

AT A CONTINUED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKBRIDGE  
COUNTY VIRGINIA, HELD AT ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM'S  
CENTRAL OFFICE, LEXINGTON VIRGINIA ON THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 29, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.

PRESENT CHAIRMAN D. W. HINTY, JR.  
MEMBERS: R.R. CAMPBELL, J.M. HIGGINS, D.E. LYONS, A.J.  
"JAY" LEWIS II

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
AND CLERK TO BOARD: SPENCER H. SUTER

COUNTY STAFF: NATHAN RAMSEY

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: CHAIRMAN DAVID MCDANIEL, COREY BERKSTRESSER,  
HEATHER HOSTETTER, WENDY LOVELL, NEIL WHITMORE

SCHOOL STAFF: Dr. PHILLIP THOMPSON, HAYWOOD HAND; MATT  
CROSSMAN, JASON KIRBY, RANDY WALTERS; CHRISTINE  
WOOD; MIKE CRAFT

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Hinty and Chairman McDaniel opened the meeting at 5:00 PM and welcomed all present.

Chairman McDaniel provided a brief overview of the School Division's draft capital improvement plan (CIP).

Supervisor Higgins noted that prior discussion involved plans to put aside funds for future projects.

Mr. Suter noted that the Scholl Division's master plan would likely inform the CIP and suggest additions or amendments.

Chairman Hinty suggested setting aside funds in a restricted account.

In response to a request from Supervisor Higgins, Randy Walters reviewed projects which had been completed over the past summer, using end of FY2018 savings. These included: playground relocation at NBES, locker room renovation at RCHS, HVAC repairs in the RCHS team room, tennis court resurfacing, phase 1 of interior door and hardware replacement at RCHS and buzz-in systems at every school.

Supervisor Higgins asked if there was anything planned that was not completed. Dr. Thompson noted that they had gotten a lot done over the summer.

Ms. Lovell noted that expenditures on the schedule are not far out and that we need to work toward funding projects.

Supervisor Lyons asked if the RCHS parking lot had been paved. Mr. Walters noted that the junior lot had been tarred and graveled, with a target of paving in the CIP for 2023, at a cost of \$100,000. Supervisor Higgins asked if the funding for the tar and gravel had come from carryover and Dr. Thompson confirmed.

Supervisor Lyons asked if the School Division was comfortable with the estimated costs on CIP projects. Dr. Thompson replied that some are fairly solid but others are out of date but provide "ballpark" figures.

Supervisor Lyons then asked for a description of the auxiliary gym, which Dr. Thompson described as a basic basketball court with approximately 5 rows of bleacher seats and bathrooms. Chairman McDaniel noted that gyms would be deferred until the master study is complete.

Supervisor Lyons then noted that he had been working with Trane on a project for Roanoke City schools and had been told by Trane personnel that the RCHS should be fine for the next 25 years with regard to HVAC. Dr. Thompson noted that he is hopeful that this is the case.

Supervisor Lyons then asked for more detail on field lighting plans. Dr. Thompson replied that there is not really anything wrong with the football field lights and that the lighting plan was more focused on the baseball and softball fields. Supervisor Lyons asked if lighting would allow more usage and Dr. Thompson noted that the fields would see more use and allow for more flexible scheduling.

Mr. Suter then reviewed the total amounts available in the School Division's restricted capital account (assuming usage of \$120,492 in FY2018 carryover for financial software and strategic plan, and subtracting the \$225,000 emergency reserve, there is \$295,688 in the account). In response to a question by Chairman Hinty, Dr. Thompson noted that the Munis software implementation is approximately 2/3 complete, Chairman Hinty asked if the software was interfaced with the County's Bright system and Dr. Thompson noted that there is no direct interface. Supervisor Higgins asked if the interface was included in the contract and Dr. Thompson replied that it was not - that the

salesman had made the promise. Chairman McDaniel noted that Munis would be good for the School Division. David Daniels noted that a 3<sup>rd</sup> party interface is still being worked on. Supervisor Lewis asked about the possibility of changing the Bright system on the County side. Supervisor Higgins asked that a letter be drafted to Munis expressing our displeasure, and asked if there would be an additional cost for the interface. Dr. Thompson replied that additional cost would be likely as it would be written by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Chairman Hinty asked that the letter be sent expressing our frustration, with a request that Munis fund the interface. Chairman McDaniel noted that he understood, but that Munis would be good for the School Division. Supervisor Campbell agreed with Chairman Hinty, noting that we were promised it would work.

RCHS Principal Mike Craft and Rockbridge Fire-Rescue Chief Nathan Ramsey then presented a proposal to add an EMT education program to the County. They noted that the plan would provide for an EMT program at the FSK Technical Center, and would provide for adult training as well. The program is modeled after a highly successful program in Rockingham County. Members of both Boards expressed support for the program. Mr. Craft and Chief Ramsey agreed to develop additional detail and budgetary figures to bring back to both Boards during the upcoming budget process.

Chairman McDaniel then gave a brief summary of the School Division's budget preparations. Supervisor Lyons asked what the September 30 Average Daily Membership (ADM) count was. Dr. Thompson noted that he did not have the number in hand but would report it.

Chairman McDaniel noted that there is no change in VRS or group life rates and that health care costs were estimated to rise 12%. Mr. Suter gave a brief description of the County's current health benefit plan. Chairman Hinty asked that the two plans be discussed in the next executive committee meeting.

Chairman McDaniel's then thanked the Board of Supervisors for supporting School Division raises and presented an updated comparison of teacher salaries (both regional and statewide comparables). Supervisor Campbell noted that when he was on the School Board years ago, there was a salary comparison done with adjacent localities. He asked that we continue to use that comparison rather than statewide comparables, but noted that he was glad to see the tables presented. Chairman McDaniel noted that the School Division focused on the regional table that it showed that this year's increases had met the objective of reaching the middle of the scale. He stressed that we need to prioritize keeping pace with the

marketplace, so as not to lose any ground gained last year. Ms. Lovell agreed. Chairman McDaniel added that one goal is to avoid impacts of health care costs to employees.

Supervisor Lyons asked if the School Division planned to continue the early retirement program, adding that he hoped the program was supporting meaningful work. Dr. Thompson indicated that the program was still in place and provided the opportunity for experienced teachers to fill in as substitutes.

Chairman McDaniel then discussed the recently expanded School Resource Officer program, and added his hope that it would continue to be funded after the grant period ends. He then stressed the importance of educational partnerships with local business and industry to economic development.

Supervisor Lyons then noted that approximately \$5M is being spent on CSA costs this year. He asked for some figures related to the number of children in special education and the number in private day placement. Ms. Christine Wood with the School Division noted that there are 423 special education students and 39 children in private day/residential facilities. Supervisor Higgins asked if any of the children in special placement ever return to the local system. Ms. Wood noted that after placement, they usually don't come back. She added that she would like to see the return rate higher, but that it is challenging once the children are placed, and also that a few of the children are placed by the Department of Social Services. Supervisor Higgins noted that the cost is over \$60,000 per year for some of the placements. Ms. Wood noted that we are placing too many children in residential and private day care. Dr. Thompson noted that the Division is in the process to talking with other localities to see how they are handling. Supervisor Higgins noted that we could possibly provide the best service for the child by handling in-house at potential cost savings. Mr. Berkstresser asked what private groups do that we can't. Dr. Thompson replied that they provide specialized mental health training. Chairman McDaniel noted that we are thinking of the needs of the other children in the classroom as well.

Mr. Suter then distributed the Board of Supervisors' budget priorities and budget schedule, noting that he and Dr. Thompson would continue to coordinate on the schedule moving ahead.

Chairman Hinty then noted that the comments he had heard about the School Resource Officer at Natural Bridge Elementary School have been extremely positive. Chairman McDaniel concurred.

Supervisor Campbell then requested that the School Board consider adding Charles Bartlett to the street name in front of Mountain View Elementary, in remembrance and honor of Mr. Bartlett, who was the long-time custodian there, and passed away last year. Dr. Thompson noted that the school courtyard had been named in honor of Mr. Bartlett, but that he would examine additional options.

Chairman McDaniel then provided the Boards with a handout detailing the School Division's legislative priorities.

On a motion by Supervisor Higgins, with a second by Supervisor Campbell, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 by unanimous vote.