

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD

STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2021

The Staunton City School Board convened for the regular monthly meeting in the Rita S. Wilson Council Chambers of Staunton City Hall, 116 W. Beverley Street, Staunton at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2021, with members in attendance as follows:

Kenneth Venable, Chair
Robert Boyle
Natasha McCurdy
Amy Wratchford, Vice-chair
Christine Poulson
Ronald Ramsey
Dr. Garrett Smith, Superintendent/Deputy Clerk
Brenda Lovekamp, Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chair led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PUBLIC FORUM ON BUDGET

The Chair reminded of the annual opportunity for citizens to share input regarding budget priorities as the School Board and administrative staff begin the work of developing the school division budget. He invited citizens to comment at this time or to share their input via the budget survey posted on the division website and closing tonight.

The Chair opened the floor for those who were present at City Hall and heard from the following speaker:

- Christine Hawley, SEA President, shared results of the SEA's recent survey on suggested usage of the CRRSA funds.

No citizens called in to provide input at this time.

IV. REPORTS

A. Reports from Superintendent

School Board Appreciation Month – Dr. Smith shared that February is the annual observance of School Board Appreciation month in Virginia. He thanked the School Board members for their service to Staunton City Schools. Members were provided with a certificate of appreciation and a gift from the school division.

Hybrid Program – Dr. Smith reported that the hybrid program continues to go very well. Teachers have gone to great lengths to make students feel comfortable in the buildings. An expanded summer school is being planned to help address student learning loss.

Vaccinations – The first round of COVID-19 vaccinations went very smoothly today. Thank you to Dr. Wolfe for the excellent job in coordinating this event.

Equity Training – Since VCIC is currently in all-virtual mode, the “upstander training” that is planned for groups of elementary, middle and high school students has been postponed until the summer or beginning of next school year when we can have students trained in person. The program is a train-the-trainer model and designed to have those trained go back to their respective schools and train others.

B. Reports from School Board Members

Members offered the following reports relative to their service on the School Board.

Christine Poulson:

- Reported on the recent Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting. Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) participated to share information regarding their program offerings. The next meeting will be held virtually on March 23.

Robert Boyle:

- Expressed appreciation for the vaccination clinic held today.

Amy Wratchford:

- Thanked all involved in making the vaccinations possible today.
- Reported on the SVGS Advisory Board Meeting. Reminded that applications for this program are due February 20 and that transportation is available to students attending the regional

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programs. While no open house event will be held this year, a virtual symposium will be scheduled in May to showcase student work.

Natasha McCurdy:

- Enjoyed spending time at Ware Elementary School recently.

Ronald Ramsey:

- Reported on his participation in a USDOE webinar in late January regarding learning in a pandemic.
- Participated in the VCTC Board meeting where that board is working on budget. Reminded of VCTC's Facebook page and all the information shared there about the various programs.
- Participated in the Board's first stand-alone work session held in January, which was well worth the Board's time.

Kenneth Venable:

- In recognition of February also being Black History Month, he gifted each of his fellow Board members with a book, "That's Just the Way it Was." He shared information regarding local black history in Staunton and the surrounding area.

V. UPDATES AND INFORMATION

A. Finance Update by Brad Wegner, Budget Director

Brad Wegner, Budget Director, reviewed the finance report for January.

B. Update on VA Partnership for School Mental Health

Dr. Jelisa Wolfe, Executive Director of Student Services, thanked all involved for their assistance in making the vaccination clinic a success.

Dr. Wolfe shared information regarding the division's partnership with VDOE and UVA to increase the competency of our counselors, nurses and other mental health providers, and to share what is being learned with others around the state. She noted that this program also provides Staunton City Schools with interns and practicum students from UVA. Dr. Smith shared that these positions are hard to staff and this program works to place students with us who have a connection to the area and are therefore more likely to seek employment here.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

The Chair opened the public input portion of the meeting. The following person(s) were present at the meeting to provide comments:

- Christine Hawley, SEA President, thanked School Board members for their commitment. She thanked the school division for the opportunity to receive the first COVID shot today.

There were no citizens calling in to provide public input.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair invited Board members to review the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- Minutes for Board Development Session, Work Session, and Regular Meeting on January 11, 2021
- Minutes of Work Session on January 25, 2021
- Personnel Actions

On a motion by Amy Wratchford, seconded by Ron Ramsey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

There were no action items on the agenda. Having completed the agenda as posted, the Chair declared the regular meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.


CLERK / DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


CHAIR OF THE BOARD