

**COVINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Minutes**  
**April 6, 2020**

The Covington City School Board held its regular meeting in the Board conference room on Monday, April 6, 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 (Per Conference Call)

Superintendent Melinda Snead-Johnson was present as was Rebecca Irvine, Clerk, per conference call.

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

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that the public notice of the meeting stated that attendance in the Board room would be limited to ten individuals. Seven individuals were present, including media. The public was invited to submitted questions or participate remotely, but no requests were received.

### **MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Mr. Arritt, seconded by Ms. Hunter, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of March 9 and March 26, 2020.

### **FINANCE**

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mrs. Hunter, the Board unanimously approved invoices totaling \$928,855.82.

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

Ms. Irvine noted she continues to monitor expenses in anticipation of a lower ADM for the current year, which will result in a state revenue shortfall. The FY 20 budget was based on an ADM of 985, and, the actual ADM for March 31, 2020 has not been finalized but will be less than projected. Since this shortfall was predicted in the Fall, reduced expenditures were necessary to manage this revenue reduction.

Ms. Irvine noted that a revised FY 21 budget was submitted to the City Manager on March 30th, based on the final budget approved by the General Assembly in mid-March. State revenues will likely change due to the COVID-19 crisis, and another budget revision will be necessary based on Governor Northam's recommendations and the actions of the General Assembly. It is likely that many of the Governor's budget initiatives will be eliminated, based on sales tax reductions.

## **MINUTES – APRIL 6, 2020**

### **SMART GOALS UPDATE/STRATEGIC PLAN**

There have been no updates to the Strategic Plan.

### **2020-2021 ANNUAL PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson requested Board approval of the Special Education Annual Plan and Application for Federal Funds for FY 2020 -2021. The total amount of federal funds requested is \$236,470.

Upon a motion by Mr. Arritt, seconded by Mrs. Hunter, the Board unanimously approved this annual plan to provide funding for Special Education teachers.

### **RESOLUTION – COVID-19 PANDEMIC EFFECTS**

The Virginia School Board Association attorney has recommended approval of this resolution in response to Governor Northam Executive Order declaring a state of emergency due to the novel coronavirus (COVID—19) pandemic. The resolution allows the Covington City School Board to suspend such policies or provisions within policies which reflect legal and/or regulatory requirements that have been waived by the governmental authority which enacted those requirements.

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously approved this resolution for the duration of time that the waiver of laws and/or regulations reflected in the policies are waived.

### **DISCUSSION/OTHER NEW BUSINESS – SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

Some discussion ensued regarding staff efforts to provide support and education to children during COVID-19 pandemic. Board members expressed appreciation to staff for their hard work to meet the educational as well as nutritional needs of students. Mrs. Snead-Johnson shared information that has been distributed to families, and commended students for their commitment to getting their work done. A tentative date for graduation has been set for July 31, 2020.

### **COMMITTEE & JOINT BOARD REPORTS**

Mr. Arritt noted that the Committee of Joint Services did not have a scheduled meeting, but some subcommittees will be meeting.

The JRTC Joint Board of Control will meet on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.

The Governor's School is closed and the Science Fair and Annual Banquet have been canceled at this time. Some discussion ensued regarding a way to recognize these students during graduation.

## **MINUTES – APRIL 6, 2020**

### **SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that monthly attendance meetings have not been held due to the COVID-19 closure.

Staff are working to finalize the March 31<sup>st</sup> ADM, and Mrs. Snead-Johnson anticipates an ADM of 965.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson shared with Board members information from the website regarding continuity of education and instruction support. Every effort is being made to remain in contact with students and families during this crisis.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved an executive session at 7:13 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 7:37 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 Mr. Arritt, seconded by Mr. Baker, the Board unanimously approved the following personnel appointments/resignations:

#### **Resignations:**

Pitard, Peter

CHS History/Social Studies Teacher, Retirement at the end of the 2019 – 2020 school year

Wheaton, Kelli

CHS English Teacher, Retirement at the end on the 2019 – 2020 school year

#### **Appointments:**

Kessinger, Ryan

From JWIS/Special Education Teacher to  
CHS Special Education Teacher

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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Tamala Preston, Chair

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Rebecca Irvine, Clerk

