

COVINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes

March 9, 2020

The Covington City School Board held its regular meeting in the Board conference room on Monday, March 9, 2020, 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; Derek Cantrell, Principal of CHS; Rob Bennett, Principal of JWIS; .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 Board recognized the Educators of the Year chosen by each school. Mrs. Snead-Johnson introduced Heather Auvil, Educator of the Year from EPS. Mrs. Auvil has been with the Division for 10 years, teaching Title I, 1st and 3rd grade. Mr. Bennett introduced Alania Lowman, Educator of the Year from JWIS. Mrs. Lowman was an English teacher at CHS before joining the JWIS staff and has taught at JWIS for 9 years. Mr. Cantrell introduced Kevin Hanna, Educator of the Year from CHS. Mr. Hanna has taught for 41 years at CHS and was also chosen as the Division-Wide Educator of the year.

CHS Student Leadership Team representatives, Simon Gibson and Amiah Hunter, addressed the Board with a presentation highlighting school programs and activities.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson introduced Jennifer Dudley, with Family Preservation Services (FPS). FPS has provided Therapeutic Day Treatment to the division since 2010 and currently have three staff working with Covington students. To date, these therapeutic services are provided only offsite, and Medicaid is the only insurance provider. FPS services plans to expand services so that counseling can be provided within the school and also be eligible for other insurance reimbursements.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson introduced Amanda Selman and Teresa Lee with Counseling Associates of the Highlands. Utilizing a Title IV Grant, the division currently contracts with Counseling Associates to provide 8 hours of emotional/behavioral support per week to students in all three schools. This school year sixty-six students have been referred.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Arritt, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of February 10, February 25, and March 2, 2020.

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FINANCE

Upon a motion by Mr. Arritt, seconded by Mrs. Hunter, the Board unanimously approved invoices totaling \$905,372.27.

The Board reviewed expenditure allocations from CHS, JWIS, and EPS and the division-wide budget analysis through February, 2020.

Ms. Irvine noted that she will be monitoring FY 20 revenues carefully this month to determine any shortfalls in addition to the state shortfall due to the lower ADM.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that a preliminary FY 21 budget was submitted to the City Manager on March 6th, however the General Assembly has not finalized the state budget. It does seem that there will be an increase in the minimum wage which will impact the salary scales for cafeteria workers and instructional aides. The Board will need to schedule a budget work session once the state budget is finalized.

SMART GOALS UPDATE/STRATEGIC PLAN

There have been no updates to the Strategic Plan.

VSBA EQUITY IN EDUCATION MONTH.

Governor Northam has recognized March 2020 as Virginia School Boards Association Equity in Education Month to call attention to this increasingly significant challenge throughout the Commonwealth. Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted the division provides free meals to all students and continues to address education equity for all students.

CHS MODEL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Mrs. Snead-Johnson requested formal Board approval of a CHS field trip to Richmond on February 12 – 13, 2020, and an additional trip on April 2 – 4, 2020, for students in the Youth and Government Club to attend the Model General Assembly.

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved these overnight trips for CHS students and chaperones.

DISCUSSION/OTHER NEW BUSINESS – SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Arritt noted that he had reviewed the Spring sports schedule which included trips to schools several hours away from Covington. He asked if this created problems for athletes. Mr. Cantrell noted that the goal is to arrive 45 minutes to one hour before the event start time to allow players to warmup.

Some discussion ensued regarding the difficulties in finding bus drivers to cover school activities.

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COMMITTEE & JOINT BOARD REPORTS

The JRTC Joint Board of Control will meet on Tuesday, March 10th at noon.
The Governor's School Board will meet in April, 2020.

Mr. Arritt noted the Committee on Joint Services is working to schedule subcommittees meetings for governance and facilities. The goal is to have six members on each committee.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that current enrollment is 957 which is less than the budget projection of 985.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that staff had met with nine families, three from each school, regarding student absences.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson reviewed with the Board activities at each school in recognition of Black History Month.

Over 300 parent/teacher conferences were held on February 17th.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson briefly discussed Policy IKFA – Locally Verified Credits and noted there would be more discussion on this at the April meeting.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson updated the Board on Coronavirus Pandemic Planning activities including coordination with community partners and preparation in the event of school closure. Information provided from DOE indicates that instruction will continue if school closure becomes necessary. Information on Pandemic planning continues to evolve.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson reminded Board members that the April Board meeting was rescheduled for April 6, 2020.

Report cards will go out on March 20, 2020.

Literacy night at CHS is scheduled for March 24, 2020.

The Educational Summit is scheduled for March 26, 2020, at the Masonic Theatre.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Mr. Arritt, seconded by Mrs. Jones, the Board unanimously approved an executive session at 8:01 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 8:27 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.

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PERSONNEL

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved the following personnel appointments/resignations:

Resignations:

DeGroot, E. Jane	CHS Science Teacher, Retirement at the end of the 2019 – 2020 school year
Hanna, P. Kevin	CHS Science Teacher, Retirement at the end on the 2019 – 2020 school year

Appointments:

Davis, Christina	Substitute Teacher/Aide
Wolfe, Samantha	Special Education Teacher (2020 – 2021 School Year)

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Tamala Preston, Chair

Rebecca Irvine, Clerk

