

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, NOVEMBER 14, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: A.J. "JAY" LEWIS, II.
DANIEL E. LYONS
JOHN M. HIGGINS
R. W. DAY

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: DAVID W. HINTY, JR.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AND CLERK TO BOARD: SPENCER H. SUTER

FISCAL SERVICES
DIRECTOR: STEVEN J. BOLSTER

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: WENDY LOVELL
HEATHER HOSTETTER
NEIL WHITMORE
DAVID MCDANIEL

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
ABSENT: COREY BERKSTRESSER

SCHOOL STAFF: DR. PHILLIP THOMPSON
HAYWOOD HAND
RANDY WALTERS
PAIGE OWENS
TIM MARTINO

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Lewis and Chairwoman Lovell called the continued meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Dr. Thompson introduced the first item on the agenda, Overview of RCPS Programming in Academics and Career/Technical Education (CTE). He noted that the School Board and staff wanted to take an opportunity to provide some more detailed information about the programs the budget helps to fund.

Director of Curriculum Tim Martino provided a brief overview of the CTE program and noted that each student must be college or career-ready upon graduation.

Assistant Superintendent Haywood Hand then provided an overview of the dual graduation and dual enrollment programs. He noted that the first cadre of students enrolled in the dual graduation program were aiming for graduation in the spring of 2021. He stated that the School Division expects, for the first time, to have a student or students graduate high school with an associate's degree from Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (DSLCC). He explained that the program currently costs the students nothing, but that it requires that instructors be credentialed through DSLCC.

Chairman Lewis asked how long we have had dual enrollment. Mr. Hand explained that dual enrollment had been in place for a long time; but that the new program offers 60 college credits in applied sciences, to allow for a full associate's degree at graduation. In response to a question from Supervisor Higgins, Mr. Hand replied that we currently have 11 - 14 eligible students. He added that students can still get a general studies certification, which equates to one year of college. Supervisor Higgins then asked what four-year colleges students generally apply to. Mr. Hand responded that most apply to schools within an hour or so, including Virginia Tech, James Madison University, the University of Virginia, Liberty University, Radford University, Bridgewater College, and Roanoke College. Mr. Martino added that many students take advantage of the

program to get at least a few college-credentialed courses out of the way in high school.

In response to a question from Mr. Whitmore, Dr. Thompson noted that Dr. John Rainone, President of DSLCC, had waived tuition and fees for the current academic year, and that the Commonwealth was attempting to establish a uniform fee schedule statewide for tuition and fees next year. He added that until the Commonwealth mandates a uniform tuition/fee structure, partnering with DSLCC to employ the career coach at RCHS will help reduce these costs for students.

Mr. Hand then reviewed ACT and SAT test score results, noting that RCHS students scored above the state average. He reviewed the 14 Advanced Placement courses, noting that 147 students are currently enrolled and pointed out that the average scores for AP calculus were very high.

CTE Supervisor Paige Owens then presented information about programs he supervises, noting that CTE had two major initiatives: 1) Work-based learning opportunities, and 2) CTE Credentialing. He explained that every student must have the opportunity to receive work-based learning experiences, adding that 350 students are getting work-based credentialing. Mr. Owens noted that as of this meeting, only 20 of 300 seniors do not have a credentialing, but that all would have one soon. He explained that all students take Economics and Personal Finance classes which qualifies for meeting the credentialing requirement.

Mr. Owens then highlighted community partners in the CTE programs, to include partnership with DSLCC in evening HVAC courses. He also explained that staff, in conjunction with the County Department of Fire and Rescue,

is considering expansion of the EMT program to include Firefighter I and II training, citing interest by over 90 students in a recent survey.

Chairman Lewis asked if we have students from other schools participating in the HVAC program. Mr. Owens confirmed that it is open to other schools, but that there are no participants at this time. Mr. Owens then further reviewed a list of business/community partners and their programs. Chairman Lewis called attention to the public/private partnership arrangement, noting that private dollars are contributing to education.

Mr. Owens then reviewed some of the community involvement events that the CTE program supports, such as the middle schools' CTE Fair, Rockbridge County Career Fest, Rockbridge Regional Fair, and the FCCLA Comedy Fair. He then transitioned to a review of new courses being considered for the 2020-21 academic year, including feeder programs at MRMS. Chairwoman Lovell commended the Board for their assistance in making past improvements at MRMS, which in part, allowed for the feeder programs to thrive.

Mr. Martino offered a brief summary, which included an emphasis on soft skills, noting that the RCPS is preparing students for the realistic workplace.

Dr. Thompson then provided a brief update on the School Division's feasibility study. He noted that while the target for completion had been November, we should be getting a draft in January or February. He invited members of the Board of Supervisors to attend the presentation of the draft.

Mr. Walters then provided an update on the MRMS practice field, noting Perkins and Orrison is working on plans and permitting is underway. The goal is to be prepared to seed in the spring. Supervisor Higgins asked for clarification on the funding mechanism. Dr. Thompson explained that the funding is in a silo in the escrow reserve fund. Supervisor Higgins then inquired about the track at RCHS. Dr. Thompson explained that the process has been slowed, given community discussions about the potential for raising funds for a turf field inside the track. Supervisor Lyons noted that fields are regularly replaced inside tracks, and that contractors employ techniques to protect the track. Dr. Thompson noted that he would revisit consideration of moving forward on the project.

Mr. Suter then presented the Board of Supervisors' adopted budget schedule, noting key dates that could impact both Boards. He expressed his appreciation for the School Division's willingness to provide a soft budget number well prior to the required March 30 submission. Chairman Lewis agreed.

Supervisor Higgins asked what the September ADM ended up being. Dr. Thompson noted that the number was low by 24. Mr. McDaniel noted that the number was the same as the one the School Division had started with, but they ended up using the state's number. He added that if the March 30 number is that low, we could end up shy \$140,000 in the FY 2020 budget.

Supervisor Higgins, citing this as his last joint meeting, thanked all present for the work over the past eight years. He called attention to the success achieved through formation of the Joint Executive Committee and joint meetings of the Boards. He then recognized Dr. Thompson and

congratulated the School Board on executing a new contract with him. He wished everyone the best and noted that there are only so many tax dollars to go around.

Mr. McDaniel agreed with Supervisor Higgins, noting that the Boards are in a much better place than when they started eight years ago.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Lyons moved to adjourn this meeting. A second was provided by Supervisor Day, and the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote by the Board Members present:

AYE:	Lyons, Day, Higgins, Lewis
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Hinty