

**COVINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Minutes**  
**June 8, 2020**

The Covington City School Board held its regular meeting in the Board conference room on Monday, June 8, 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

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

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. The public was invited to submit questions or participate remotely, but no requests were received.

**MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Mr. Arritt, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of May 11, May 14, May 18, and May 28, 2020.

**FINANCE**

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved invoices totaling \$855,085.28.

The Board reviewed expenditure allocations from CHS, JWIS, and EPS through May, 2020 and the division-wide financial statement.

Ms. Irvine noted that much of the division's anticipated revenue has not been collected, but will be received in June and July. Sales Tax receipts for April, May and June are received in June, July and August. While COVID-19 may have an impact on the amount of these collections, Sales Tax receipts for March were not impacted. Sales Tax figures are received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Ms. Irvine presented a revised budget totaling \$11,648,261, which includes the local fund reduction of \$332,763. Mrs. Snead-Johnson did address City Council regarding the impact of this reduction on education, and the final City budget has not been approved. The Board will need to approve a final budget by the end of June, so action could be taken at a closeout meeting. Staff contracts have not been issued.

The Board scheduled a closeout meeting for Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

## **MINUTES – JUNE 8, 2020**

The Board scheduled a reorganizational meeting for Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Ms. Jones noted that Simple K-12 is offering training on Google classroom, and the Department of Education is also providing valuable training for teaching remotely.

Ms. Jones noted that she would like to add a SMART Goal to include a Board initiative to follow the established chain of command when presented with issues from the community. While Board members are advocates for the community, issues should be addressed proactively, by encouraging communication with appropriate staff within the school division's chain of command.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that an update to the Strategic Plan will be presented at the closeout meeting.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that she is planning to proceed with purchasing the Board Docs platform for future Board communications.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson presented a document from Dr. James Lane, State Superintendent, entitled "Working Together to Fight Inequality." Mrs. Snead-Johnson will also be distributing a letter to students, staff, and community members regarding this issue.

Mrs. Preston noted that this information is timely, given the COVID-19 pandemic, the current declining economic conditions, and the nationwide racial tension. She expressed concern regarding how students are processing these issues, and what counseling services are available. Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that Amanda Selman, with Counseling Associates of the Highlands, has been in contact with families who have agreed to telehealth, and the division's behavior specialist, Dr. Mann was also available to students after schools closed in March. Family Preservation has closed their office in Covington. Mrs. Snead-Johnson is working to find a provider for Therapeutic Day Treatment.

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

Mr. Arritt noted that the Finance and Governance Subcommittees of the Joint Services Committee have been meeting. Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that the facilities' study has not been finalized.

The JRTC Joint Board of Control will meet on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at noon.

Mrs. Preston noted that the Governor's School had a total of 38 students last year, and all students did well despite the pandemic. Covington City had seven students participating in the Governor's School.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson presented a revised calendar, with a school start date after Labor Day for Board review. Action on this calendar was tabled until the closeout meeting.

## **MINUTES – JUNE 8, 2020**

Mrs. Snead-Johnson reviewed with the Board graduation plans scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the Jackson River Sports Complex, and various other ways staff plan to honor CHS graduates.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that the Virginia High School League (VHSL) will meet on June 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss Fall sports plans.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson presented a packet of COVID-19 updates for Board review. Staff have developed several educational videos available at the library for students and families. A survey regarding school reopening has been circulated to staff. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has also issued guidelines for school reopenings. Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that our CARES allocation has also been reduced by approximately \$3,000. The revised amount is \$206,856.68.

The VSBA annual conference will be held virtually in November, 2020.

Ms. Jones noted that she feels staff must work quickly to ensure that all students have an electronic device for their personal use, in the event instruction is totally virtual for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that staff are evaluating several platforms available for virtual instruction, and CARES funds are available for necessary purchases.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that several grant applications will be available for review at the closeout meeting.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved an executive session at 7:35 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 8:45 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 executive session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

---

Tamala Preston, Chair

---

Rebecca Irvine, Clerk

