

COVINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Minutes
November 11, 2019

The Covington City School Board held its regular meeting in the Board conference room on Monday, November 11, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Tamala Preston, Chair
Jonathan Arritt
Bert Baker
Erika Hunter
Tonya Jones

Superintendent Melinda Snead-Johnson was present as were Derek Cantrell, Principal of CHS; 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 unanimously approved a resolution honoring the life of Annette Byer-McFadden, a teacher and speech pathologist for Covington City Schools for thirty-eight years. Mrs. Byer-McFadden died August 29, 2019. As a token of appreciation and high regard, a copy of this resolution is recorded with these minutes and presented to the family of Mrs. Byer-McFadden.

The Board presented a Certificate of recognition to Mary Tyree, CHS Girls Volleyball Head Coach and congratulated Mrs. Tyree for receiving the Virginia High School League Region 1C Award of Merit.

The Board presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Clifton Forge Lions Club and thanked the club for their volunteer service to administer hearing screening for students at EPS, JWIS, and CHS. Skip McMullen was present to accept the Certificate of Recognition.

April Reysn, a teacher at EPS, addressed the Board to express opposition to the school merged with Alleghany County.

Amanda LaPrade, a parent of an EPS student, addressed the Board to express opposition to school merger

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Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Baker, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of September 9, 2019.

FINANCE

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously approved invoices totaling \$885,548.96.

The Board reviewed expenditure allocations from CHS, JWIS, and EPS and the division-wide budget analysis through September, 2019.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that that current enrollment for all schools is 963, which is 22 students short of the budget projection of 985.

SMART GOALS UPDATE/STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Baker reiterated his goal of striving for a “less paper” throughout the division, and particularly for Board meetings. He noted that City Council is moving toward paperless

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meetings and perhaps the School Board could explore this option. Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that Google Docs is one possibility.

CHS BAND & CHOIR SPRING TRIP

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that that CHS Music Department has requested approval for a Spring Trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, April 9th-April 11th. The Board tabled this item until more Mrs. Peters could be present to provide more details of the trip.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded, by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved a proclamation designating October 14 – 18, 2019, as National School Lunch Week to encourage awareness about nutrition habits in hopes of achieving a more healthful citizenry.

TITLE I FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

ADVISORY BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Mrs. Snead-Johnson recommended Board approval of the following advisory boards and committees:

CHS Career and Technical Advisory Board

Health Occupations/Sports Medicine: Skylar Dressler, Kiersten Hicks

Health Occupations/Sports Medicine: Laurel Haynes, VATL, ATC

Business and Information Technology: Harlie Reynolds, Abbie McDaniel

Business and Information Technology: Tina Dressler, Nathaniel Hale, Skipper Reynolds, Zelpha Withrow

CHS Teachers: Charity Hale, Linda Lewis

CHS Principal: Derek Cantrell

CCHPS Director of Instruction/Technology: Shannon Fuhrman

Jackson River Technical Center: Glenn Spangler

Title I Advisory Board

Parents: Tiffany Billups, Sarah McKinney, Trisha Persinger, Tonya, Amanda Burns, Shannon Holloway, Dawn C. Lewis

Title I Staff: Amanda Burns, Tonya Easton, Susan Givens, Amanda H. Taylor, Jessica Fauber, Shannon Fuhrman, Cynthia Morgan

Special Education Advisory Board

Margaret Burks, Citizen

Holly Fasig, Parent

Shannon Fuhrman, Director of Instruction and Technology

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Natalie McClelland, Parent

Lee Ann Gray, Speech and Language Pathologist, EPS

Tammie Harmon, Parent

Kathy Harris, Citizen

Susan Kincaid, Special Education Teacher

Kelly Calhoun, Parent

Melinda Snead-Johnson, Division Superintendent & Director of Special Education

Shannon Ware, Principal-Rivermont School

Jennifer Turner, Family Preservation Services

Beverly Baker, Administrative Assistant

Jessica Fauber, Literacy Coach, CCPS

Virginia Preschool Initiative Advisor Board

Jessica Fauber, Literacy Coach, CCPS

Lee Ann Gray, Speech Language Pathologist, EPS

Amanda Burns, Family Engagement Specialist, EPS

Cynthia Morgan, EPS Principal

Tammie Hoke-Looney, ECSE Teacher, EPS

Melinda Snead-Johnson, Division Superintendent & Director of Special Education

Kit Staunton, School Counselor, JWIS

Amanda M. Taylor, Pre-K Teacher, EPS

Teresa Weintraub, Pre-K Teacher, EPS

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's recommendations for each of these advisory boards/committees.

VPSA REFUNDING/2013B POOL BONDS - AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that she recently received notification that the Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) is considering the refunding of its 2013B Pool bonds this fall. Any saving from this refunding will be passed along to localities. Potential savings to the City of Covington if refunding occurs could total \$660,866.35 over the next 20 years. Mrs. Snead-

Johnson recommended Board approval to authorize her signature on a Certificate of Refunding to receive and potential Refunding Credits.

Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously authorized the Superintendent's signature on the refunding certificate.

BULLY PREVENTION MONTH

Mrs. Snead-Johnson read the Certificate of Recognition signed by Governor Northam recognizing October, 2019 as Bullying Prevention Month. While staff address bullying throughout the year, special prevention activities occur during the month of October, and principals will provide updates in November.

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COMMITTEE & JOINT BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Arritt reported the Committee on Joint Services met on September 26th. At this meeting the committee defined the Scope of Phase 1 of the process to include the following: 1) Options for Local Funding; 2) Cost of Pay Equalization; 3) Options for Board Governance. Meetings were scheduled for 10/17 and 10/24. Public comment will be allowed at the meeting on October 24th.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that Atif Qarni, Virginia Secretary of Education, will visit area schools on Wednesday, October 9th.

The JRTC Joint Board of Control will meet on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at noon.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Cindy Arthur, GEAR UP Virginia Coordinator for Covington City Schools, presented an update on activities at CHS. Students (65) who began participation in the GEAR UP Program as 7th graders will be graduating from CHS in 2020.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Ms. Arthur, and Mrs. Hunter noted that her daughter participates in the GEAR UP Program.

Amanda Burns, Title I Family Engagement Coordinator, addressed the Board to inform them of several community partnerships that are in place to enhance family participation and engagement in student success.

Jessica Fauber, Literacy Coach, at EPS presented an update on major pro-active reading efforts that occurring at EPS and JWIS. Students are being tested early and intervention strategies put in place to address reading deficiencies.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that CHS and JWIS are fully accredited and EPS is accredited with conditions. The conditions involve improvements needed for some subgroups in

reading. A DOE representative will be visiting schools on October 17th to assist principals with an areas needing improvement.

Mrs. Snead-Johnson noted that a copy of the school activity audit was included in the Board packet, with comments from each principal addressing any audit concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Arritt, the Board unanimously approved an executive session at 8:15 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 9:55 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 Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the following personnel appointments:

James, Charlesetta
Sizemore, Oliva
Schell, Barry
Jennings, Jean
Hepler, Rachel

Substitute Teacher/Aide
Substitute Teacher/Aide
Substitute Teacher/Aide
Substitute Nurse
Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Tamala Preston, Chair

Rebecca Irvine, Clerk

