

COVINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Minutes
May 9, 2016

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Mr. Garten, seconded by Mrs. Bennett, the Board unanimously approved an executive session to discuss matters in relation to the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711 (1) Personnel.

Upon a motion by Mr. Garten, seconded by Mrs. Rickett, the Board came out of executive session at 6:48 p.m.

Upon a return to open session, the Board agreed to certify the closed session under the Code of Virginia, Section 2.1-3711 (1) Personnel with a roll call vote.

were not present for applicant interviews. Mr. Long noted that, by law, the School Board has the authority to make personnel appointments.

Steve Dressler, teacher at CHS, addressed the Board and expressed concern that the new principal and assistant principal at CHS have no prior administrative experience considering that CHS is in academic warning. He also asked the justification for a student service director at the central office and an additional principal position at CHS.

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Pete Pitard, teacher, at CHS addressed the Board regarding needs at the high school. Another custodian is needed, increased career and technical staff are needed, and students need more electives. He is concerned that administration is not focused on the impact of reconstitution. Better communication is needed because recent events have created major distractions at a critical academic time for students.

Sara Zeek, teacher at CHS, addressed the Board regarding goals and invited members to visit her classroom. She noted that some of the goals stated publically by Board members included plans already in place. She noted that her needs as a teacher were not being met, and she struggled with administration to get a learning management system in place for students.

Ron Leichter, addressed the Board as a citizen, and asked what happens if a school is not accredited. Mr. Long noted that the Department of Education provides support to schools in this position. Mr. Leichter thanked teachers for their dedication to his child.

Kelli Wheaton, a teacher at CHS, noted that she had a similar childhood as many underprivileged students and feels an affinity for CHS students. She feels faculty and community need a voice in administrative hiring decisions. She requested a timeline of events for the recent administrative hires.

Rick Fuhrman, a former principal at CHS, asked if we were looking for an additional administrator at CHS. He noted that this seems odd for only 350 students. Mr. Fuhrman said the principal knows best what is needed in a school and nothing beats experience when hiring personnel.

Jessica Fauber, a teacher at CHS, noted that some high school students struggle with reading, and deficits need to be identified early. She feels that the school division needs to be more proactive and diligent in addressing student weaknesses, and highly qualified administrators are important.

Mrs. Scruggs-Duncan thanked the audience for the comments and noted that the Board valued their support.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mrs. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Clemons, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of April 11th, April 27th, April 29th, and May 2nd, 2016.

FINANCE

Upon a motion by Mrs. Bennett, seconded by Mrs. Clemons, the Board unanimously approved payments of April and May warrants and invoices totaling \$977,753.01.

Mr. Garten thanked the City for allowing the division to keep additional funds due to ADM. Mr. Long noted that the City has goes above and beyond in its local match efforts.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board scheduled a budget work session to for Monday, May 26nd at 5:30 p.m.

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Mrs. Scruggs-Duncan noted that the New Tech committee met this morning and discussed the Nettleton Workforce Education Center. Mrs. Scruggs-Duncan noted that she and the mayor had met with architect of the Nettleton Foundation to discuss potential funding for this development.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Long noted that in February of 2016, Mrs. Scruggs-Duncan and Mayor Sibold, submitted a letter of intent to participate in the 2014 Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) Sale to be issued by the Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) in November/December 2016. At that time the Board identified roof replacement at CHS as its highest priority, and Eric Tyree with Covington City has worked with school staff to develop a request for proposal for this project. Proposals are due on Friday, May 13th. Mr. Long has received correspondence requesting a loan amount for QZAB funding. Mr. Long recommended that this request be \$750,000, given previous discussions with the City regarding the priority needs of the division.

Upon a motion by Mr. Garten, seconded by Mrs. Rickett, the Board unanimously approved an amount of \$750,000 for submission for QZAB funding. This is a preliminary amount for planning purposes only. Applications will be submitted in August, 2016.

Mrs. Scruggs-Duncan noted that Jonathan Elmore has made a suggestion that CHS seniors walk through the halls of the elementary and intermediate schools in their cap and gown. Mrs. Woodward, senior class sponsor, will pursue this suggestion.

Mr. Garten suggested that a forum be developed to open communication with teachers. Some discussion ensued regarding a format for this communication.

COMMITTEE AND JOINT BOARD REPORTS

The Jackson River Technical Center Joint Board of control meets on May 10th.

The Jackson River Governor's School Board meets on May 25th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Mr. Long noted that an application has been submitted for the summer feeding program to be held at CHS for children ages 18 and under.

Mr. Long noted that staff is also exploring the Community Eligibility Provision to see if the division is eligible for this program which provided free lunches for all students.

Mr. Long distributed a coaching supplement proposal submitted from Mr. Burton and Dr. Fuhrman. This proposal will be discussed at the June meeting.

Mr. Long noted that he attended the VASS conference last week. As a result of Mr. Long being named 2016 superintendent of the year for Region 6, a student at CHS will receive a \$500 college tuition scholarship. This student has been accepted into college and wants to be a teacher.

Mr. Long shared with the Board correspondence sent to all staff on behalf of the School Board recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week.

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Mr. Long noted that the division's final ADM was 940.25. This will result in \$894 less than anticipated in additional state funds included in the FY 2016-2017 budget.

COMMENTS

Steve Dressler thanked the School Board for improvements to the weight room. A refrigerator has been installed for milk donated from student lunches and this program, implemented by Mrs. Hale has been very popular.

Rick Fuhrman suggested that the division hire a reading specialist rather than an additional administrator at CHS. Some discussion ensued.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Upon a motion by Mr. Garten, seconded by Mrs. Rickett, the Board came out of executive session at 9:47 p.m.

Upon a return to open session, the Board agreed to certify the closed session under the Code of Virginia, Section 2.1-3711 (1) Personnel with a roll call vote.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion by Mr. Garten seconded by Mrs. Rickett, the Board unanimously approved the following additional personnel actions recommended by Mrs. Snead-Johnson:

Resignation:

Harris, Donna	School Nurse EPS/JWIS, effective at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year
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Appointments:

Instructional Staff for 2016-17	See attached list
Service Personnel for 2016-17	See attached list
Classified Staff for 2016 – 17	See attached list
Summer School Staff	Approval to fill positions needed
Dobson, Darcell	Substitute Teacher
Forbes, Karie	Substitute Teacher
Pillow, Hannah	Substitute Teacher

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Mrs. Bennett voted yes with the abstention of Robert Bennett.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Tammy Scruggs-Duncan, Chair

Rebecca Irvine, Clerk

