts for the past few years in the School General Operating Fund (Fund 312). Our FY 2019 objective is focused mainly on school facility requests in the School Construction Fund 316, recognizing that we will have to forgo across the board raises for employees again this year. The submitted Superintendent's preliminary Estimate of Needs includes step increases for eligible employees and some salary scale corrections utilizing FY 2019 additional state funds. This will not replace the local cuts we have endured over the last three years. However, it was very encouraging that the individual Board of Supervisor members expressed a firm commitment to help fund safety and infrastructure costs in the School Construction Fund's CIP plan beginning the upcoming 2019 fiscal year.

Dr. Ratliff noted additional programs implemented for safety and security purposes such as the 'Once a Day and Every Day' as well as the 'Hero 911' which is a smart phone application available to all Washington County, Virginia Schools faculty and staff. The goal of the application is to allow for faster response times and more efficient overall response. We also have School Safety Initiatives, Implementation and Training. Other security measures include, but are not limited to:

- Cameras at the school doors and around the buildings and grounds,
- Electronic doors for building access and front entrance school access and visitor control,
- Professional school counselors and psychologists,
- Emergency response guides and ERG teams in every school,
- Crisis management plan,
- Active shooter training and threat assessment,
- Mental health partnerships and day treatment services in every school,
- "Area-Wide" discipline hearings,
- Bullying and discrimination in-service, bullying prevention program and tip-line,
- Superintendent's students advisory committee, student leadership and mentoring programs,
- Fire marshal school inspections,
- Bus safety in-services,
- Staff training – first aid, CPR, OSHA, AED, and some MANDT, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice services requirements,
- Drills and training in lockdown situations, etc.

Additionally, in progress is the development of a safety task force and plans for social-emotional/empathy training for students.

9. Upon motion by Ms. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Fleenor, by 6-0 vote, the February Fund Summary financial reports were approved as presented.

10. Superintendent's Report – Strategic Planning/Update

Dr. Ratliff informed Board members on the upcoming Dates: March 14, 2018 VSBA Hot Topic Conference in Wytheville, Virginia and the 2018 VSBA Southwest Region Forum will be held at the Russell County Career and Technology Center in Lebanon, Virginia. Dr. Ratliff said he felt the meeting with the Washington County Board of Supervisors went well and we were grateful for the collaborative expressions of support for K-12 education and the safety of our students as well as the long-term commitments for our infrastructure needs. Dr. Ratliff discussed the State Budget information from the House and Senate. The Preliminary Budget information indicates the Senate version is \$35,000 less than the Governor's proposed budget. The House version is up by \$212,000 over the Governor's initial proposed budget; however, the debate over Medicaid funding would likely reduce these additional funds as the money could likely be diverted to fund Medicaid programs in the final adoption.

11. Upon motion by Mr. Fleenor, seconded by Mr. Henderson, by 6-0 vote, the agenda of the March 19, 2018, School board Meeting was approved as presented.

12. Upon motion by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Dr. Arnold, and approved by a 6-0 vote, closed session was declared after a five-minute break, pursuant to §2.2-3711 of the *Code of Virginia* to discuss the following:

SECTION 2.2-3711 A (1)

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL(S):

- Head Girls' Outdoor Track Coach, Abingdon High School
- Child Nutrition Specialist, Rhea Valley Elementary School
- Assistant Softball Coach, John S. Battle High School
- Speech Language Therapist, Valley Institute Elementary
- Secretary, E.B. Stanley Middle School

CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL(S):

- School Nutrition Manager, High School
- School Nutrition Specialist, High School

CONSIDER RETIREMENT OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL(S):

- School Counselor, High School

CONSIDER SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL(S) FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHING

CONSIDER LONG TERM MEDICAL LEAVE OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL IN CASE # 1:

- Case:# 1 2018-2019

CONSIDER SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL(S) WITH NON-TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS: TO RECEIVE COACHING SUPPLEMENT ONLY AND SUBJECT TO (1) VHSL APPROVAL AND (2) WITHIN NUMBER OF POSITIONS APPROVED FOR COACHING, SECTION 2.2-3711 A(1):

- Assistant Softball Coach, High School
- Assistant Baseball Coach, High School

- Assistant Softball Coach, Patrick Henry High School
13. Upon motion by Ms. Lowe, seconded Mr. Fleenor, by 6-0 vote, closed session ended, and the meeting reconvened in regular session.
 14. Upon motion by Mr. Fleenor, seconded by Mr. Henderson, by 6-0 vote, closed session was certified pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 of the *Code of Virginia*.
 15. Upon motion by, Ms. Lowe, seconded Dr. Arnold, by 6-0 vote, the following was approved as recommended by the Superintendent:

SECTION 2.2-3711 A (1)

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL(S):

- David Farris, Head Girls' Outdoor Track Coach, Abingdon High School, Effective February 20, 2018
- Dorothy Owens, Child Nutrition Specialist, Rhea Valley Elementary School, Effective March 12, 2018
- Susan Phillips, Assistant Softball Coach, John S. Battle High School, Effective February 20, 2018
- Whitney Salyers, Speech Language Therapist, Valley Institute Elementary, Effective August 1, 2018
- Heather Smith, Secretary, E.B. Stanley Middle School, Effective March 6, 2018

CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL(S):

- Catina Bradley, School Nutrition Manager, Patrick Henry High School, Effective May 25, 2018
- Edith Butler, School Nutrition Specialist, John S. Battle High School, Effective February 27, 2018

CONSIDER RETIREMENT OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL(S):

- Connie Addison, School Counselor, Holston High School, Effective July 31, 2018

CONSIDER SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL(S) FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHING:

- Morgan Sollenberger, Emory & Henry College, Master's Degree in Social Science Education

CONSIDER LONG TERM MEDICAL LEAVE OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL IN CASE # 1:

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CONSIDER SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL(S) WITH NON-TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS: TO RECEIVE COACHING SUPPLEMENT ONLY AND SUBJECT TO (1) VHSL APPROVAL AND (2) WITHIN NUMBER OF POSITIONS APPROVED FOR COACHING, SECTION 2.2-3711 A(1):

- DeAnna Greene, Assistant Softball Coach, Abingdon High School, Effective February 28, 2018
- William Moore, Assistant Baseball Coach, Holston High School, Effective February 28, 2018
- Jimmy Ottinger, Assistant Softball Coach, Patrick Henry High School, Effective February 28, 2018

16. Upon motion by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Dr. Arnold, 6-0 vote, the School Board Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Billy W. Brooks, Chair

Melissa Caudill, Clerk

Algebra Kiser, Recorder

MOTION: Mr. Henderson

SECOND: Dr. Arnold

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, The Washington County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, §2.2-3712 (D) of the *Code of Virginia* requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

WHEREAS, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (II) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered.

AYES: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: 0


_____, Clerk
Washington County School Board

Meeting Date: March 5, 2018